A DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR OF LOLO

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PREFACE

In the spring of 1938, with the transfer of the University of Peking to Yunnan, I came into contact with the Lolo people and became interested in their language. Since that time I have travelled in some of the other provinces bordering Yunnan in order to study other dialects of Lolo. The description which follows is based upon the dialect of Pei-shan which is situated in the Hsi-ch'ang district of Sikang, but I have endeavoured as far as I am able to compare this dialect with others which I have studied at first hand or that have been described by other scholars.

As many dialects still remain to be studied in a scientific manner and the phonetic structure of Lolo words in general has degenerated to a considerable degree, I cannot undertake an etymological study of the language in this work. Although I have tried to arrange my material according to modern phonetic and linguistic science I can lay no claim to completeness. I have no doubt that further studies will improve and correct this first sketch.

I cannot express sufficient gratitude to Professor G. Haloun under whose supervision this dissertation was written. He has read the whole work in manuscript and has offered many valuable suggestions and much acute criticism as to both arrangement of the material and the analysis of the language structure. Without his encouragement I should probably never have undertaken this task; and without his help the work would not have achieved its present form.

I owe sincere thanks to Professor W. Simon and Mr. R. A. D. Forrest for some suggestions incorporated in this work; to Mr. A. R. Davis who read through the manuscript and made sensitive suggestions. Grateful thanks are due to Mr. R. Y. Jennings and Dr. L. E. R. Picken of Jesus College for the encouragement they have given me and the facilities with which they have

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A descriptive grammar of Lolo

CONTENTS

PREFACE ......................................................................................................................... 1

ABBREVIATIONS ........................................................................................................... 5

INTRODUCTION ............................................................................................................. 7
  I. Names for the Lolo ................................................................................................. 7
     (1) Some Common Names Used Today ................................................................. 7
     (2) Former Names ................................................................................................. 9
  II. Distribution of the Lolo-Speaking Peoples ......................................................... 11
     (1) Distribution According to Tribes ..................................................................... 11
     (2) Number of Lolo Speakers ............................................................................... 21
  III. Ethnological and Linguistic Affinities ................................................................. 23
     (1) Ethnological Affinities .................................................................................... 23
     (2) Linguistic Affinities ....................................................................................... 25
  IV. Inscriptions and Manuscripts in the Lolo Script ................................................. 27
     (1) Inscriptions ..................................................................................................... 27
     (2) Manuscripts ................................................................................................... 28
  V. History of Research on Lolo .................................................................................. 33
     (1) European ........................................................................................................ 33
     (2) Chinese .......................................................................................................... 37

GRAMMAR ....................................................................................................................... 41
  I. Definition of Material and Comparison of the Dialects ......................................... 41
     (1) Definition of Language Material Used ......................................................... 41
     (2) Comparison of the Dialects Described ........................................................... 43
  II. Phonetics ............................................................................................................... 48
     (1) Consonants ..................................................................................................... 48
     (2) Vowels ............................................................................................................ 56
     (3) Tones .............................................................................................................. 61
     (4) Stress ............................................................................................................. 63
     (5) Construction of Syllables .............................................................................. 64
     (6) Sounds of the Chinese Loanwords ............................................................... 65
     (7) Other Dialects and Some Correspondences .................................................. 66
  III. The Written Characters ....................................................................................... 75
     (1) Direction of Writing ....................................................................................... 75
     (2) The Origin of the Script ................................................................................. 79
     (3) The Relation between the Lolo and Other Scripts ........................................... 80
(4) The Construction of the Lolo Characters ...................... 81
(5) The Relation between the Written Characters and the Spoken Words ......................................................... 85
(6) Punctuation Marks and Signs of Repetition .................. 87

IV. Parts of Speech .................................................. 91
(1) Substantives ....................................................... 91
(2) Pronouns .......................................................... 97
(3) Adjectives .......................................................... 109
(4) Verbs ............................................................... 116
(5) Adverbs ............................................................. 131
(6) Numerals ............................................................ 136
(7) Numeratives and Counting Units ................................. 140
(8) Interjections ....................................................... 147

V. Word-Formation .................................................. 149
(1) Compound Words ................................................ 149
(2) Derivatives ........................................................ 154
(3) Formulas for the Structure of Words ............................ 156

VI. Syntax: General .................................................. 159
(1) Grammatical Relation of Words .................................. 159
(2) Sentences .......................................................... 167
d. Classes of sentences according to structure .................... 167
e. Classes of sentences distinguished by mood ....................... 179

VII. Syntax: Special .................................................. 187
(1) Relation between Substantives .................................... 187
(2) Relation between Pronouns ......................................... 189
(3) Relation between Verbs ............................................ 189
(4) Relation between Adjectives ....................................... 190
(5) Relation between Numerals ........................................ 191
(6) Relation between Adverbs .......................................... 192
(7) Relation of Substantives and Pronouns to Adjectives and Numeratives ......................................................... 192
(8) Relation of Verbs and Adjectives to Adverbs .................... 193
(9) Relation of Substantives and Substantive Equivalents to Verbs ................................................................. 193
(10) Negation ........................................................... 198
(11) Comparison ......................................................... 201
(12) Syntax in Other Dialects .......................................... 204

APPENDIX: The Yi Syllabary ....................................... 211

BIBLIOGRAPHY ....................................................... 227