

A DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR OF LOLO¹

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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

¹ Submitted for the Ph.D. degree at Cambridge University, August 1950.

provided me. To Dr. Picken, I in fact owe my introduction to Cambridge and thus, in large measure, my opportunity for this work.

I am deeply indebted to the British Council for awarding me a scholarship which enabled me to come and stay in this country; to Huachung University for releasing me from my duties for the past two years; and to the Board of Research Studies for financial assistance in the production of this dissertation. Finally, I take this opportunity of thanking my Lolo informants and all those who have given me their aid in my field work in various Lolo regions.

M. C. Fu
August, 1950

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