

## EDITORIAL FOREWORD

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Himalayan Languages Symposium at Santa Barbara in the summer of 1997, three Himalayan Languages Project team members and I travelled up the coast to San Francisco. There John King and I met, and he became a member of the Himalayan Languages Project research team. At this time, John had already begun his research of the Dhimal language on his own initiative. Both then and subsequently, John refused any funding, even to cover his fieldwork expenses. Working under his own steam and consequently with modest means, John published several articles in refereed journals, supported himself through gainful employment, and then withdrew into the American wilderness for months at a time in order to work diligently on his dissertation. The fruits of his labour, inspiration and perseverance are the present detailed analytical grammar and structured lexicon of the Dhimal language. This substantive and lasting contribution to the field of linguistics is at the same time John's priceless gift to the Dhimal language community in the eastern Nepalese Terai, for whom he harbours such fondness.

George van Driem  
Washington, D.C., 11 November 2008