

/V:/	long vowel
<	derives from
>	yields (in diachronic analysis)
→	yields (in synchronic analysis); direction of a transitive relationship (morphological analysis)
↔	reciprocal transitive relationship (morphological analysis)
⇒	specific direction of a transitive relationship
— X	before X (phonological or morphological environment)
X—	after X (phonological or morphological environment)
...	phonetic or orthographic pause
....	unquoted part

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

This hefty grammar and dictionary of Wambule is the most recent contribution in the Brill series *Languages of the Greater Himalayan Region*. This book is a more comprehensive and meticulously reworked version of the author's 2002 doctoral dissertation. This wonderful description at once catapults the Wambule language from the state of being one of the least known languages of the Himalayas to the tongue that now vies for the title of being perhaps the best documented language of the Himalayas. This marvellous contribution to our knowledge of Himalayan languages and peoples is a tribute not only to the Wambule people and to their language and culture but also to the author. Every page reflects the author's ardent commitment to analytical refinement and to thoroughness as well as his love for and loyalty to the Wambule people.

This marvellous volume and the series as a whole reflect Brill's commitment to quality publication and to Orientalist scholarship. The series *Languages of the Greater Himalayan Region* is a continuation of a series by the same name published by the School of Asian, African and Amerindian Studies, a research school of Leiden University better known by the old abbreviation CNWS. The earlier series featured a grammar of Dzongkha, the national language of Bhutan, and a grammar of Yamphu, a regional language spoken in the upper Arun valley in eastern Nepal. This Brill series was made possible by a generous subvention from the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS) at Leiden under the creative leadership of Professor Dr. Wim Stokhof and by the far-sightedness of Albert Hoffstädt of the Brill editorial board. Both men share the vision of enshrining and making available for posterity valuable documentation of the ethnolinguistic heritage of the Asian heartland that might otherwise remain poorly accessible or even pass into oblivion altogether.

George van Driem

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