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ART. XVI.—*The Arakanese Dialect of the Burman Language.*
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It is well known that the people of Arakan are an offshoot of the Burman race, the accepted account being that they first crossed the range of mountains called the Arakan Yoma about B.C. 825¹ under a Prince Kan-ruga-gyi. It seems probable that the small portion of the country then inhabited was settled by a few of the advance-guard of the Chin-Lushai or Naga tribesmen, with perhaps some colonies of Indians on the sea-coast. These were expelled or absorbed; and the Arakanese kingdom, having its centre in the flat open plains of the Akyab district, gradually extended south as far as the Mawyon-gyaw Hills, in the Sandoway district, and north to Chittagong (A.D. 1450). It was finally crushed by an invasion of Burmans from the east of the Yoma in 1784. The people of Arakan have, however, preserved their peculiar dialect, and in certain customs they differ slightly

¹ There can be little doubt, however, that this date is very much too early.

from the Burmese, against whom in some of the purely Arakanese parts is still cherished a deep hatred, born from the cruel manner in which they were handled at the Burmese conquest. It must be admitted, indeed, that in their intertribal wars the peoples of the Tibeto-Burman race have endeavoured to enforce in the strictest possible manner the modern doctrine of the "survival of the fittest." Owing to the steady immigration into Arakan of natives of India, principally from the Province of Bengal, which has been going on for centuries, the physical type of the people has been sensibly altered from the pure Mongoloid cast of their first progenitors. Thus the average Arakanese is taller, larger boned, and more hairy than the average Burman, whilst the cheek-bones are not so prominent, and the face generally tends to assume more of a hatchet type. The two races have not yet been compared anthropometrically, but it would not be a rash guess to assume that with the Arakanese the fronto-mental measurement is considerably, and the fronto-occipital slightly, larger than with the Burman, and that his nasal index is somewhat better. It is possibly owing to the same infiltration of Indian blood that the Arakanese has lost several of the more loveable traits which distinguish generally the people of the Golden Chersonese. He is less merry and light-hearted, less polite and obliging, and no particular good qualities seem to have been imported to supply the want of these. On the contrary, in the neighbourhood of Akyab especially, there is spreading the obnoxious Indian practice of the seclusion of women, who also are fonder of expensive jewelry than their Burmese congeners. The Arakanese houses are more comfortless, and perhaps even more dirty, than those on the east of the Yoma. In their nomenclature of persons, the Arakanese rather favour names of three syllables, whilst the ordinary Burman is content with one of one or two syllables only. The word *pyu* = 'white' is an especial favourite for this purpose — far more so than amongst the Burmans proper.

The Arakanese dialect has always been known to be a more archaic form of Burmese, the isolation of the Arakanese having tended somewhat to preserve their speech from the phonetic corruption which has befallen that language since it was first reduced to writing. At the same time Arakanese by no means represents exactly the sounds of Burmese as it is spelt, whilst some of the verbal terminations and words are different. With a view, therefore, of throwing some light on the subject, I have obtained from Mg. San U Khaing, a well-educated and intelligent Arakanese gentleman and a member of the subordinate Civil Service of Burma, a list of the most important dialectic peculiarities of the Western Province. This list, written down by him in the Burmese character, does not pretend to be exhaustive, but it shows fairly clearly the more salient points of difference, and probably contains all that is of general interest from a philological point of view. In arranging the list of Mg. San U Khaing, I have added thereto, for the sake of comparison, the Burmese equivalents, both as written and as now pronounced.

It will be seen that Arakanese, which it may be remarked *en passant* is articulated in a somewhat harsh and nasal manner, by no means entirely conserves the old pronunciation indicated by the characters, always supposing the latter to show accurately the sounds of the language at the time. This is particularly the case with final *ach*,¹ which, corrupted into *it* in modern Burmese, has still further degenerated in Arakanese to *aik*. Again, the modified vowel *ë*, (pronounced as in French *père*), is not found at all in Arakanese, neither as the sound of regular vowel *ë* nor as a corruption of final *ay*, (which latter I imagine to have been originally pronounced *aïh*, both in Burmese and in Tamil). Certain words and forms, however, have been obviously brought by the founders of the Arakanese kingdom from across the Yoma, and show that at that time there was not the same

¹ I am, however, inclined to believe that this ending, though written *ach*, was probably pronounced *ats* or *its*, the vowel-sound being obscure.

uniformity in Burmese as now prevails, but that minor dialects still existed in contradistinction to the standard Burmese of the capital.

Yaws.—In this connection it may not be inappropriate to allude to these people who inhabit the west part of the Pakokku district, immediately to the east of Arakan, from which they are separated by the Yoma Mountains. From a list furnished by Lieut. Tighe, Burma Commission, it appears that their language in no way differs from modern Burmese, except that the pronunciation is slightly more archaic, a result due to the comparative isolation of the Yaw Valley. Thus *ak*, pronounced *et* in the colloquial, is sounded by them as *at*, and *añ* similarly *an* instead of *in*. Dialections are *lan* for *lam* (=‘path’), *dā-gyi-ō*=‘old woman’ (cf. the Arakanese), and *na* for ‘*nan*, ‘*nin* in the imperative. It is probable that these people came from the East, i.e. the Irrawaddy Valley proper, but there is nothing in their dialect to support their tradition of descent from the Parawgas, said to be a Palaung clan.

Dialectic Divergences of Arakanese.

	BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE (spoken).	NOTES.
1.	ē (final)	ē	ī, ēn.	
2.	ë (final)	ë	ē.	
3.	â (final)	â	wā.	
4.	wā: (final)	wā:	â.	
5.	ak (final)	et	at.	
6.	añ (final)	in	añ, an.	
7.	ach (final)	it	aik.	
8.	ay (final)	ë	ē.	
9.	wan (final)	un	wan.	
10.	wat (final)	ut	wat.	
11.	kr	ky, gy, ch, j	kr, gr.	
12.	hr	sh	h	(in some words only).
13.	r	y	r.	

BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE (spoken).	NOTES.
<i>Examples.</i>			
1. awē	awē	awī	distance.
re-nwē:	ye-nwē:	rī-nwī	warm water.
mī:	mī:	mēn:	fire.
nē	nē	nēn'	day.
'lē	'lē	'lī	boat.
2. bē	bē	bē	duck.
3. k'rē-tā-rā	chē-dā-yā	kri-twā-rā	the presence.
4. nwā	nwā	nā	bullock.
chā-pwā	sā bwā	sā-bā	Shan chief.
5. krak	chet	krat	fowl.
6. ch'an	'sin	'sañ, 'san	elephant.
7. sach-tā	θit-tā	taik-tā	fox.
chach-twē	sit-twē	saik-twē	Akyab.
rach	yit	raik	pheasant.
8. lay-prañ	lē-byin	lē-brañ	rice-fields.
9. k'an-pwan	k'in-pun	k'an-bwan	spouse.
10. wat	wut	wat	duty.
akywat	achut	akywat	deliverance.
11. sañ-kran	θin-jan	θañ-gran	Thingyan.
krwā	chwā	krwā	move.
12. hri	shi	hi	be.
13. arū	ayū	arū	madman.

Grammatical Terminations, etc.

VERBAL.

	BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE.
Aorist	sañ	de	re. ¹
Past tense	pyī	byī	byā.
Future tense	mañ, b'ō	me, b'ō	mē, p'ō.
Imperative	kē	gē	lat.
Closing affix (emphatic)	kā	go	wā:.

¹ Possibly connected with Manipuri *ri*.

PRONOUNS.

	BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE.
1st person sing.	nā	nā	na, nā.
„ mas.	kywan-tā	chun-dā	} akywan.
„ fem.	kywan-ma	chun-ma	
2nd pers. sing.	nañ, mañ:	nin, min:	man:, nan, awē, ayō.
1st pers. plural	nātō	nadō	narō.
Interrogative	b'ā, b'ay	b'ā, b'ē	zā.
	b'aynañ:	b'ē nē	b'azauñ.

MISCELLANEOUS.

To this place	sañ-kō	di-gō	tō.
Plural affix	tō, myā:	dō, myā:	tēn, ¹ rō.
Exclamations	alō-lē:	alō-lē:	ēñ-hēñ.
	amay-lē:	amā-lē:	amēn-lē:, aman-lē:, apā-lē.

Illustrative Sentences.

- Burmese (written) amē-ka sañ-kran-pwē-twañ wat-ran
pu-sō 'rach-tañ pē: laik-pā chō-sañ.

Burmese (spoken) amī-ga θin-jan-pūe-dwin wut-yan
patsō shit-tē pē: laik-bā 'sō-de.

Arakanese ami-ga θan-kran-pwē-mā wat-p'ō
dāyā shaik-t'ē pī-lat-bā 'sō-rē.

English Mother says, "Give eight patsos for
wearing during the Thingyan festival."
- Burmese (written) mañ: sañ-kō la.

Burmese (spoken) min: di-gō lā.

Arakanese awē tō lā-lat.

English Come you here.

¹ Colloquial.

3. Burmese (written) nañ nā-kō bā prā-sa-lē.
 Burmese (spoken) nin nā-gō ba pyā-da-lē.
 Arakanese ayō: nā-gō rā prā-re-lē.
 English What are you saying to me?
4. Burmese (written) sañ min:ma-krī: kywan-ma-kō chē sañ
 Burmese (spoken) di min:ma-gyi: chun-ma-gō 'sē-de.
 Arakanese adwā a kywan-kō 'sē:re.
 English This woman abuses me.
5. Burmese (written) b'ā lē bay-kō swā:-sa-lē.
 Burmese (spoken) b'ā lē be gō θwā:-da-lē.
 Arakanese aswā-lē: zā gō lā: re-lē:.
 Cheduba dialect b'a-sauñ-dōn:man:
 'za-p'ō-kwā.¹
 English What is it? Where are you going?

Vocabulary.

	BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE.
Aunt (mat.)	mi-t'wē:	mi-dwē:	aywē.
Bamboo sprout	'myach	'myit	'naik.
Basket for catch- ing fish	palain	palain	puyaiñ.
Be	'ri	shi	hi.
Beard	mu-ch'it	mōk'sēk	mu-'swī:.
Beat	raik	yaik	θat. ²
Blanket	chaun	sauñ	patsō:. ³
Bowl (glazed)	pukan-lun:	pagan-lōn:	han:zā:.
Boy	lū-kalē:	lū-galē:	kalashē.
Bridge	tantā:	tadā:	tan:tā:.
Child	akalē	akalē	ashē. ⁴

¹ The dialect spoken in the island of Cheduba (Ma-auñ) differs slightly from Arakanese proper. The interrogative affix *man* may possibly be allied to the Chin *mā*.

² This is still used in certain connections with the meaning *beat* in Burmese, e.g. *sat-pat*.

³ Cf. *patso*, *infra*.

⁴ Cf. Naga *ka-shē*, S. Chin *sō*, etc.

	BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE.
Chin	mē:chē	mē:sē:	mēt.
Closet	im-sā	en-θā	p'auñ-θā.
Comb	b'i:	b'i:	wap'yī:.
Cover (of pot)	cha-laun:	sālaun:	k'wat.
Cut	k'ut	k'ōt	k'wat.
Cymbal	lan-kwañ	lagwin:	lan:k'wan:.
Dove	k'ō	k'ō	k'wā.
Draw back	ch'ut	'sōk	'swī:.
False hair	ch'an-chu	'sazū	'san-dōn.
Father	ap'ē	ap'ē	ab'ā.
Fireplace	mī:p'ō	mī:b'ō	sap'ō.
Garnet	padēgau	padēgā	padakarā.
Girl	min:kalē:	min:kalē	mama-shē, kalamē-shē.
Go	swā:	θwā:	lā:. ¹
Grandmother	ap'wā	ap'wā	ab'aung-ma, adā.
Guava	mālakā	mālakā	kū-yaiñ.
Hat (Chinese)	k'amauk	k'amauk	mat-kalā
Headache(have a)	k'auñ kaik	gaun kaik	gaun k'ē
Inga (tree)	taññan:	tañin	aññan.
Ink-pot	'man-ō:	'min-ō:	'man-pū:.
Jaggery	t'an:lyak	t'anyet	θagā.
Lapwing	tachtītū:	tittītū:	talin-dwat.
Marry	mañgalā ch'auñ	miñgalā 'saung	θamat-tat.
Miser	lū-chē:nē	lū-sē-nē	lū-pwan:, lū-si.
Mother	amē	amē	aman, ami.
Mud	'rwan	shun	taman:.

¹ = 'to go' in certain connections in Burmese.

	BURMESE (written).	BURMESE (spoken).	ARAKANESE.
Mullet (fish)	ka-bīlū:	ka-bīlū:	nā:kaṇ-pyain. ¹
<i>Ngapi</i>	nā:pi	napī	nā-'samā.
Numerous (be)	pā	pā	tan.
Oar	k'at-tak	kat-tet	pañ-dwan:.
Old man	lū-ō	lū-ō	wākari:.
Old woman	min:ma-kri	min:ma-jī	adwā.
Papaya	sañ-b'au-sī:	θimb'ā-θī:	padagā-θī:.
<i>Patso</i>	puch'ō:	patsō:	dāyā.
Perch (fish)	kakatach	kakatit	θē-aik.
Pineapple	nānat	nāna	nandrā.
Plantain	'nakpyan	'napyā	'natpyō
Plate	pukan-prā:	pagan-byā	lauñ-pwan:
Quill pen	'nak-kri:tauñ	'net-jī-dauñ	'mō-haṇ:wat- paran:.
Scarce (be)	'rā:	shā:	k'at.
Shawl	tapak	tabet	patsō:pain.
Sparrow	chā-kalē:	sā-galē:	sā-shē.
Tamarind	man-kyañ:	majī:	'man:kyō:.
Three stones sup- porting pot	k'an-lauk	k'anauk	k'ōn-dauk.
Tide	dī-rē	d'i-yē	p'rā-rē.
Toddy-palm ²	dani	danī	ōn:. ³
Turban	k'auñ-pauñ	gauñ-bauñ	'sā-p'ā.
Uncle (mat.)	ū:-mañ:	ū:-min:	ak'an.
Uncle (pat.)	p'a-t'wē:	p'a-t'wē	ab'ē, abyē.
Vegetables	hañ-ñō	hin:ñō	han:rek'yō.
Wood-oil (tree)	kañan	kañin	dō:.

¹ *ka* = 'fish' in Mōn; *nā* is the true Burmese word.

² Growing in tidal waters.

³ = 'cocoanut' in Burmese.