GLOSSARY

GARO TERMS USED IN THE THESIS

A-ning Chining: The Underworld

Amua : Sacrifice

A-siroka : or a:sroka, exorcism

A-tilla : Courtyard

atte : Atte or atte-mande is a curved, multipurpose chopper with a bamboo handle used by the Garos. It can be used as a machete, a farming implement, a kitchen knife, etc.

Ba-ra sakki : Literally, the cloth and the turban as evidence. The cloth

kotip sakki That is kept by the woman as a promise from the man that he will surely become her husband.

Bormagrim : Literally, the place of big trees.

Bitchi : Rice beer. The undiluted extract from the dikka.

Chawari : Son in law, both the ones married to the heiress and the ones not married to the heiress.

Chra : Usually used as chra depante, the male relatives of a clan, without whose knowledge no decision in the clan can be taken.

Danil : A round shield used by the Garos during warfare.
Debra : A long piece of cloth used to carry the baby on the back.

Dikge : A medicinal plant the roots of which are used to make Medicines either by itself or in a concoction with various other ingredients. Magical properties are sometimes attributed to some plants of this family.

Dikka : An earthen pot with bamboo weavings used to brew rice beer.

Dingdinga : A lullaby

do-bik nia : Divination by way of checking the intestines of a chicken. Usually done during the do-sia ceremony in order to divine the future of the married couple.

do-rasong : The chicken of luck. The chicken whose intestines are used for the do-bik nia during the do-sia ceremony.

Do-sia : The Garo equivalent of a marriage ceremony.

Dun : The bed chamber is a nokachik.

gri sokchi : The male members of the same matrilineal lineage.

Jal-eng : Balcony like platform in a nokachik.

Jaragata : A part of the funeral/post funeral ceremony in which the spirit of the dead person is entreated to return to his/her clan by being born again in the household of a close kinswoman.

Jik : Wife

Kaksi : A kettle like vessel used during various ceremonies, especially for chirugala or water pouring ritual.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kamal</td>
<td>A priest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerang</td>
<td>A wicker basket wide and open at the top used for carrying things.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimindam</td>
<td>The sacrificial altar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kram</td>
<td>A small drum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krita</td>
<td>Sacrifice. Synonymous with <em>amua</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>ma-chong</td>
<td>Clan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man-nok</td>
<td>The immediate clan members of a man, especially of a married man.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>The Garos name for themselves, especially in Bangladesh.</td>
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<tr>
<td>mil-am</td>
<td>A double edged sword used by the Garos for both warfare and in certain ceremonies like <em>tokari pita</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mumua</td>
<td>A lullaby.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nagra</td>
<td>A large earthen pot covered with skin and used as a drum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>nokachik</td>
<td>The traditional house of wood and bamboo constructed by the Garos.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nokkrom</td>
<td>The son-in-law married to the heiress.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nokma</td>
<td>The village headman.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nokpante</td>
<td>The bachelor’s dormitory.</td>
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</table>
**Ongari**: The shelf above the fireplace where the dikkas are usually stored.

**Pong**: The gourd which is used for extracting rice beer from the dikka.

**Rang**: A brass gong.

**Roris**: Plainspeople, non-Garos

**Salaram Mitechak or**: Place where present day Kamakhya Temple is located.

**A·song Kamekha**

**Skal**: The usage in this thesis is a human astral vampire in the form of a human head. (Sangma, Dewansing Rongmitu: Jadoreng, p. 152).

They are generally psychic vampires and feeds of the Psychic energies of a person whereby the person wastes away due to incurable vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

**Spi**: Rectangular shield made of cane wicker or carved from wood,

**Wangala**: The Garo harvest festival.

**wa·si/wa·se**: Wa·si is the split bamboo belts used for making the walls of the traditional houses. This wa·si are woven together to make sturdy walls and partitions. They are also used for flooring.
OTHER TERMS USED IN THE THESIS

Ceremony : A public or religious occasion that includes a series of formal or traditional actions.
It is a formal act or set of acts performed as prescribed by ritual or custom.

Oral Literature : Oral literature comprises of folk speech, as distinct from formal or standard speech, and various traditional kinds of expressive utterances. Prominent among them are proverb or folk saying, embodying wisdom in pithy phrases; the riddle, an enigmatic question paired with a deceptive answer; the tongue twister, a nonsense sentence difficult to pronounce because of its string of assonances; the toast, a convivial expression voiced as a drinking salutation; along with other forms involving a special use of language. Beliefs or superstitions are sometimes expressed as wise sayings, although they may also appear in tales and customs.¹

Oral literature is the knowledge that is passed down from generation to generation in the form of songs, poetry, stories, proverbs, etc, through the spoken word and they
are used to record the history, beliefs and traditions of a group of people. This form of literature is used in cultures where there is no written word.

Pargana: A former administrative unit of the Indian Subcontinent, used primarily, but not exclusively by the Muslim kingdoms.

Rites of Passage: A ceremony or an event that marks an important stage in sb’s life.

Rites of passage are rituals or ceremonies signifying an event in a person’s life, indicative of a transition from one stage to another and usually involve ritual activities and teachings designed to strip individuals of their original roles in preparation for new roles.

Ritual: A series of actions that are always performed in the same way, especially as part of a religious ceremony.
A ritual is any formal and customarily repeated act or series of acts. A ritual can be the established form for a ceremony, a system of rites, a ceremonial act or action.

**Tradition**

: A belief, custom or way of doing something that has existed for a long time among a particular group of people.⁵

**Religion**

: The belief in the existence of a god or gods, and the Activities that are connected with the worship of them.⁶
Endnotes

1 The New Encyclopaedia Britannica Volume 19 (USA: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. 1998), p.305


3 Ibid., pp. 1324.


6 Ibid., pp. 1287.