CHAPTER VIII

Mizo Grammar and Dictionary

In India Christian missionaries were pioneers in writing Grammars and Dictionaries of the modern Indian language like Bengali, Assamese, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, Hindi, Mizo, Khasi, etc. They were prepared and published mostly during the 19th Century A.D.

Dr. William Carey wrote a useful grammar of the Bengali in English under the title "A Grammar of the Bengalee Language," and published it in 1801. William Robinson compiled the first grammar of the Assamese entitled "A Grammar of the Assamese Language" which was published and printed at the Serampore Press in 1839.1 William Pryse, one of the Welsh missionaries working in the Khasi Hills published a Khasi Grammar in 1855. Hugh Roberts brought out his English-Khasi Dictionary of 360 pages in 1870.2

81 A Grammar and Dictionary of the Lushai Language:

The first Mizo Grammar and Dictionary entitled "A Grammar and Dictionary of the Lushai Language" was written

1. The Journal of the Assam Research Society, Vol-XXVII, 1933, Guwahati, Assam, p. 100
by pioneer missionaries, J.H. Lorrain and F.W. Savidge and was published by the Government of Assam in 1898. J.H. Lorrain was personally responsible for the dictionary portion of the book. It was printed at the Assam Secretariat Printing Office, Shillong (gen) No. 640-402- 1.2.1898. It consists of 346 pages. This is the first Mizo Grammar ever written. The book has been divided into four parts as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part I Grammar</td>
<td>1-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II Useful Sentences</td>
<td>36-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part III Dictionary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lushai-English</td>
<td>54-232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part IV Dictionary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English- Lushai</td>
<td>233-346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The book proved very useful to the Mizo for learning English and Mizo Grammar. It continued to be one of the most valuable and popular books for many years. Here an attempt will be made to assess and evaluate the book, "A Grammar and Dictionary of the Lushai Language"

As mentioned earlier, the first Mizo Grammar written by the pioneer missionaries was published together with the Dictionary in one volume in 1898. The Grammar section is of 35 pages and there is no chapter wise division in it. It contains English Grammatical topics. The contents have been divided into different heads as follows:

**Lushai alphabet and pronunciation:**

The alphabet is as under:

- a, aw, b, ch, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, t, u, v, z.

The pronunciation of each letter is given below the alphabet by giving examples of English words. The numbers are represented by the same figures as in English.

**Gender:** The Genders, viz. Masculine, feminine and Neuter genders have been explained with examples. But the ways of forming the Masculine and Feminine of nouns in the Mizo language are not fully shown and the common gender is also omitted. The native grammar writers, K.Zawla and Remkunga do not include Gender of nouns in their books.
Number: (Singular and Plural) Here only four rules of changing the singular nouns to plural nouns have been mentioned with examples. But the natives in their Grammar books have fully discussed how plurals are formed in the Mizo language.

Case: Four cases such as Nominative, Vocative, Objective and Possessive cases have been discussed giving examples for each case in Mizo and English. The native grammarian, K.Zawla has given in his book the more detailed explanations of the four kinds of cases giving examples for each.

Adjectives: Comparison of adjectives (Comparative degree and Superlative degree) has been shown with examples in English and Mizo. This is not included in the Mizo Grammar written by the natives.

Numerals: Here the formations of cardinal numbers and ordinal numbers have been given with examples. This is omitted by the natives in their grammar books.

Distributives: Three ways of forming Distributives have been mentioned citing examples for each in Mizo and English. This is not found in the books of the Mizo grammarians.

Numerical adverbs: The formation of Numeral Adverbs has been shown with examples in English and Mizo. This is also excluded by the Mizo grammar writers.
Demonstrative Adjectives: This is mentioned in the singular and plural.

Pronouns: The division of pronouns has been made as follows: Personal, Reflexive, Relative, Interrogative, Possessive, Demonstrative, and Indefinite Pronouns. Each of them has been illustrated. The examples of the Personal and Reflexive pronouns have been given in the first, second and third persons with singular and plural numbers.

Verbs: Different forms of Verbs in the present, past and future tenses with first, second and third persons as subjects have been given separately in the Indicative Mood, Subjunctive Mood, Conditional Mood and Imperative Mood.

Negative forms of the verbs have also been shown in the examples of Imperative Mood and Subjunctive Mood.

Voice: Here the verbs of the sentences in the Active Voice have been changed into the Passive Voice. Past participle of the verb has been clearly shown in the examples given in English and Mizo.

Interrogative particles of verb Under this head it has been mentioned that interrogative particle is placed at the end of the sentence and cannot be translated into English as - I kal ang em? = Will you go?
A tha am ni? = Is it good?

Chaw i la si loven ni? = Have you not eaten your food?

Ruah a sur elo? = It is raining, is it?

**Negative form of verb:**

This form of verb has been shown as follows:

Ka pa'n sial min pe duh lo

My father does not wish to give me a gayal.

'Lo' with the termination 'e' or 'a' becomes 'love' or 'lova'

**Verbal prefixes:**

Verbal prefixes have been illustrated as under:

There are several verbal prefixes of which the principal are as follows:

'Zuk' signifies motion downwards, as Zuk kal rawh = Go down.

Zuk pe rawh = Go down and give

'Han' signifies motion upwards

Han la rawh = Go up and fetch

'Han' signifies motion towards the speaker, as

Han la rawh = Bring it here.

'Lo' signifies motion towards the speaker, as

Lo la rawh = Come and take.
'Va' signifies motion from generally on level ground or from one place to another of equal elevation; as

Va hrilh rawh = Go and tell.

**Adverbs**: Examples of Adverb of Place, Adverb of Time and Adverb of Manner have been given in English and Mizo.

The double adverbs in Mizo which have no equivalent meaning in English are also listed with short definitions of their uses and how they form different meanings in the sentences have also been illustrated.

There are many double adverbs and double adjectives which clearly express the various positions of the subject spoken of, i.e. whether the subject is large in size, number, etc. or much, less, etc. in quantity.

**Examples**:

1. A kal bek bek = He is walking.
   Here "bek bek" shows that he is small and that he is also going slowly. If "buk buk" is used in place of "bek bek" it shows that he is big.

2. A hmel tha hmiath hmuah e = She is beautiful
   "Hmiath hmuah" shows that she is big and fat.
Some of them may be divided as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large:</th>
<th>Medium:</th>
<th>Small:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Rem rum</td>
<td>Ram ram/Rawm rawm</td>
<td>Him rem/ Rem rem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Bub bub</td>
<td>Bawp bawp/bap bap</td>
<td>Bep bep/Bib bep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Er ur</td>
<td>Ar ar/ Er awr</td>
<td>Ir er/Er er</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Pem pum</td>
<td>Pam pem/ Pawa pawm</td>
<td>Pim pem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Hleih hluih</td>
<td>Hlaih hlaih</td>
<td>Hlih hleih</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Hek huk</td>
<td>Hak hak/ Hek hawk</td>
<td>Hik hek/Hek hek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Nger ngur</td>
<td>Ngar ngar/Ngawr ngawr</td>
<td>Ngir nger/Nger nger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Fer fur</td>
<td>Far far/ Fer fawr</td>
<td>Fir fer/Fer fer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the above columns the pairs of words point out whether the size or quantity of the subject spoken of is big, medium or small.

Lastly, Prepositions, Conjunctions and Interjections have been explained with examples.

No doubt this Grammar was found useful for many years and it served, to a great extent, the need of the people of its own time. The writers deserve praise for their hard labour to write the Grammar of foreign language covering a wide area of Grammar and to complete it within a few years in the midst of their busy life.
On the other hand, it should be noted that it does not cover the entire area of Grammar and does not serve all the present needs. Moreover, the explanations of some parts of speech, singular and plural numbers, voice, etc. are incomplete. They are mainly the outline explanations.

Recently the natives began to write the Mizo Grammar. Unlike the missionaries they do not begin the chapter with Mizo alphabet perhaps because at present the Mizo children get themselves familiar with the alphabet at an early age in their Primers. The Mizo grammarians, therefore, start with the parts of speech showing their usages in Mizo. But they omitted some Grammatical topics like Genders, Comparison of Adjectives, Indefinite Pronouns, etc. which have been discussed in the first Mizo Grammar published in 1898. It may be pointed out that the missionaries were foreigners, so they wrote Grammar on the basis of the English Grammar and their mode of speech and writings are mostly guided by the very structures and patterns of their own speech and language. They omitted the formation of idiomatic sentences, phrases, clauses, reported speech, punctuations, appropriate uses of verbs, etc. But these are elaborately discussed in the Grammar written by the natives.
(2) Part II - Useful sentences

This part comprises useful sentences. They are conversational English-Lushai sentences of daily use. The number of such examples is 458.

There are also 47 idiomatic sentences separately grouped together at page 50 and 51. Here the sentences in Mizo are put first and translation in English is given against each of the sentence.

Further, there are 21 Proverbs and sayings of the Mizo which occupy from the bottom of page 51 up to a small part of page 53. The proverbs and sayings are still in vogue as they bear the stamp of Mizo culture. A few of them are quoted below along with English translation.

(a) Lai ngai lo sa la la na, an la la a kha
   - He who has never ruled rules oppressively.

(b) Vawiin a tih tur naktuka tihah khak suh.
   - Don't put off till tomorrow what can be done today.

(c) Tawakhaw lo ni suh sala.
   - If it is not presumptuous to say so.

(d) Mahni infak leh sakhi ngalah cangmah a bet lo.
   - There is no more in self praise than on the shin of a stag.
The knowledge of these proverbs and sayings are quite essential for the learners as they contain traditional values and teachings.

(3) Part III - Dictionary: Lushai-English

The Lushai-English Dictionary contains 179 pages counting from page 54 to 232. It contains 6450 words approximately. As in other English Dictionaries the vocabularies are arranged in alphabetical order and words of the same spelling but of different parts of speech are also included. It may be noted here that the missionaries could not incorporate all the meanings of some of the words. For example, the word 'ban' is explained only in three different meanings as under :-

Ban - (n) a post (of a house)
Ban - (v) to reach out the hand, to reach, to arrive.
Ban - (adj) sticky, plastic, thick (as liquid)
   (v) to be sticky, etc.

Here there are some exceptions as to the meaning of this word. It may also mean the following :-
(n) the arm (of human body), the handle (of a cotton gin)
(v) to traverse a bough, a creeper, etc. while hanging to it by the hands like a hoolook.
(v) to give up, to discharge, to dismiss, etc.

One more example is given below :-
The word 'Tang' is defined in the dictionary as below:

- **Tang** - (v) to deny
- **Tang** - (v) to put forth strength, to exert one's self.
- **Tang** - (adj) dry
- **Tang** - to engaged one's self to do, etc.
- **Tang** - (n) a twig, a small branch.

Besides the above mentioned meanings the words may mean:

- (v) to maintain or contend, to affirm or assert to the contrary.
- (v) to be distended as breasts or udder with milk.
- (n) Body or parts of the body, leg, breasts, etc.

This dictionary was not prepared exactly on the model of English dictionaries. The pronunciation and tones of words and other signs or symbols were not indicated. The head words and derivatives were followed by their definitions but examples of usage of some difficult words were given as in English dictionaries.

It may be stated that the words in common use were almost included but various meanings of the same words were not fully given. In view of the short time during which it was prepared, it was good enough and the missionaries were
also worthy of praise for being able to accomplish such a valuable work in those early days of the real beginning of Mizo literature.

(4) Part IV - Dictionary: English - Lushai

Part IV consists of English - Lushai Dictionary of about 4300 words. It covers 114 pages starting from page 233 to 346. Here the words are arranged in alphabetical order and are explained with different parts of speech but the pronunciations are not given anywhere.

The meanings of some words which are difficult to interpret in one or two words of the Mizo are expressed with illustrative sentences as has been done in English dictionaries. Although this dictionary section is small and inadequate to meet all the needs of English learners it had been helpfully used for many years of its time.

8:2 Dictionary of the Lushai Language:

After resumption of his missionary work in Mizoram in 1903, J.H. Lorrain gradually continued to work for enlargement of the Lushai-English dictionary. He collected the materials consulting the chiefs and other educated Mizo in the midst of his busy life. He could not complete the work during his service in Mizoram till 1932 and the final preparation for
the press had been done in England. After a long years of patient labour he finished the compilation work and made it ready for the press in 1939. Thus the Asiatic Society of Bengal published the first and high standard Dictionary in the Mizo language entitled, "Dictionary of the Lushai Language" which contains 576 pages with 33,000 words.

The contents are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explanatory Notes on signs and Symbols used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modifications (with Reference Table)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Introduction:

In the preface to the book, the author discussed the origin of the Mizo. He also described the efforts undertaken by the missionaries to make the illiterate Mizo tribe literate. He also dwelt upon the difficulties he faced during the collection of materials for the dictionary. He expressed his gratitude to those who helped him in the preparation and compilation of the dictionary.
Under the "Orthography" heading he noted that the missionaries reduced the Mizo language to writing on the phonetic Hunterian system of Orthography and put down the alphabet with the pronunciation and sound of each letter.

Under the third heading "Explanatory Notes on Signs and Symbols used" he explained how he used the following:

1. Two signs ' and " dividing up the verbs into two parts.
2. Hyphens.
3. Dashes.
4. Italics.
5. Reference Figures.
6. (F) (which stands for Foreign).
7. (N.L.) (which stands for North Lushai).
8. (S.L.) (which stands for South Lushai).

Under the headline of "Modifications (with Reference Tables)" he indicated that some verbs have one or two modifications and he prepared the reference table to show how the different forms of such verbs should be used. He further mentioned with examples that certain adverbs and nouns also have modifications.

"Omissions" is the last heading under which the author stated that his dictionary did not fully contain all the
words in use amongst the Mizo. Some words were missing because rats destroyed some slips of paper on which he recorded the Mizo words for dictionary. He omitted double adverbs in Mizo the meaning of which cannot be adequately expressed in English. Another omission was that of diacritical marks to indicate different tones or sounds of words but he repeated the word having more than one tone in the alphabetical vocabulary in order to avoid the possible confusion of one with another.

(2) Dictionary:

The dictionary was made on the model of English dictionaries. The headwords with derivatives and compounds were alphabetically arranged. They were printed in bold type with indication of speech. Illustrative sentences were given whenever necessary.

An apostrophe (') and a double apostrophe (**) have been used as signs dividing up a verb into two parts to show the place where a pronoun had to be inserted both in speaking and in writing. The first sign (') signifies that the pronoun 'a' (it, etc.) referring to the first part of the verb (which is frequently a noun) should be inserted there, e.g.,
Mit' kalh = to squint, to be squint-eyed.
A mit a kalh = He/she is squint-eyed.
The second sign ("P") indicates that the pronoun referring to some other thing or person (not to the first part of the verb) should be placed there, e.g.,

Mit " khaps to blink the eyes.
A mit a khaps He blinks his eyes.
These signs refer to the verbal use of the word only.

A dash (−) is also used to represent repetition of a word or syllable as it is done in English dictionaries. As a help to those who are not familiar with the language some words are hyphenated to divide one syllable from another.

The final syllable of the word which is subject to change under certain condition is printed in italics, e.g., apiangin (whenever) may become apianga.
chabiin (with a key) may become chabia.

A final 'h' which has to be omitted under certain conditions is also in italic type. Sometimes the 'ah' is the final syllable and sometimes the letter 'h' is dropped and 'a' becomes the final syllabic which is sometimes changed to 'in' under certain conditions, e.g., Ngalah (on the shin) may become either Ngala or Ngalin (with the shin).

A reference figure is also placed after the word referred to in order to indicate whether the first, second or
third word of that spelling in the alphabetical vocabulary is intended. Its difference from the English dictionaries is that the headwords having different meanings or two or more parts of speech or different tones are not numbered even if they are listed alphabetically at the end of an entry.

As it is done in English dictionary like "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English" many entries are divided into sections which are numbered in bold type to show the different meanings or usages of the headword.

For example:

Thei (Theih)v. 1. can, may; to be able, to be capable; to have power, ability, capability, opportunity, permission, right, etc.; to have sufficient power or strength.
2. to be liable. (A tlu thei e = He is liable to fall)
3. to get or become or be; to be in the habit of getting or becoming or being; to habitually get or become or be. (Ka hah thei em mai = I get very tired. A thinur thei em mai = He gets very angry. He is in the habit of getting very angry)

Adv. 1. always, often, habitually, constantly, frequently, continually.
2. possibly, perhaps, perchance. Suffix -ing, -ful, -ly
Kang thei = stinging (as nettle), seh thei = biting, able to bite) Adj. Able, capable.

A capital F in brackets (F) indicates that the headword preceding it is either partly or wholly a corruption or adaptation of foreign word.

The sign, (N.L.) signifies that the word defined is better known in North Lushai Hills than in the South and the other sign (S.L.) shows that the word indicated is better known in the South Lushai Hills than in the North.

The word in brackets with or without a dash which is placed immediately after the headword is the modified form of the headword which may be either a verb or adjective or noun (defined in that entry), e.g. Kang (kan), lam hla, (-hlat), etc. Here 'Kang' and 'lam hla' are the headwords followed by the modified forms in brackets.

The signs 'Parry' and 'Wenger' also appear in the dictionary. Mr. & Mrs. E. Parry, Superintendent of the Lushai Hills and Rev. M.J.L. Wenger, Baptist missionary to the south Mizoram contributed botanical names of many trees and plants to the dictionary. Such botanical names together with either Parry or Wenger whoever was the contributor are bracketted and appear in the entry of the dictionary.
Thus the dictionary has its own signs and symbols but there is no pictorial illustration which may be more useful than the written explanation.

This dictionary has been one of the most valuable books which have been published in Mizo language. Even now the Mizo make good use of it to learn English. It contains thousands of words in common use including those which are not very familiar with many people of the present generation. Besides, it includes new words or adapted words as well as new compound words brought by the new religion of Christianity. It also contains many words commonly used in the heathen days which had been out of use in the transformed society, e.g., names of different kinds of sacrifices with their instruments or materials, festivals, amusements, public feasts, etc.

The uses of idioms and phrases and other difficult words have been clearly shown in different sentence patterns. Therefore, this book is quite helpful not only to learn English but also to learn Mizo language and vocabularies for the Mizo themselves because the young people are not familiar with many of the metaphorical expression or with simile and other names of things which are less
popular in modern times. There are thousands of words which need to be known but which may soon to be obsolete. Knowledge of the meanings of such words is important for the growth of language and literature.

Furthermore, as many as 256 words which are partly or wholly corrupted or adapted from foreign words are included in the dictionary and this inclusion of foreign words has enriched the language.

Lastly, in addition to the thousands of words of current use many poetical words, names of famous characters in Mizo folktales and other nouns which had been named after the names of such famous characters also appear in this dictionary. Such words have increased the academic value of the book.

(3) Orthography:

The Mizo alphabet and the pronunciation or sound of each letter are already mentioned in Chapter II and hence there is no need to repeat them here. The alphabet prepared by the missionaries is not adequate to express every sound of Mizo language and the spelling system is not fully satisfactory for correct pronunciation of some words.

The Mizo alphabet is exactly the same as the English alphabet except that there are no y, q and x
in Mizo but the pronunciation of some letter is different. The English alphabet is inadequate to express every sound of English language and the orthography is also imperfect. Pronunciation of words according to their spellings always lead to wrong pronunciation which cannot be understood. Examples:-

'Doom' is pronounced as 'dum' but door is not to be pronounced as 'dur'. The sound of 'oo' (double 0) in these two words is quite different. Again, 'Pension' is pronounced as 'penshn'. Invention is also pronounced as 'invenshn'. Here the pronunciation of 'sion' and 'tion' is the same. Further, the sound of 'ch' is always different in some cases, as at 'Chamelion' and 'chaff', 'child' and 'chord', etc.

The English pronunciation needs to be shown in the English dictionary because the spelling of word is not consistent with the sound or pronunciation in many cases. Hence, correct pronunciation of every English word is difficult for foreign learners. The spellings of a number of words are to be known by heart for they are not phonetic and are still symbols or signification to represent the sounds because they do not closely approximate to the sounds or pronunciations.
Similarly, the English alphabet which is adopted for Mizo language is inadequate to express every sound of the language and the spellings of some words are also inaccurate. As in English there are some words which cannot be correctly pronounced in accordance with the spellings, e.g. Nghak (to wait), hmui (to see), hming (name), etc. It is better to write them as 'hnghak' 'hmui' 'hmhing' so that the speller will find it more easier.

J.H. Lorrain says in the introduction to his dictionary under the heading 'orthography' that the following alphabet adequately expresses every sound in the Mizo language:

a, a, aw, aw, b, ch, d, e, e, f, g, h, i, i, k, l, n, o, p, r, s, t, t, u, u, v, z.

In view of the English alphabet and orthography the above alphabet may be found quite satisfactory for expression of the sound in the Mizo language. But a careful study of the sound of each letter proves that it is incomplete and other symbols need to be introduced to give the sound of the language without any exceptions. The present alphabet of the Mizo has been in use without any strong criticisms for so many years. Since many foreign words have been imported to the Mizo vocabularies there is a great need of adding phonetic characters in the Mizo alphabet. Besides,
it can be known from careful study that the sound of some characters is not adequate to express clearly the exact word with proper pronunciation with the help of the present alphabet. Thus there may be some mistakes in the spelling of Mizo words. Hence, there is a need to revise or reform the Mizo alphabet.

In the present Mizo alphabet 'J' and 'G' are not necessary because 'Z' is usually used in place of 'J' which is hardly used and only 'G' is never used in Mizo but in combination with a letter 'N' to become one letter 'NG'.

Some interested persons are now taking steps for amendment of the alphabet and they propose to introduce other or additional symbols, Y and combined letters to perfectly conform to labial, dental, lateral, dental rolled, velar and nasal sounds of the language. But the work of the alphabet amendment has to be left to the hands of the experts in linguistics.

In conclusion, it should be remembered that no dictionary contains a complete vocabulary of the words spoken by one tribe or nation. It is, indeed, a difficult task to collect all the words in use without any exception of a single word and explain them fully to satisfy all the readers. The preparation of dictionary takes many years and the author has to spend much time during which the
language may undergo changes or new words and other usages may emerge under various circumstances. The progress of society and standard of living gradually leave behind some words which may become out of use after a long lapse of time. Moreover, the progress in the fields of science, education, etc. brings new words for the language. Besides that, the language itself is slowly changing for some reasons.

On the occasion of U.G.C. Workshop on Lexicography organised by Modern Indian Language Department, Gauhati University in 1966 Dr. Banikanta Sarma presented his paper, "Dictionary as Popularly Known" in which he says, "... The authority of the dictionary of any language is subject to change as change in language is normal. Indeed change is the very clan vital of language. When a language stops changing it is no longer capable of expressing life; it is dead. Thus a dictionary prepared at a certain point of time does not serve the purpose of a language for all times to come ".

"Our language is changing slowly and America is leading the way now not Britain, don't see anything a particularly wrong with that it's inevitable," said Mr. R. Burchfield, a New Zealand-born lexicographer who edited four new
The change of language seems to be rapid in Mizoram because of the propagation of Christianity which had been embraced by the people. The new faith caused changes in their social and religious life. The educational, medical, religious and literary activities of the missionaries had brought about new way of life and greatly developed the literature which enriched the Mizo language. The progress in every direction has necessitated insertion of foreign words into the regional language and at the same time the meanings of many of the Mizo original words have been developed while many others slowly go out of use. Therefore, J.H. Lorrain's Dictionary, the first and the only Dictionary of the Mizo language is also becoming less useful now as it was published long ago. On the other hand, it has historical and literary importance as it records some aspects of the past life of the tribemen with the definitions of their poetical words, idioms, phrases and other modes of expressions including the famous characters in their folktales.

4. Paper presented by Dr. Banikanta Sarma to the U.G.C. Workshop on Lexicography held from the 3rd May to the 7th June, 1986.
The Elements of Lushai Grammar:

F.J. Sandy, a Welsh Missionary working in the North Mizoram from 1914 to till his death (on the 6th November, 1926 at 7:30 A.M.) wrote Mizo Grammar entitled "The Elements of Lushai Grammar," which was published in 1920. This grammar was prepared for a text book of M.E. Classes. The second edition containing 78 pages was printed at the Banerjee Press, 2, Moharani Sarmamoyee Road, Calcutta in 1925. It had been one of the text books in the Middle English school for many years.

The book contains chapters under the following heads:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>The Parts of speech in outline</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Nouns</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Adjectives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Pronouns</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Verbs</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Adverbs</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Postpositions</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Conjunctions</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Chapter I, Sandy defines the eight parts of speech with illustrative sentences. He states that in Mizo language the English preposition is placed after the noun and is to be called "postposition". Hence, he shows the usage of the postposition in the Mizo language and does not call it "preposition".

In the chapter on "Noun" he explained with examples the following:

(1) Five kinds of nouns - proper nouns, collective nouns, common nouns and abstract nouns.

(2) Rules for the plural (the ways in which the plural of nouns are formed )

(3) Four genders - masculine, feminine, common and Neuter genders.

(4) Cases - five Cases namely the Nominative, the Vocative, the objective, the Possessive and the Instrumental Cases.

(5) Nouns in Apposition (when one noun follows another to describe it )
(6) Substitutes for nouns (Pronouns, Verbal nouns & Noun clause)

(7) Parsing of Nouns.

Unlike other books of Mizo Grammar there is an 'Instrumental Case' in Sandy's Grammar book in addition to the four cases of nouns. This case is shown by the use of the case-postposition 'in'. This is used to express the instrument or means with or by which something is done, the price for which an article is bought or sold, etc.

In chapter III, he describes four kinds of Adjectives—Adjective of quality, Adjective of quantity, Demonstrative adjective and Interrogative adjective.

Under the Adjective of Quality he groups the following:

(1) Definite numerical adjectives.
(2) Indefinite numerical adjectives.
(3) Distributive numerical adjectives.

He further shows the two uses of Adjectives— the Attributive use and the Predicative use with examples.

The use of the comparison of Adjectives (the Positive degree, the Comparative degree and the Superlative degree)
and Parsing of adjectives have also been discussed with examples.

In the Grammar written by the Mizo, classes of adjectives, two uses of adjectives, comparison of adjectives and parsing of adjectives are not included. It is mainly stated that adjectives are used with or without adverbs in the Mizo language. The adjectives are usually followed by adverbs even in general statement and sometimes they are also used with adverbs for emphasis. Moreover, there are double adjectives and all these are illustrated in sentences in the book of the Mizo Grammar.

Chapter IV deals with kinds of Pronouns and a definition of each pronoun is given with an example. The classes of Pronouns namely Personal Pronouns, Demonstrative Pronouns, Interrogative Pronouns and Indefinite Pronouns are explained with examples. Parsing of Pronouns is also given in a Parsing model.

According to the native Grammar book there are three kinds of Pronouns in the Mizo language namely first persons (Singular and Plural) second persons (singular and plural) and third persons (singular and plural).
The subjective and objective uses of the first persons, the second persons and the third persons are given with examples in the native grammar. There is no any mention of the other kinds of pronouns except the Personal pronouns.

Chapter V deals with Verbs under which the following are discussed with examples:

1. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs.
4. Tense. (Present, Past and future tenses)
5. Augmentative Verbal Prefixes.
6. Number and Person.
7. Causative Verbs.
8. Verbs of Incomplete Predication.
9. The Verbal Nouns.
10. The Conjunctions (First, second, Third and Fourth Conjugations)
11. Verbs of State

The differences of this Grammar from that of the natives which appear in this Chapter are as follows:
(1) It states that the verb in Mizo has only one voice, the Active.

(2) Only the examples of the three principal tenses the Present, the Past and the future are given.

(3) Augmentative Verbal Prefixes which are not found in the other Grammar books are clearly mentioned with examples.

(4) It mentions three ways in which Causative Verbs are formed from Transitive or intransitive Verbs in Mizo while this is not included by the natives in their Grammar books.

(5) Verbs of the first, second, third and fourth conjugations which are fully explained with examples are not seen in the other books of the Mizo Grammar.

(6) Lastly, the Verbs of state divided into four classes corresponding to the four conjugations and the Parsing of Verbs are not mentioned in the Grammar written by the natives.

Under the chapter "Adverbs" Mr. Sandy states that Mizo Adverbs may be divided into three classes namely -

(1) Simple Adverbs

(2) Conjunctive Adverbs

(3) Interrogative Adverbs

The Simple Adverbs may be divided into five classes according to their meaning:

(1) Adverbs of Time

(2) Adverbs of Place
(3) Adverbs of Manners
(4) Adverbs of Quality
(5) Adverbs of Assertion or Denial

The Interrogative Adverbs are also divided into five classes:

(1) Time
(2) Place
(3) Manner, Quality or State
(4) Quantity, Degree or Extent
(5) Cause or Reason.

A comparison of Adverbs which is formed in the same way as that of Adjectives is also seen with examples.

Double Adverbs or pairs of Adverbs used to indicate objects of large, medium and small sizes with the sentences illustrating their uses and what Adverb is employed to describe are listed as examples.

Lastly, there is a Parsing of Adverbs.

Chapter VII contains Postpositions and after defining the Postposition examples are given in sentences. As has been done in the former Chapters Parsing of Postpositions is placed at the end of this chapter.
Chapter VIII explains what the conjunction is and divides the conjunction into two main classes: Co-ordinative and Subordinative.

The Coordinative Conjunctions are sub-divided into the following:

1. Cumulative Co-ordinative Conjunctions.
3. Alternative Co-ordinative Conjunctions.
4. Illative Conjunctions.

The Subordinative Conjunctions are also divided as:

1. Temporal Conjunctions
2. Conjunctions of Manner and Degree
3. Causal Conjunctions
4. Conjunction indicating purpose.
5. Conditional Conjunctions

All these are explained with examples and the Parsing is done at the end.

In the Grammar books by the natives the main classes of Conjunctions and the Sub-division of each class
are not seen. The uses of conjunctions and the way in which some conjunctions become other parts of speech according to the difference in their uses are shown with examples. Further, Parsing of the parts of speech is never done by the native grammarians.

In Chapter IX eight examples of Interjections are given in Mizo and the sense expressed by each of them is shown in English against each.

In Chapter X there is an Analysis of sentences. The simple sentence (having one subject and one predicate) is illustrated. It further explains the subject of a sentence and how it may be enlarged and the enlargements called Attributive Adjuncts of the Subjects may be of the following :-

An adjective, an adjective phrase, a noun in apposition, a verbal noun, a noun or pronoun in the Possessive Case, a verbal noun phrase, a noun followed by a postposition and an adjective clause. All these are illustrated.

The Predicate may be extended or modified by the addition of one or more adverbial adjuncts which may consist of the following :- An adverb, an adverbial phrase and an adverbial clause.
The object also may be enlarged like the subject by any of the attributive adjuncts which are shown under the enlargement of the subject. This is followed by Analysis of five sentences.

This chapter describes also the Compound and Complex Sentences. The Compound Sentences are divided into Cumulative Adversative, Illative and Alternative according to which the work or position of a clause is different in the sentences. The Principal clause and the Subordinate clause are also illustrated and the analysis of the Complex Sentence is mentioned at the end of the chapter.

Chapter XI contains vowel changes in the Mizo language making a mention that certain vowels and diphthongs are subject to changes and these are fully explained with examples.

In Chapter XII borrowed words (seventeen words taken from English and thirty-nine words from Hindusthani) are listed. The vowel changes and borrowed words are excluded by the natives in their Grammar books.

F.J. Sandy's Mizo Grammar follows, to some extent, the characterisation and the topics of other English Grammar but in explaining some of the parts of speech he makes division or
sub-divisions as he thinks it necessary to correspond with the uses in Mizo language. Hence, his grammar is more detailed in many respects than the Grammar written by the Mizo. It covers a wide area of English Grammar and deals with some Grammatical terms which are not found in the native Grammar book. On the other hand, it omits some topics which has been dealt with by the native Grammar. Considering the time when this Grammar book was prepared by the missionary it may be stated that the book is good enough to supply the needs of the people and the writer was worthy of praise for being able to produce such a valuable book in those early years of the beginning of Mizo literature. To compare it with the native Grammar it should be stated that it is still better in some cases than the modern Mizo Grammar. The Mizo ought to thank the writer for the great work he had done for them.

8:4 *English Grammatical Primer*:

As already discussed in chapter IV Rev. Edwin Rowlands of the Welsh Mission who worked in Mizoram from 1899 to 1907 wrote English Grammar for school use which was called "English Grammatical Primer" and was printed at the S.P.C.K. Press, Vepery, Madras in 1907. The size of the book was bigger than that of the Grammar book written by F.J. Sandy. It con-
tained 104 pages and the second edition was printed in 1914, the third edition in 1926 and the fourth edition in 1949.

The missionaries and the natives who had written the Mizo Grammar usually followed the model of English Grammar and some topics of their books are translated from the English Grammar. Edwin Rowlands' English Grammar was not called Mizo Grammar but it was written in Mizo and English. Hence, it may be called bi-lingual grammar. Many of its contents were the same as that of the Mizo Grammar. For this reason it is worth-mentioning and is important, to a certain extent, like the Mizo Grammar. It remained a valuable book that had given knowledge of Grammar to the Mizo for about fifty years. Its contents are as follows:

(1) **Lushai Adaptation**: Under the heading "Lushai Adaptation," he made a list of English words against which translations in Mizo were given. Sentences in English and Mizo were made to show the uses of the vocabularies.

(2) **The Sentence**: Under the next heading "the sentence" he listed words which were translated into Mizo and made sentences using the words both in Mizo and English. Moreover, the origin of the word 'Grammar,' what the Grammar teaches and definitions of a sentence with its two parts - subjects and Predicate were
also given below the list of words.

(3) **Parts of Speech**: Under each of the eight parts of speech, (nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections) he listed words as examples for each and below the list of examples the meanings of each parts of speech and what they do in the sentence were explained.

(4) Definitions of Orthography, Etymology and Syntax were given separately with examples for Orthography and Etymology.

(5) **Kinds of Nouns**: Proper nouns, Common nouns, Collective nouns, Material nouns and Abstract nouns were explained with examples.

(6) **Four genders**: Masculine, Feminine, Common and Neuter Genders were discussed giving examples for each. Different ways of changing Masculine Gender to Feminine Gender were also mentioned with examples.

(7) **Number**: (Singular and Plural) Under this heading different rules for formation of plural nouns were explained with examples.

(8) **Case**: Explanations of Nominative Case, Possessive case, Objective case, Vocative Case, Direct object and Indirect object (Dative case) were given with examples.
(9) **Four kinds of Adjectives**: Adjective of quality, Adjective of quantity, Numerical adjective and Demonstrative adjective were discussed.

Comparison of Adjective - Positive, Comparative and Superlative Degrees and the rules of comparison with examples were given.

Numerical adjective was sub-divided into

(a) Definite
(b) Indefinite and
(c) Distributive.

(10) **Pronoun**: Personal, Demonstrative, Relative & Interrogative pronouns and further divisions - Reflexive pronouns, Indefinite pronouns and Reciprocal pronouns were mentioned giving examples.

(11) **Verb**: Here the following were explained with examples:

(a) Transitive and Intransitive Verbs
(b) Mood (Indicative, subjunctive, Imperative and Infinite moods )
(c) Tense of verbs (Present tense, Past tense and future tense with conjugation, Past participle and Gerunds )

Each of the three principal tenses (Present tense, Past tense & future tense) was sub-divided as below:--
Indefinite, continuous (m imperfect) and perfect,
(d) Irregular or strong verbs, Weak verbs and Auxiliary Verbs
(e) Defective Verbs and Incomplete verbs.

(12) **Adverbs** : Rowlands classified adverbs into three main categories, viz.

(a) Simple Adverbs
(b) Relative or Conjunctive Adverbs
(c) Interrogative Adverbs.

Further he mentioned Adverbs of Quality, Adverbs of time, Adverbs of Place, Adverbs of Degree, Numeral Adverbs, Adverbs of Cause and Effect, Adverbs of Belief or Disbelief and Adverbs of Comparison. Examples for each of them were given.

(13) **Preposition** : The uses of prepositions in English and Mizo were shown. He mentioned that the preposition had to be called postposition in the Mizo Grammar.

(14) **Conjunction** : Co-ordinative and subordinative Conjunctions were explained giving examples.

(15) **Interjection** : The uses of Interjections in English and Mizo were given.

(16) **Syntax** : Three syntax rules - Concord, government and order were discussed.
(17) **Rules of Syntax**: Subject and Verb, Adverb, Preposition and Conjunction were mentioned with examples.

(13) **Analysis of simple sentences**: Subjects and Predicates, enlargements of the Subjects and extensions of the Predicates were described.

(19) **Rules for analysing simple sentences as well as Compound and Complex sentences** were discussed with examples.

As already stated some topics of Mizo Grammar are the same as that of Rowlands' English Grammar. The Mizo Grammar is usually prepared on the basis of English Grammar. Such translations do not exactly conform to the Mizo language in many cases. Hence, the Mizo Grammar written by the missionaries or by the natives are not fully the real Mizo Grammar. But a grammar of the Mizo language can be formed and written following the pattern of English Grammar. The correct application of eight parts of speech, formation of sentences, voice, tense, mood, gender, etc. in the Mizo language can be shown and studied from the English Grammar. Thus the Grammar prepared by Edwin Rowlands could serve, to a great extent, the needs of the people of its time although the book did not cover the entire area of Grammar.
Edwin Rowlands' style of writing his grammar is that he first listed many words and translated them into Mizo and then made sentences to show the uses of most of the words as examples of what he wanted to mention. After that he gave the explanations or definitions of the grammatical terms. It may also be stated that the book of his Grammar served as an English-Mizo Dictionary in some ways because of such long lists of vocabularies.

The arrangement of the grammatical topics in his book was partly systematic and his explanations of some section was not precise because it sometimes included so many words which were unnecessary or not related to the subject.

Lastly, the formation of sentence in Mizo was very often incorrect from the grammatical point of view and was difficult to understand for the people of the present generation.

8:5 **Primary Grammar**:

A primary Grammar in Lushai prepared by Miss K. Hughes, a Welsh missionary was published by the Welsh Mission Bookroom, Aijal in 1938. One thousand copies were printed at the Loch Printing Press, Aizawl. It contained fourteen pages only and was a vernacular Grammar intended for pupils of the Primary school.
of the school. The contents of the book were as follows:

In lesson one, twelve sentences were made in Mizo and a simple definition of the sentence to be learnt by heart was given below the sentences. There was an exercise in which sentences were to be made by using eleven given words.

Parts of speech, i.e., Noun, Verb, Pronoun, Adjective, Adverb, Preposition, Conjunction and Interjection were explained with examples in lesson two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight and nine respectively. In each lesson four or five sentences were first made to show the part of speech which was to be explained in that lesson. The parts of speech were then taken out of the sentences and were fully explained. A definition of the part of speech which should be learnt by heart was given separately in each lesson. There was also an exercise at the end of each lesson in which sentences were made and the part of speech was to be taken out from each of the given sentences.

Lesson ten gave the names of the eight parts of speech as a revision. In the exercise of this lesson eighteen sentences consisting of different parts of speech printed in italics were given and the students were asked to mention what parts of speech they were.
In lesson eleven, Subject and Predicate were explained with examples. Definitions of the Subject and the Predicate were given separately. In the exercises incomplete sentences to be filled in with Subject and Predicate were made and some given sentences were also to be divided into Subject and Predicate.

This Grammar was prepared for the Primary students for learning the sentence, the parts of speech and the Subject and Predicate. It was written on the model of English Grammar. The words and sentences used in the book were very simple and must have been easily understood by the beginners. The book, though it was small, seems to be good and useful for the pupils to learn the parts of speech. In the explanation of the parts of speech it was equally good enough as the Grammar written by the natives. But it was incomplete because it excluded other grammatical chapters.

Lastly, it may also be mentioned that one of the text books, "Hma-Bu" (A Lushai-English Primer) prepared by Edwin Rowlands and D.E. Jones was published in 1903. This book was divided into Part and Part II. Part consisting of 92 pages was prepared by Edwin Rowlands and part II comprising the rest of the printed book was written by D.E. Jones.
The Part I of this book deals with the grammatical topics while the Part II deals with conversation in English and Mizo. It was an important book for knowledge of the grammar during the early years.

It is often said that it is unnecessary to stress the importance of Grammar. Some people neglect its study but this negligence is a dangerous self-deception. A Grammar directs the correct usage of words in speaking and writing. It is the study and rules for combination of words into sentences and the forms of words. The role of Grammar is like that of the master, and the learners are expected to follow grammar like disciples under strict discipline.

In view of the present need of the people in the knowledge of Grammar, the modern Grammar written by the Mizo is not adequate. Therefore, for the future growth and development of the language it is a high time for the educated Mizo to pay attention to write an up-to-date Mizo Grammar. A living language must accept the socio-linguistic aspect and as a consequence of that a Grammar of a growing language must incorporate new aspects and intricacies that may occur in course of time.