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ELEMENTS

OF

SIAMESE GRAMMAR.



BY

O. FRANKFURTER, Ph. D.

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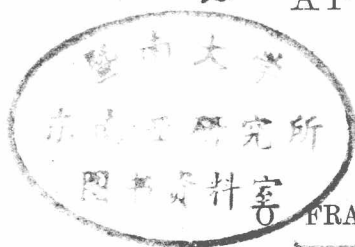
SIAMESE GRAMMAR

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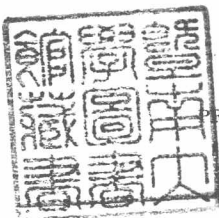
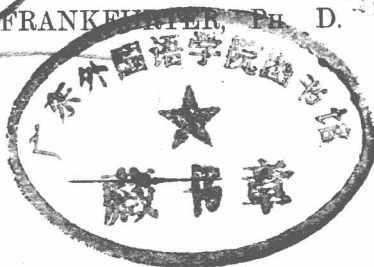
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APPENDICES

BY



FRANKENBERGER, Ph. D.



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PREFACE.

NO excuse is, I hope, needed for the publication of these "ELEMENTS OF SIAMESE GRAMMAR." I claim it, to be a first attempt made to explain the character of the language and I trust it will be criticized in this way.

I do not wish it to be considered as a book, from which the foreigner, who comes to Siam, will be enabled to glean the vocabulary and phrases, which he has to use in every day life in his household. With this aim in view other books have been published, which fulfil their purpose, and there is no necessity to increase their number.

I have confined myself in explaining the character of the language to Siamese only, and I have refrained from entering into a discussion of the fascinating subject of its relations to other languages in the Far East; for in spite of numerous papers published on the subject, we have scarcely got beyond generalities. There is no doubt, that the language may be traced in some form up to the confines of Thibet; that numerous affinities exist with it and some of the Chinese dialects; but

these affinities have not influenced the culture of the Siamese. This is based on Brahmanism, Buddhism and Hinduism. I have endeavoured as far as was possible, without entering into minute disquisitions, to trace this influence in the language ; but we shall never arrive at a true estimate of Siamese culture and history, or more generally and correctly speaking, of the Far Eastern peoples, unless the influence, the civilization and culture, India had on their laws, customs, religions, folklore, and superstitions are clearly pointed out. Unhappily however this seems a wish, which is likely to remain unfulfilled ; for even where we can clearly trace such influence in a certain specified area, to draw from it historical conclusions will be impossible for want of chronological data. This much is however quite clear, that the reproach made to the Indian people, that they were a lethargic race can, in view of the vast influence they yielded in Indo-China, not be maintained.

In explaining the character of the language, I was guided by the word ascribed to the Buddha "*Attho akkhara saññáto*," which I am inclined to translate by "the sense is made clear by the sentence," and for the correctness of this translation, I may refer to the

meaning the word 'aksara' has in Siamese in the title of the keeper of the archives อักษร สมบัติ in the phrase ถวาย พระ อักษร to instruct the Royal children, ทรง พระ อักษร to read, speaking of the King.

The examples chosen to explain the usage of the language are taken from works, which are considered classical, and a list of which I give in the bibliography.

I, of course, always consulted the magnum opus of Bishop Pallegoix : *Grammatica Linguae Thai*, Bangkok 1850, and I have to thank for the ready information given to me about some obscure points many friends. I must mention more particularly in this respect my colleague Phra Borirak Chaturong (Phŭm), of the General Adviser's Office, Khun Hluang Phya Kraisi (Plěng) Chief Judge of the Criminal Court, Phya Prajakitkorachak (Xēm) of the Court of Appeal, Hluang Viset Virajthan (Són) and Hluang Udom Sombatti (Lòm) of the Foreign Office.

Mr. H. W. Rolfe Tutor to His Majesty's children undertook the arduous and somewhat tedious task of reading with me over the proof-sheets, and it is to his knowledge, unfailing zeal and patience, that my readers and I are indebted for the form the book has finally acquired. I have also to express my thanks in

this connection to Mr. E. J. Wills, who before his return to Europe on leave largely assisted me. Finally I have to express my thanks to the Rev. Mr. Dunlap the Superintendent of the "American Presbyterian Mission Press," for his care in supervising the printing. Although I cannot hope, that the book is free from misprints, inconsistencies, and inaccuracies in spelling and transliteration, I hope that no misprints which pervert the sense have remained uncorrected.

I have written the book in English, the *Lingua Franca*, East of Suez, and for this course, I hope, I need no apology, nor need I point out that in translating examples into English, the aim was to give as literal a translation as possible, although the English might sound queer. No apology is also, I hope, wanted for the appendices. They treat of matters such as the "Palace Language," the "Nobles of Siam" and the "Chronology of Siam," regarding which some curious notions exist, which it was my aim to correct.

BANGKOK, March 1900.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Cpr. SATOW, E. M.: Essay towards a Bibliography of Siam. Singapore, Printed at the Government Printing Office, 1886,

Most of the descriptions of Siam contain more or less accurate accounts of the language.

The chapter by Laloubère : Du Royaume de Siam, vol. ii. Paris 1686 was used by:—

LEYDEN J., M.D. : On the language and literature of the Indo-Chinese Nations (Asiatic Researches, vol. x., 1808), reprinted in Miscellaneous Papers relating to Indo-China, vol. i.

SCHOTT, W: Über die sogenannten indochinesischen Sprachen, insonderheit das Siamesische, (Abhandlungen der kgl. Akademie der Wissenschaften. Berlin, 1856.)

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- EWALD L : Grammatik der Tai-oder Siamesischen Sprache, Leipzig, 1881.
- WERSHOVEN F. J : Lehr und Lesebuch der Siamesischen Sprache und deutsch siamesisches Wörterbuch Wien, Pest, Leipzig.
- SMITH SAMUEL J : The Principles of Siamese Grammar comprising the substance of previous Grammars of the language. Bangkok, 1889.

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DICTIONARIES—VOCABULARIES :

- COMPARATIVE VOCABULARY of the Barma, Maláyu and Tháí Languages. Serampore, Printed at the Mission Press, 1810.
- PALLEGIOIX ; (ศัพท์ พจนานุกรม ไทย.) Dictionarium Linguae Thai sive Siamensis Interpretatione Latina, Gallica et Anglica Illustratum. Parisiis Jussu Imperatoris impressum. In Typographeo Imperatorio 1854.

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SECOND EDITION UNDER THE TITLE OF

ศัพท์ พจนานุกรม ไทย

Dictionnaire Siamois Français Anglais par D. J. B. Pallegioix Évêque de Mallos Vicaire Apostolique de Siam. Revu par J. L. VEY. Évêque de Géraza Vicaire Apostolique de Siam. Imprimerie de la Mission Catholique, Bangkok 1896. (Title also in English).

MICHELL, E. B.; A Siamese-English Dictionary for the use of students in both languages. Bangkok 1892.

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AN ENGLISH SIAMESE PRONOUNCING HAND-BOOK.

(Prepared from a Manuscript of the late

W. H. McFARLAND), Bangkok.

McFARLAND, S. G. An English Siamese Dictionary Bangkok.

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(Cpr. PALLEGOIX: Grammatica Linguae Thai, page 172: Catalogus praecipuorum librorum Linguae Thai.)

หนังสือ ประถม กกา แจก ลูก อักษร แด่ จินตานันท์ กับ ประถมมาลา
แล ปทานุกรม

Title in English: Elementary Tables and Lessons in the Siamese Language by the Rev. D. B. Bradley. Bangkok, frequently reprinted.

It is a collection of the traditional grammatical works of which also separate issues exist.

วิธี สอน หนังสือ ไทย (On teaching the Siamese Language) by พระยา ศรี สุนทร ไหวหา (น้อย) Bangkok, 1871.

แบบ เรียน ตรี 3 volumes, frequently reprinted. A Siamese grammar modernized. The work has been issued by the Educational Department, as well as the two following :—

สยาม ไวยากรณ์ higher Siamese Grammar 2 vols.

พจนานุกรม ลำดับ แล แปล ศัพท์ ที่ ใช้ ใน หนังสือ ไทย. Collection of words used in the Siamese language and an explanation of the same. 1891.

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ราชอาณาจักร นาม ต่าง ๆ ตามแห่ง ใน กรม มหาด เล็ก edited by หม่อม ราชโกษา. Bangkok 1250, (1888). A collection from different printed works, the official gazette, edicts regarding the Palace Language, Titles, etc.

ราชกิจจานุเบกษา ใน รัชกาล ที่ ๔. (Reprints by order of the King of the two volumes of the Official Gazette issued during the Reign of King Mongkut.) Bangkok, 1890.

พระราช บัญญัติ แล ประกาศ ต่าง ๆ ใน รัชกาล ที่ ๔ (Reprint of the edicts and notifications issued during the Reign of King Mongkut.) 4 vols Bangkok, since 1890.

ราชกิจจานุเบกษา Official Gazette. Laws, Edicts, Orders, Court News issued regularly weekly since about 1874.

The Laws have been reprinted by Khun Hluang Phya Kraisi (เปล่ง) under the title :—

กฎหมายไทย คือ พระราชบัญญัติ แล ประกาศ ซึ่ง ตั้ง ขึ้น ไว้ ใน รัชกาล
ของ พระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว ผู้ทรงพระคุณธรรม อัน
ประเสริฐ

Having furnished most of the examples and as of service to the learner, we mention further :—

พระราชพงษาวดารเหนือ Annals of the North printed by order of His Majesty, Bangkok 1231 (1869).

พระราชพงษาวดารกรุงเก่า Annals of Ayuthia, 2 vols. frequently reprinted.

In the appendix the reign of Chao Tak Sin to the time of Phra Buddha Yot Fa Chulalok is treated.

Also a school edition in two volumes.

หนังสือเทศนา พระราชประวัติ พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าแผ่นดิน ๔ รัชกาล

Biography of the four first Kings of the Present Dynasty. Bangkok 1881.

ราชธิราช A History of Pegu. A translation made in the Reign of Phra Buddha Yot Fa Chulalok. Bangkok D. B. Bradley.

หนังสือ เมือง กฎหมาย เมือง ไทย. Laws of Siam, 2 vols., frequently reprinted since 1235, (1873.)

Illustrating the Nīti literature mention must be made of :—

สุภาษิต พระ รว. Proverbs of Phra Ruang ; many editions, frequently reissued.

ราช นิตติ on the conduct of Kings. A Siamese commentary on the Pāli work of that name, Bangkok Government Printing Office, 1233, (1871).

(Cpr. Leclère : Les Codes Cambodgiens tome i., page 79.)



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ELEMENTS  
OF  
SIAMESE GRAMMAR.  
PART I.

Letters and Phonetic Rules.

Alphabet.

The Siamese alphabet is, like other alphabets derived from Indian sources, syllabic; i. e. in every single consonant the vowel 'ö' is inherent: at the end of a word this vowel becomes silent. All other vowels and diphthongs are marked by signs written above, before, under, or before and after the consonant, after which they are to be pronounced. The letter ๐ 'o' is considered by Siamese grammarians as a consonant, because it serves as a support to the other vowels, in writing them, as will be seen in the table:-

## TABLE OF ALPHABET. *

### Consonants.

Gutturals: ក ko ខ khó ឃ khó គ kho ឥ kho ឧ khò រ ngo.

Palatals: ឡ cho ឈ xó ឍ xo ឌ so ណ xo ញ jo

Linguals ឡ do ឡ to ឡ thó ឡ tho ឆ tho ឆ no

Dentals: ត do ត to ត thó ត tho ត tho ណ no

Labials: ប bo ផ po ផ phó ផ fó ផ pho ផ fo វ pho វ mo

Semivowels: យ jo រ ro ឺ lo វ vo

Sibilants: ឥ só ម só ស só

Aspirates: អ hó ហ lo ច o ឧ ho.

### Vowels in Combination.

1	ខ a: ក ka:	2	ខា a ក ka
3	ខ i ក ki	4	ខិ i ក ki
5	ខ ឺ ក kũ	6	ខិ ឺ ក ku
7	ខ ុ ក kũ	8	ខុ u ក ku
9	ខ e: ក ke:	10	ខេ e ក ke
11	ខ é: ក ké:	12	ខេ é ក ké
13	ខ ô: ក kô:	14	ខៃ ô ក kô
15	ខ ăo: ក kăo:	16	ខា o ក ko
17	ខ ăa: ក kăa:	18	ខា ăa ក kăa

* For further explanations about the diacritical marks in the transcription, see chapter on Tones.



19	เียะ ia: เกียะ kia:	20	เีย ia เกีย kia
21	เือะ uā: เกือะ kuā:	22	เือ uā เกือ kuā
23	เอะ ó: เกอะ kó:	24	เอ ó เกอ kó
25	ไ ai ไ kǎi	26	ไ ai ไ kai
27	เอา ǎo เอา kǎo	28	เอา ǎm เอา kǎm
29	ฤ rǔ	30	ฤ rǔ
31	ฦ lǔ	32	ฦ lǔ



I have in transcribing the Siamese alphabet adopted the system first introduced by Bishop Pallegoix in his different works, such as the *Grammatica Linguae Thai*, Bangkok 1850, the *Dictionarium Latinum Thai*, Bangkok 1850, the *Dictionarium Linguae Thai*, Paris 1854, new edition revised by J. L. Vey, Bangkok 1896, which is employed also in the different works for the use of the Roman Catholic converts.

In this transcription only the short vowels are marked, as it appears that contrary to the Aryan languages most of the words have long vowels.

No notice is taken in this transcription of the origin of the alphabet. The sounds, reproduced in transliterating are those which the characters have at present. I am fully aware of the unscientific character of this transcription. Practical considerations decided me to adopt it, of which not the the least was, that it is logical and consistent.