

**A GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY
OF THE POOSHTOO LANGUAGE
(AS SPOKEN
IN THE TRANS-INDUS TERRITORIES
UNDER BRITISH RULE, &C. &C.)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649463008

A Grammar and Vocabulary of the Poooshtoo Language (as Spoken in the Trans-Indus Territories under British Rule, &C. &C.) by J. L. Vaughan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. L. VAUGHAN

**A GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY
OF THE POOSHTOO LANGUAGE
(AS SPOKEN
IN THE TRANS-INDUS TERRITORIES
UNDER BRITISH RULE, &C. &C.)**



A GRAMMAR

AND

VOCABULARY

OF THE

- Afghani

POOSHTOO LANGUAGE,

(AS SPOKEN IN THE TRANS-INDUS TERRITORIES UNDER
BRITISH RULE, &c. &c.)

BY

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. L. VAUGHAN,

BENGAL STAFF CORPS,

COMMANDANT FIFTH PUNJAB INFANTRY.

(2nd Edition)

"Rude Societies have language, and often copious and energetic language: but they have no scientific grammar—no definitions of nouns and verbs—no names for declensions, moods, tenses and voices."

Macaulay's History of England.

CALCUTTA:

PRINTED BY C. B. LEWIS, BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, AND PUBLISHED
BY MESSRS. THACKER, SPINK AND CO., AND
MESSRS. R. C. LEPAGE AND CO.

1864.

To

BRIGADIER J. S. HODGSON

AND

THE OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB IRREGULAR FORCE.

THE

FOLLOWING PAGES ARE DEDICATED BY THEIR

Comrade, and sincere Well-wisher,

THE AUTHOR.

Bunnoo, March 28th, 1854.



P R E F A C E.

WHEN a work professing to be a guide to a hitherto unexplored language is submitted to the public, it may reasonably be expected of the author that he should give some account of the manner in which he became acquainted with the unknown tongue which he professes to expound, and so enable his readers to form at least a *primâ facie* judgment as to his capacity for the task. My story shall be briefly told.

In June 1850, I joined the 2nd Punjab Infantry, then forming part of the garrison of Kohat. At that time there appeared every probability that the garrison of Kohat would be engaged in constant hostilities with the Afreedees, and other tribes in the hills which enclose that picturesque valley, and I became desirous of acquiring a knowledge of Poooshtoo, the language of our expected antagonists. It may also be observed that as Poooshtoo is the only language generally understood in the British Trans-Indus districts as far South as Dera Ishmail Khan, and is besides the mother-tongue of a numerous class of the men who compose the Punjab Infantry, a knowledge of it could scarcely fail to be extremely useful to any officer in my circumstances. If more need be said to account for my commencing the study of a sufficiently uninviting language, I would remark that I have always experienced (and I doubt not the feeling is pretty generally shared) a painful sense of inferiority when unable to understand, without the aid of an interpreter, the language of those with whom duty or inclination brings me in contact.

The determination to study Poooshtoo once formed, I naturally looked about to discover what material in the shape of Gram-

mar, Dictionary, or Vocabulary was available to assist me in the task. The result of my enquiries was not encouraging. All that was then forthcoming was the scanty collection of Pooštoo words to be found at the end of Mr. Elphinstone's admirable work.* It was not until many months later that I met with a paper in the Journal of the Asiatic Society for January 1839, purporting to be a Grammar of the Pooštoo or Affghanee language, by Lieut. Leach of the Bombay Engineers. My sense of obligation to Lieut. Leach is not, however, very over-powering. His meagre paper, whatever its merits, was scarcely entitled to the pretentious appellation of a Grammar. It is extremely incorrect, and refers almost exclusively to the Candaharee dialect of the Pooštoo, which is not that in most general use.

Thrown thus almost entirely upon my own resources, I commenced by daily translating into Pooštoo, with the help of a native officer of my regiment, a native of Cabul, a number of easy colloquial sentences. These I committed to writing from his dictation, and a comparison of what he told me from day to day enabled me, ere long, to trace certain rules according to which particular terminations seemed to recur; to recognize many tenses of the auxiliary and other verbs; and finally to sketch out different declensions of nouns, adjectives, etc. and form paradigms of an active and neuter verb.

My fancied rules I tested in every possible way in conversation with persons of all classes, and went on gradually for some months adding to and correcting my Vocabulary of words. The contradictory answers I often received in the course of this practice to the same question, asked of the same or different persons, were most puzzling, and often drove me to the brink of despair; oftener still perhaps tempted me to adopt the convenient belief, which I always found even the most intelligent of those I conversed with too ready to inculcate, that Pooštoo being a rude unfixed language, it was impossible to determine positively what was *right* and what was

* An account of the kingdom of Cabul by the Hon'ble Mounstuart Elphinstone.

wrong. A clue to much of the difficulty I experienced in this respect is to be found in the fact that the Poooshtoo of no two districts is exactly alike. Thus many words, the orthography of which I fixed in my own mind without a doubt when I heard them used by a Kohat man, were perfectly unintelligible when I heard them subsequently from the mouth of a Khut-tuck or an Afreedee.

Not long after the commencement of my studies, my regiment was ordered on service into the Trans-Indus salt district. No British troops had ever been stationed in this wild district before, and the value of even the slight acquaintance with the Poooshtoo which I could then boast, was hourly apparent, and I would fain hope had a good effect in giving confidence to the people of the country, and inducing them to bear with patience the unwonted annoyance of seeing their retired valley invaded by a regiment of foreign soldiers. In this situation, thrown into hourly communication with the country people of all ranks, called upon to listen to their complaints, and sometimes even to arbitrate in their private concerns, it may readily be believed that my acquaintance with the language increased apace. A still more favourable opportunity, however, of acquiring the language was about to offer.

The 2nd Punjab Infantry was withdrawn from the salt district, but I was ordered to remain behind at Nurree in command of a mixed force in which I was the only European. For the five next months the Mullucks and others of Nurree and the neighbourhood, became, in default of more congenial society, the companions of almost the whole of my leisure hours, of my walks, rides and exploring excursions. I suffered a perfect plethora of Poooshtoo, and strange would it have been if I had not acquired at least a thorough colloquial acquaintance with the language. But I was not satisfied with merely being able to understand and be understood by those about me. Before this I had matured in my own mind the design of the present work, and a portion of every day was allotted by me to making translations from English into Poooshtoo and sub-