

**GRAMMATICAL
NOTICES OF THE
BURMESE LANGUAGE**

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Grammatical Notices of the Burmese Language by A. Judson

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THIS work is printed, with a few corrections, from a manuscript prepared twenty six years ago, when the author had not a very extensive acquaintance with the Burmese language. He would not, however, have consented to publish it, had he not been satisfied, on a careful examination, that it exhibits a correct outline of the principles of the language, however deficient it may be in grammatical details.

It is committed to the press, as the most ready way of meeting frequent applications for the loan of the manuscript, and in the hope of stimulating some more industrious and ambitious person to furnish a work that shall deserve to be called a Grammar of the language; for the present slender compilation aspires to no higher title, than that of "Grammatical Notices."

Maulmain, July, 1842.



GRAMMATICAL NOTICES, &c.

THE ALPHABET.

THE Burmese alphabet consists of ten *vowels*,
ဝ ရ, and thirty two *consonants*, ဗျည်း:

VOWELS.

အ *a*, အာ *a*, ဣ *ee*, ဣီ *ee*, ဥ, ဦ *oo*, ဥိ *oo*,
ဇ *aa*, အဲ *ai*, ဇြော, ဩ *au*, ဇြော် *au*.

CONSONANTS.

က *ka*, ခ *hka*, ဝ *ga*, ဃ *ga*, င *nga*;
စ *tsa*, ဆ *htsa*, ဇ *dza*, ဈ *dza*, ဉ, ည *nya*;
တ *ta*, ဋ *hta*, ဒ *da*, င *da*, ဇ *na*;
တ *ta*, ဖ *hta*, ဒ *da*, င *da*, ဇ *na*;
ပ *pa*, ဖ *hpa*, ဗ *ba*, ဘ *ba*, မ *ma*;
ယ *ya*, ရ *ra*, လ *la*, ဝ *wa*,
သ *tha*, ဟ *ha*, ဌ *la*.

According to this arrangement, the first twenty five consonants are distributed into five classes.

The letters of the first or က class are gutturals, ကက္ခာ ; those of the second or စ class are palatals, တာလာ ; those of the third or င class are cerebrals, ငဒ္ဓါ ; those of the fourth or တ class are dentals, ဒက္ခါ ; and those of the fifth or ဝ class are labials, ဝဂ္ဂါ.

The first letter of each class is a simple articulation, smooth and soft ; the third is the same, rough and hard ; the second is the aspirate of the first ; the fourth, according to the Sungskrit system, whence the alphabet is derived, is the aspirate of the third, but according to the Burmese pronunciation, is the same ; and the fifth is the corresponding nasal.

The pronunciation of the cerebrals and the dentals, though different in the Sungskrit, is the same in the Burmese.

Of the seven remaining consonants, five are liquids, viz. ဝ, ဂ, င, ဝ, and င ; ဝ is properly a sibilant, but pronounced th, and ဝ is an aspirate.

The cerebrals and the letter င are found only in words derived from the Sungskrit or Pali.

The names and powers of the letters are as follows:—

VOWELS.

အ,	<i>a</i> short, as in <i>America</i> .
အဝ,	<i>a</i> long, as in <i>father</i> .
ဣ,	<i>ee</i> , as <i>i</i> in <i>pin</i> .
ဣိ,	<i>ee</i> , as in <i>feet</i> .
ဣု, ဣူ, ဣဝ, ဣဝူ	} <i>oo</i> as in <i>good</i> , or <i>u</i> , as in <i>full</i> .
ဣု, ဣူ	
ဣ,	<i>oo</i> , as in <i>food</i> , or <i>u</i> , as in <i>rule</i> .
ဣ,	<i>aa</i> , as <i>a</i> in <i>fate</i> .
ဣ,	<i>ai</i> , as in <i>hair</i> .
ဣ,	} <i>au</i> , as <i>o</i> in <i>on</i> .
ဣဝ,	
ဣဝ,	<i>au</i> , as in <i>audience</i> .

CONSONANTS.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Power.</i>
ကကြီး, great <i>ka</i> ,	<i>k</i> , as in <i>king</i> .
ခငွေ, curved <i>hka</i> ,	<i>hk</i> , <i>k</i> aspirated.
ဂငယ်, small <i>ga</i> ,	<i>g</i> , as in <i>good</i> .
ဃကြီး, great <i>ga</i> ,	the same.