

**A GRAMMAR OF THE
PANJABI LANGUAGE;
WITH APPENDICES**

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A grammar of the Panjabi language; with appendices by J. Newton

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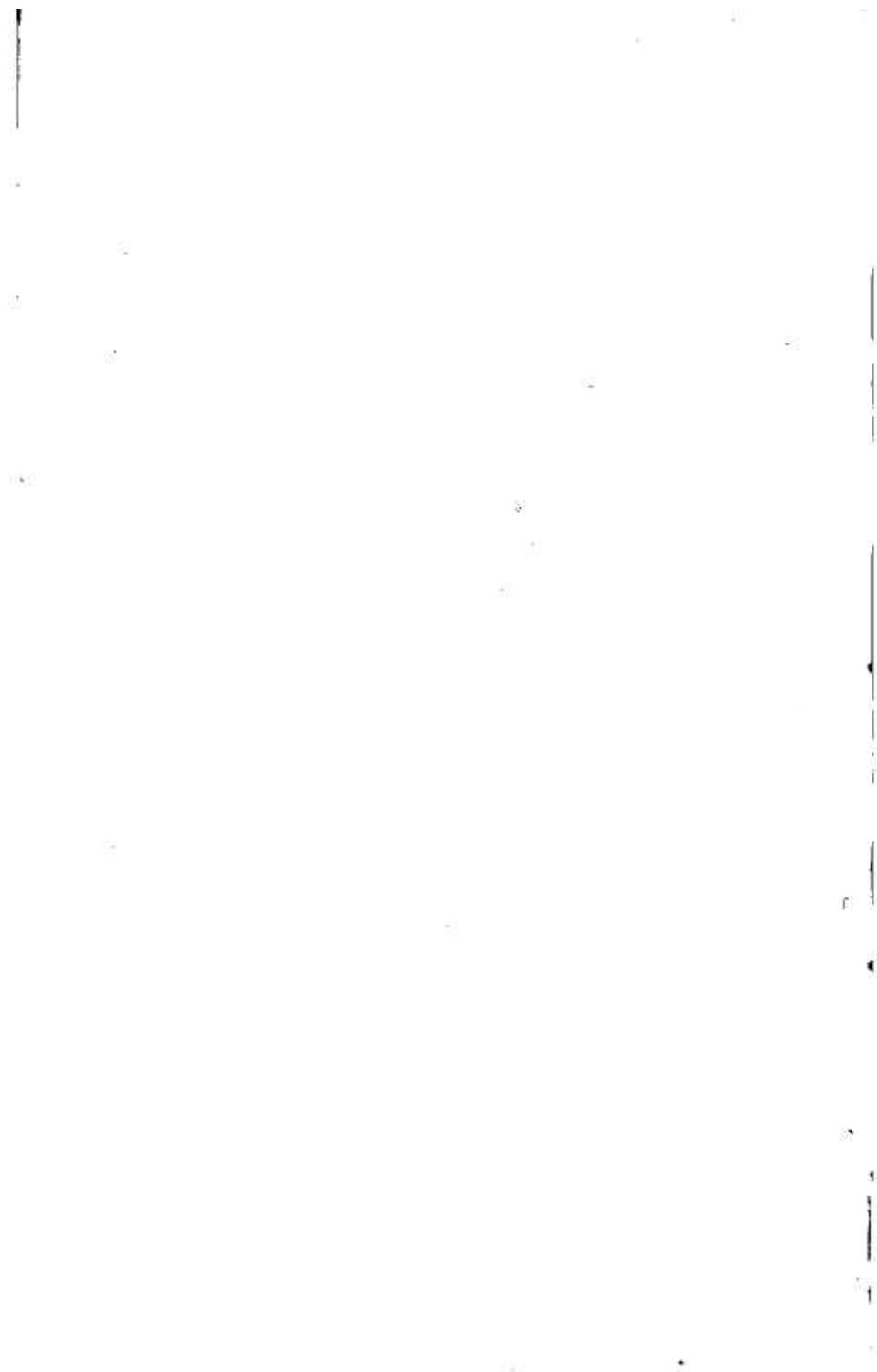
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PREFACE.

In commencing this *Grammar of the Panjâbi Language*, many years ago, my object was simply to note, for my own benefit, those things in which this language differed from the Urdû. The work therefore does not profess to be a *complete* Grammar of the language; though it is much more full than was at first intended. The original plan, when publication was thought of, was to publish merely the alphabet, the declensions of the nouns and pronouns, and the conjugations of the verbs; these being the things in respect to which persons already conversant with Urdû, need most to be informed. It was soon found, however, that other topics required explanation; and then, to preserve a connection between the parts, several things were introduced, which would otherwise have been omitted. It may be observed, here, that in the paradigms of the verbs, a few forms have, for want of room, been only hinted at; while others, of rare occurrence, have been designedly omitted altogether.

Nor does the work profess to be wholly free from error. It is not improbable, that further study will require a modification of principles which are here advanced without qualification; and certain forms of speech may have to be included in the long category of provincialisms, which are here regarded as belonging to the language in general.

The nomenclature used for the different parts of the verb, is in a measure novel; and it may strike the fancy of some unfavorably. It was no fondness for novelty, however, that led to its adoption. There is no such thing as a purely native Grammar of the language; and so it was necessary to seek such grammatical terms and phrases, as might best subserve the objects of the publication. The chief difficulty lay in the tenses. An earnest and oft repeated effort was made, to represent these by names which were more or less familiar to English ears; but it was all in vain. No system of terms could be found sufficiently accurate and comprehensive. There was therefore no alternative but to try something new; and nothing seemed less objectionable, than to name the tenses according to the nature of their constituent parts; leaving the meaning of each to be learned from the translation accompanying it.

Another peculiarity will be found in the want of a subjunctive mood.

After a full consideration of the subject, I am convinced that there is no propriety whatever, in representing the subjunctive idea as having a mood of its own. This remark I apply also to the Urdú; which in this respect differs not in the least from the Panjábí. And the same is true of our own English. I know of no subjunctive verb in any of these languages, which, apart from the condition inherent in it, which is generally expressed by a conjunction, is not, in signification, and generally in form too, a simple Indicative, Potential, or Optative. Hence the simple method resorted to, in the paradigms, for representing the verbs in their subjunctive or conditional forms. The Potential and Optative moods, in Panjábí, being alike, I have treated them as one.

Some may object to what I have called the Substantive Participle, on the ground that the same suffix, which is here attached to the infinitive mood, in order to constitute the word what it is, is applied in like manner to nouns, with a similar effect. It is sufficient however to say, that the word in question cannot possibly be a noun; because, when it is formed from an active verb, it has the same power of government as the verb itself: at the same time it cannot be considered simply a verb; because it always has some of the properties, either of a substantive or of an adjective. And as it is this participation in the nature of different parts of speech that constitutes a participle, I have had no hesitation in assigning it a place among words of this class. The only error, if there be any, is my not having represented the participle as an independent and principal part of speech, like the noun and the pronoun. And the same may be said of the gerund and the infinitive mood. The latter, if my recollection does not fail me, is by Dr. Carey styled a verbal noun; which, though it is not quite accurate, shows that he too saw the impropriety of considering it a simple verb.

One of the Appendices consists of Extracts from native writings. They are introduced here as specimens of the language. The *Janam Sákhí*, (Life of Nának,) from which one of the Extracts is taken, though in the main written in a purer style than most Panjábí books, has so many provincialisms, that I have thought it proper to add some notes of explanation; especially of such peculiarities as are not fully accounted for in the Grammar.

A few typographical errors have been noticed. These are corrected in a table of Errata, inserted after the table of contents.

In conclusion I have to say, that nothing but the urgent request of friends has caused the publication of this work; which, as already remarked, was commenced solely for the private use of

Lodúna Mission,

May 8th, 1851.

THE AUTHOR.

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