§ 5. Grammatical Details.

I. The Sounds.

a) Vowels.

a sounds like a in Shah.

a is narrow as in hat; in Fante as in gay.

 ε is an open e as in let; French \dot{e} .

e (full) sounds like e in prey.

e (narrow) is between e & i; in some Fante dialects approaching to i in pit.

i is like *i* in believe or ravine.

b has the sound of o in not.

o (full) sounds like o in November; French mot.

o (narrow) is between o & u; in some F. dialects approaching to u in put.

u is sounded like u in rule.

Rem. The pronunciation of the vowels given above is only approximate. — The vowels are uttered without the diphthongal sounds frequently heard in English.

1. The vowels are as a rule short; lengthening is indicated by doubling the letter (e. g. daa); extreme shortness occasionally by the breve; e. g. běre.

2. All vowels, except full e & o, can be nasalized; e. g. sõ, fää; $\varepsilon \& o$, however, are nearly always pure. Of two or three (different) nasal vowels only the first, or if this be very short, the second, bears the nasal sign; e. g. tẽ ε , ohuãe. The sign ~ is omitted on vowels before or after m, n or ŋ, if distinction from other words is not required; e. g. kum, nam; mã, to give. — Many syllables terminate in m, n or ŋ with either pure or nasal vowels before them. Pure vowels are sometimes indicated by italics, e. g. pam.

3. Assimilation of vowels. The open vowels a, ε , ε , requiring the widest opening of the mouth, are changed into the *half-open* vowels a, full e & o, when followed by one of the *close* vowels i, u, or by gya, nyã, twa or dwa; but remain unchanged before the *half-close* (or *narrow*) vowels e, ϕ . Under the same conditions, $\varepsilon \ll \phi$ either are changed into i or u, or remain as they are. In compounds these modifications are seldom followed in writing.

The ordinary literature omits the dots under a, e, o. Nevertheless we may distinguish the unmarked narrow a or e & o with the help of the following rules:

a) whenever a is followed by one of the close sounds or by gya, nyã, twa, dwa, it is narrow; e. g. ayi, agya; b) when e or o are preceded by an open vowel, they are likewise narrow; e. g. $\varepsilon k \delta$, $\varepsilon b \delta r \delta$.

Narrow e & o are original sounds, more frequent than full e & o, which occur seldom as independent vowels, but often as modified $\varepsilon \& \mathfrak{d}$. Full e & o are for the most part found in prefixes, very rarely in verbal roots.

4. Diphthongs and Triphthongs:

- a) ae ãe ai; εe ei; ∂e õe oi; ui $\tilde{u}i$; aii!
- b) aw aw au; $\varepsilon w ew (ew) iw$; $\neg w ow (ow) uw$; ao!
- c) ĭa ĭā ĭaw; ĕā ĕaa; ŭa ŭaw; ŭaa ŭãã ŭae ŭãe; ŭõ.

5. Disyllabic combinations of vowels:

- a) ia ĩa ĩe ie io; ea ẽa ee ẽe; ea;
- b) ua ũa ũe ue uo; ọa õa ọe õe ọo; oa;
- c) iae iei eae; uae uei oae oze eaw ezw.

Rem. a) In ŭa the u is similar to French u; e. g. dua, aduaŋ; Fante duĭa, abusūĭa. — b) Almost every vowel can occur with every other as a diphthong. — c) In some Fante dialects there are not so many diphthongs as stated above under 4 & 5; e. g. for ae, se, ua, uae, we find aa, se, wa or uya, we &c. — Gr. § 1ff. 17.

			Plosives		Fricatives		Affricates		Semi-vowels	
			voice- less	voiced	voice- less	voiced	voice- less	voiced	nasal	pure
v ciai	•••		k	g	(hy)	Ъ			ŋ	
Palatal	•••		ky	gy	hy				ny	у
Dental	•••		t	d	s		ts	dz	n	r (l)
Alveolar	•••		t	d						
Denti-labial	•••				f					
Bilabial			р	b					m	w
Labio-velar			kw	gw		hw			ŋw	
			kŭ	gŭ		hŭ			ŋŭ	
Palato-labial	•••	•••	tw	ďw	hw = fw				ŋẁ	Ť

b) Consonants.

Obs. There are dialectical and local differences in the pronunciation of the above letters. —

k is like English k. It occurs before a, v, v, u; before ε , e, i only when the next syllable of the same word begins with s or t, and when e is shortened from a. K interchanges with g or h.

g is always hard, as in English go, get, and is found before o & u. It interchanges with k.

h resembles English h. It sounds strong before pure, and weak before nasal, vowels. Before the former it is by some persons pronounced like ch in Scottish loch or in German ach. H interchanges with k, s, hw (= fw), w & y.

n is sounded like ng in sing; and interchanges with m & n. It does not begin any root. As initial consonant it is either a transformation of g or dw (e. g. $\eta\eta\sigma$, $\eta\eta\psi\sigma = \eta$ -go, η -dwo), or it serves as nasalization of w & ψ . As final consonant it is more frequent in Akp. than in the other dialects. In Akan we usually find ane, ene, ene, &c. in its place, in some Fante dialects simply n. ky occurs before palatal vowels, and both constituent letters are sounded; y, however, weaker before e, \tilde{e} , i, \tilde{i} . In Akem the pronunciation of ky slightly approaches to that of 'ch' in church, whereas in Fante it is nearly like ch. In Asante the y is sounded less distinctly, especially before r; e. g. kere = kyere.

gy is softer than ky, and appears before (a), e, $\tilde{1}$; before \tilde{e} , i, $\tilde{1}$ the y sounds weak. In certain Fante dialects gy is pronounced like English *j*.

hy represents the *ch*-sound in Scottish *nicht* or in German *ich*. In some Fante dialects it is like English *sh*.

n as in English. It interchanges with d, r, m, y. When united with nasal vowels, it is an original sound; when followed by pure vowels, it is a transformation of d. Before dentals, n is dental, before palatals it is palatal.

y as in English yet. It occurs before a, ε , e, i, (o, o); before nasal vowels and in some Fante words 'ny' takes its place. It interchanges with ny, w, \check{w} , hy, h.

ny, a palatalized (unsyllabic) n, resembles ni in companion or \tilde{n} in cañon. Ny is an original sound before \tilde{a} , \tilde{e} , \tilde{i} ; before pure a, e, i, it is a transformation of original gy.

t is nearly like English t, and occurs before pure and nasal vowels. It interchanges with s. In dialects, dental and alveolar t's are found; in Fante also the retroflex t.

d is alveolar in Akuapem and Asante; dental in Fante (& Akem?); retroflex with tribes whose mother-tongue is Guang, but who speak Tshi besides. D occurs before pure and nasal vowels; before the latter, however, only when they are followed by m, n or n. It is changed into n by an m (n, n) before it, and into n or r by negligent pronunciation.

ts & dz are found in Fante dialects before (ε), e & i, where other dialects have only t & d respectively. Ts sounds almost like *ts* in *hats*; whereas *dz* is the corresponding soft and voiced sound. Dz interchanges with s.

s is sharp as in English *sun*, and occurs before pure and nasal vowels. Before ŭa & ĭa it is palatal (slightly approaching to the sound of *sh*); the pronunciation varies, however, locally. It interchanges e. g. with h, t, hw (= fw), but seldom. — In Fante we sometimes find d or dz for s.

r is the rolled or trilled Scottish r. It does not begin any genuine Tshi word or root, but only secondary syllables (pra, $fr\varepsilon = p\breve{a}ra$, $f\breve{e}r\varepsilon$). In the prefix re-, also in **ara** and **nnera**, it was originally d. Before nasal vowels **r** interchanges with n; e. g. trã, těnã. In foreign words **r** is used instead of **l**.

f is sounded as in English. It occurs before pure and nasal vowels, and interchanges (seldom) with hw (= fw), h, p, s.

p is sounded as in English. It is found before pure and nasal vowels, and interchanges with f & w.

b is pronounced as in English. It occurs before pure vowels and ãã in báã; and is changed into m, w; (o), u (adibane: aduane); pp. XIX and XXIII, III. Gr. § 18ff. 37.

m is pronounced as in English. When original, it is united with nasal vowels; when followed by pure vowels, it is a transformation of **b**, caused by a preceding m (or orig. n, n). It interchanges with b, w, n, n. — M before f is by some persons not formed with both lips, but with the lower lip only; e.g. ahenfó; usual form: ahemfó.

š, nearly like sh, is used in foreign words only.

w, a bilabial semi-vowel, is pronounced with the lips more contracted and less protruded than in the English w; it has a soft sound before o & u. It is found only before the pure vowels a, o, o, o, u. As a final sound, w forms diphthongs, which are, however, usually avoided in Akan. W interchanges with b, p, h. kw, gw, hw, ŋw; kŭ, gŭ, hŭ, gŭ, e. g. in okwán, Akwam', Okwamni; & Akuapém, Okuapénni, egŭá, ogŭán. The difference in spelling is justified by the fact that one form of the words has open prefixes, which require the writing kw; whereas the other form has close prefixes (a, full e & o), which change can only be due to the influence of a succeeding u. The labio-velar combinations kw, gŭ &c. occur frequently before a; in F. dialects also before ε , e, i. In F., kw is found also before a, o, u, where the other dialects have simple k.

 \check{w} , a palato-labial vowel, sounds like wy pronounced simultaneously. It is found before the pure vowels ε , e, i; in some cases also before ε , o, u when standing for original ε , e, i.

tw, dw, fw are palato-labial sounds, in most cases transformed from labio-velar kw, gw, hw, as they still sound in some parts of Fante. — As to tw & dw, this transformation originally took place before ε , e, i; but when followed by a final m or w, these vowels have usually been changed into \mathfrak{d} , o, u, and have retained this form also when the final w was dropped. Twa is originally kwea, or kwea, or kwia. The older forms e. g. of twa, twë, twen, are in F. kwia, kwë, kwen; those of dwen, adwe, adwini, are gwen, agwe, egwini. — In Ak., the combination gua or gw (F.) also has been transformed into dwa or even into jua.

tw sounds like 'chw', ch & w being pronounced simultaneously, without protruding the lips. These are compressed from the outset, at the same time at which the tongue is applied to the palate, and are opened simultaneously with the withdrawal of the tongue.

dw sounds like dy simultaneously pronounced with w (without protruding the lips). In dwe, dwe, dwi, the w seems prevalent, in dwo the y. In dialects of Asante Proper the sound of dy passes into that of English j; e. g. jo = dwo, ajwa or ajŭa = adwa.

fw = bilabial fw. For the pronunciation of these letters the mouth is formed as for whistling, the round aperture of the lips being a little larger. By the forming (i. e. contraction) of the lips and the simultaneous raising of the tongue for w, the original h has become f uttered with both lips. In the pronunciation of fw the h is no longer heard, the place for narrowing the passage of the breath having been shifted by the influence of the following w, and being now more between the lips than in the velar region. This is not so much the case in certain F. dialects. — It is to be observed that in the present script *fw* is no more used; accordingly hw represents both the labio-velar and palato-velar sounds hw & fw.

 \checkmark The sounds kp, gb, tf (= ch in church), γ (a voiced velar fricative), l, v, z occur in Western Tshi dialects, l also in Fante. — Gr. § 8ff.

Assimilation of Consonants. Gr. § 18.

m	stands	before	p, f, m;	mb	become	e mm;
\mathbf{n}	,,	,,	t, s, n;	nd	""	nn;
			tw, ny, y;	ngy	,,	nny;
ŋ	,,	,,	k, kw, ky, h, hw, hy, ŋw;	ŋg	,,	ŋŋ ;
			w, hw (= fw), y w, w.	դ d w	,,	դ դw = դ ŋẁ.

c) Spelling.

The spelling used in the Tshi literature and also in this Dict., is mainly etymological. Each word is given in the form it has when standing by itself, without the modifications caused in fluent speech by preceding or succeeding sounds. E. g. mma yi, these children; wohwe mu, they look inside; yen wura, our master, (pronounced mma yi, wohwe mu, yen wura). - To avoid ambiguity, the letter w is used; e. g. awowa, a pledge; awowa, a brass basin; nywo, fr. wo, to beget; nnwo, fr. dwo, to cool, or wo, to dry up. - Sometimes simple m or n is put instead of mm or nn, = mb, nd; e. g. m = mb in terminations (as nneama, ntrama), or at the beginning of words (e.g. mogya, muka = bogya, bukyia; ne. nera; F. nde, ndeda, fr. edá). -- Very short vowels before a syllable beginning with r are frequently omitted, especially after strong consonants (p, t, k, f, s) and open vowels, or before syllables made weighty by a long vowel or final m or η (or w); e. g. pra, sra, bra, fre, pram, kron, prow &c., instead of păra, fere, păram, körən &c. The full writing is generally employed after weak consonants and when the vowels are e, i, o, u; e. g. hăra, běra (imp. of ba), bere, biri, boro, buru, tiri, kuru &c. Provision has been made in the Dict, that a word can be found whether sought for in the full or shortened writing.

The postposition mu is often used in the shortened form m or m'; e.g. anim, asom'; twam', to pass by; bom', bom', to cry out.

IV. Intonation.

A. In Tshi every syllable of every word has its own relative tone or tones, either equal with or different from the neighbouring syllables. There are five different tones: high, middle, low; rising, and falling. They are indicated thus:

1. The first *high* tone in a word or phrase is marked with an *acute* accent: abó, *stone*; abófo, *creator*.

2. The *middle* tone, i. e. the tone following after a high tone and descending by one step in pitch, is likewise marked with an *acute* accent: abold, messenger.

3. Any low-toned syllable preceding the first high tone of a word or phrase, is left unmarked: onyansāfó.

4. A low tone after or between high tones is marked with a grave accent: ost, she weeps; akukomfi, grasshopper.

5. Unmarked syllables following a marked one, are of the same tone: akókonini, a cock; obábarimá, son.

6. The rising and the falling tones are marked thus: εkàá, finger-ring; sáà, a saw; mâŋo, mango-tree.

7. The semi-vowels $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{w}$ have their own tones, and form syllables: som', hấyŋ, mfá, mmá, ŋŋó; əsaŋ' nò, he infects him; əsa'ŋ' no, he infected h.; ə́sèw, he spreads; əséw', he spread. Gr. § 25.

B. In nouns, the *stress* (i. e. the emphasis put on a *syllable*) lies either on the first high-toned syllable, or on the low-toned before it. In the former case the stress does not require a special mark, e. g. ohéne; in the latter, a grave accent is used: abóa; obòfó, *hunter*. In nouns with low tones throughout, the first stem-

syllable usually carries the stress; as worfa, and nee. If a word in a sentence is to be made emphatic, it is placed at the beginning of the sentence, and a short pause or the conjunction 'na' follows. Gr. § 26.247.

C. Connected Form of Nouns. — The 'connected form' of a noun is that which it assumes

1. after a noun or pronoun in the possess. case: bhéne dóm, the king's army; mé fi, my house.

2. after a noun or pronoun to which the connected noun stands in apposition: aboa ananse, the animal 'spider'.

In the connected form the following changes occur:

1. The prefixes ε , e, ϑ , o are usually omitted, except the preceding vowel be open (a, ε , ϑ); e.g. ofie kwáŋ, *the way home*, (instead of ofie $\vartheta kwáŋ$).

2. The prefix of the connected word, when \mathfrak{d} (after $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{e}, \mathfrak{d}$), or $\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{am}, \mathfrak{goins}$ the preceding word with an equal tone; e.g. $\mathfrak{d}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}$: $\mathfrak{n}\mathfrak{b}$ núa ($\mathfrak{d}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{b}\mathfrak{a}$, his brother's son.

3. The tone of the stem of the connected word remains unchanged when the preceding word ends with a low tone; e.g. né wurd odán, his master's house; but when the preceding word (for which, in the following examples, the pronoun ne is substituted) ends in a high tone, the following changes occur:

a) the low tone of the stem remains low: asafo: n'ásafo.

- b) "low """" becomes high: basá: ne bása.
- c) "high " " " " becomes low: ɛsḗ: ne se.
- d) "high " " " " becomes middle: phéne: né héne.

e) "high " " " " *remains high* after nouns & pronouns: ohène ba; obá: ne bá;

> becomes middle after verbs: onni bá, he has no child; also after verbal nouns and chéna; e. g. oyerá-bá, son of perdition; héna bá? whose son ? — Gr. § 40. 47 ff.

Note: The 'Connected Form' in the Dictionary. Of the words whose first high-toned stem-syllable does not become middle as in ohene: né hene; obonto: né bonto, &c., the connected form is given in brackets after the 'leading words'; as [n'ágyà] or [ne náŋ] &c.; sometimes, however, the tones are marked in the added phrases.

D. Other Changes of Tone.

1. The high tone of nouns often becomes low

- a) by connection with certain (chiefly, high-toned) adjectives; as onipa pá, nsu krónkron; odán kesé, odan késé (also odán kèsé).
- b) in derivatives formed by diminutive or personal suffixes; as dàdé, *iron*: dadewá, *nail*; otúo, *gun*: otufó, *musketeer*. Also in nouns with the palatal suffix; as fitaé, *a fan*; asoèé, *'resting-place'*; adesåé, *evening*.
- c) in composition; as ohène asém: ahensém; nsú: osukóm; (cpd. infinitives) ahõpopó, trembling; mfiasé, beginning. — Gr. § 51.

2. The tone of the postpositions mu & so is low when they are joined to a noun or pronoun in the possessive case ending with high or middle tone; but if those words end with low tone, mu & so have high tone; e.g. odán no mù, in that house; adáká yi mù, in this box; asafo mù, in a company; opón no sò, on that table, ε po só, on the sea. — Ase, when adv. (not postposition), sometimes has low tone; as mèda (no) ase, I thank him. 3. The high-toned demonstr. pronouns nó, yí have high or middle tone when the preceding words end with such, and never have low tone; e. g. duá no, that (the) tree; obóntó yi, this boat; asàfo nó (yí) that (this) company. When no, yi, or ní, nén (= né yi, né no) follow after forms like n'ágyà, né nằ (fr. agyá, ɛnå), the low-toned final syllable of the latter words becomes middle; as n'ágyà no; - né ná ni, this is his mother; m'ágyà nen, that is my father.

E. Tones of the verbs.

1. With the exception of yé, the stem of all monosyllabic verbs has low tone in the Present, whereas the 1st syllable of disyllabic verbs is low and the 2nd high. In the Continuative, monosyllables and disyllables are low-toned throughout. Also the pronouns prefixed to the verbs in this tense have, apart from the 2nd pers. sing. & pl., low tone; e.g. dtay no, he hates him continually; (Pres. dtay no, ... now & then). - There are some verbs where the 2nd tone in the Future, instead of being on the last vowel, is on the last but one; as obébóa, obétúa, obétúmi. - For the other Forms & Tenses, cf. 'The Verb', p. XXV seq.

2. Certain disyllabic verbs are like monosyllables in tone; e.g. shoro, he washes (clothes). Others are identical in form, but may have the tones of either monosyllables or disyllables; e.g. spam, he joins; spam', he drives away; shyèn, he blows (a horn); shyen', he enters.

3. The tones of trisyllabic & polysyllabic verbs (chiefly reduplications) follow the rule for those of disyllables, the 3rd to the 5th syllables being usually low; e. g. fefére, to swing; ofeférè abaá, he swings a whip, (Pret. ofeférèe); oferéfère no, he fears him (Pret. oferéfèree); woy' aká adodódódore, their debts have grown to a great amount.

4. When two verbs come together, the adjoining tones are usually high; e.g. odá kyè, (for òda kyɛ) he sleeps long; migyé midi, (for mígyé midi) I believe; wagyé atie, (for wágyé àtie) he has obeyed; oyi amà me, (for òyì amã me) he pleads for me. - The low-toned prefix of disyllabic or polysyllabic verbs in the Perf., acquires the high or middle tone of the final vowel of a preceding verb; but in negative forms the tone of the prefix remains unchanged; e.g. né yàré agyáe, (for àgyáe) his disease is passed; negat.: .. ànnyaé; yɛŋ' núa abà, (a monosyllable), our brother has come; neg.: .. àmmá. — The objective pronouns **me, no** &c., usually have high tone when standing between two verbs; as ode nó baà ofie, he brought him home.

5. Under certain conditions, e.g. when a verb stands in an adverbial sentence of time, or after the relative particle 'a', its tone or tones undergo changes similar to those of nouns in the 'connected form'. Examples are: obaé no, mekoè, when he came, I went away; orebá yi, nâ mèrèko, whilst he is coming, I am going away; yedo won à wodo (or wodo) yen, we love those that love us. — Also the position of verbs in clauses made emphatic by 'na', or after verbs like éfi sê, kosi sê, ese se, pe se, causes the above changes. E. g. né dén nà àyèra (or àyera)? which of his things is lost? ese sê (= séé) oko, he must go. — For full particulars concerning the tones of the Verbs, see Gr. § 95 ff. 247. 263 ff.

Rem. 1. In ordinary literature, the tones are only marked to prevent ambiguity.

2. In the independent form the prefix usually has low tone without stress.

3. Questions may be expressed by adding an accessory low tone to the last syllable of the verb; as won'tée (= won'té ànà)? do you not hear?

4. There are local and dialectical variations in tone. — The tone of the *Present* tense is different in the Akem & in the Akuapem dialects; e. g. misė, I say Akp.); mėsėė (Ak.).

Preface to Second Edition.

The first edition of the present work — commonly called 'The Tshi Dictionary' — published in 1881, has for a number of years been out of print. As the book was much in demand by both Europeans and educated natives, it was decided that a new edition should be issued. Unfortunately, financial difficulties, the uncertainty concerning a new script, and an accident which befell the editor, delayed its appearance.

The Dictionary is based on the Akuapem dialect, which was reduced to writing about 1838, and became afterwards the literary form.

He concludes with the wish that also the New Edition may prove a means for a thorough acquisition and understanding of the Tshi language.

Basel, June 1933.

J. Schweizer.