

ĀTONG, KUCHU, OR ĀTING.

This dialect is spoken by some ten thousand people in the lower Someswari Valley in the south-east of the Garo Hills, where it is known as Ātong or Kuchu, and by some five thousand in the neighbouring portion of the district of Mymensingh, where it is said to be called Āting. It presents some points of resemblance to that current in Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri, but, on the whole, is much more near to the Standard. The following are the principal points of difference between it and the latter.

Instead of the termination *gipā*, which we meet in the standard dialect, and which is equivalent to the Hindī *vālā*, we find *gābā*. This is of very frequent occurrence, and is often the equivalent of the English definite article. Thus, *wā'-gābā*, the father.

The termination of the accusative is *ō*; that of the genitive is *mī*; that of the locative is *chī*; and that of the ablative, *mīō*, or *mingāō*. The sign of the plural is *drāng* or *rāng*. In the case of pronouns the plural sign is *tim*. In Āo Nāgā the plural sign is *tam* and in Mikir *tum*.

Āngā is 'I.' The other forms of this pronoun are *ning*, *ningān*, *nā'nāng*, we; *ning-mī*, our; *āngā-ō*, me.

Nāng' or *nāng'ān*, thou; *nāng'-mī*, thy; *nā'-tim*, you; *nāng'-mī*, your.

Uē, *uān*, or *uēn*, he; *u-mī*, or *u-ming*, his; *uā-ō*, him; *u-tim*, they; *u-timī*, their.

'Who?' is *chāng*, and 'whose?' *chāng-mī*. 'What?' is *ātong*.

The verb substantive is *dong'ā*, *gnāng* or *gānāng*, is; *chīm*, was. The termination of the past is *ok* as *tok-ok*, struck. Examples of a negative past are *hun'-nān-chāk*, did not give; *gong'-in-chāk*, was not willing. The Past Participle ends in *ai*, as in *dong'ai*, having been, or in *ai-mu* (*mu* meaning 'with'), as in *rā'aimu*, having taken.

In this dialect *d* becomes *t*, as in *tok*, to beat, and *tāk*, to do.

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COMPILED AND EDITED BY

G. A. GRIERSON, C.I.E., PH.D., D.LITT., I.C.S. (RETD.)

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