

1st.—THE CONSONANTS.

𑌖𑌗𑌘𑌙𑌚𑌛 *demo re, 35.*

*K	Kh	G		Ng
𑌖	𑌗	𑌘		𑌙
Ch	Chh	J		Ny
𑌚	𑌛	𑌜		𑌝
T	Th	D		N
𑌞	𑌟	*		𑌠
P	Ph	F	B	M
𑌡	𑌢	𑌣	𑌤	𑌥
Ts	Tsh	Z		Y
𑌧	𑌨	𑌩		𑌪
R	L	H		V
𑌫	𑌬	𑌭		𑌮
	S	Sh		W
	𑌯	𑌰		𑌱
Kl	Gl	Pl		Fl
𑌳	𑌴	𑌵		𑌶
	Bl	Ml		Hl
	𑌷	𑌸		𑌹

* All these consonants have the sound of the inherent short *s* affixed to them.

DIACRITICAL MARKS,

called in Lepcha ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ *thámbyn*, (implying the vowel and final signs, &c.).

ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ *ákup sa thámbyn kakyak gum,*

the Vowel Signs are seven in number, *vis.* :—

(ཨྲྀྃ (ཨྲྀྃ) ཨྲྀྃ) ཨྲྀྃ

These are united to ཨྲྀྃ *a*, the basis of all the vowels, as follows :

2nd.—THE EIGHT VOWELS.

• ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ (ཨྲྀྃ) ཨྲྀྃ *ákup kaku (8) re.*

A

ཨྲྀྃ†

Á	I	O	Ó	U	Ú	E
ཨྲྀྃ	ཨྲྀྃ	ཨྲྀྃ	ཨྲྀྃ	ཨྲྀྃ	ཨྲྀྃ	ཨྲྀྃ

The vowel signs are similarly affixed to all the consonants.

3rd.—THE NINE FINALS.

ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ ཨྲྀྃ *Telbo sa thámbyn kakyót (9) re,*

the Final Signs are nine in number, and are thus formed,—

(ཨྲྀྃ " " " " " " " ")

* This name ཨྲྀྃ *ákup*, lit. child or small (letters), was formerly applied by the Lepchas exclusively to the Finals.

† This short *a* is inherent after all the consonants. The sound is effected by a simple (unaspirated) ejaculation of the breath.

Uniting these with \mathcal{R} *a*, the basis of all the vowels, they, with their several names and pronunciations, stand thus—

<i>Finals.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Powers.</i>
$\mathcal{R}^{\acute{a}}$ ak	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ la kát	k
$\mathcal{R}^{\grave{a}}$ am	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ la nyat	m
$\mathcal{R}^{\hat{a}}$ al	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}^{\circ}$ la sám	l
$\mathcal{R}^{\tilde{a}}$ an	\mathcal{W}° nun	n
\mathcal{R}° ab or ap	$\mathcal{O}\bar{E}^{\circ}$ ba kup	b or p*
$\mathcal{R}^{\tilde{r}}$ ar	$\mathcal{W}^{\tilde{r}}$ dar	r
$\mathcal{R}^{\tilde{t}}$ at	$\mathcal{W}^{\tilde{t}}$ kat	t
$\mathcal{R}^{\tilde{ng}}$ ang	$\mathcal{W}^{\tilde{ng}}$ kang	ng
$\mathcal{R}^{\tilde{ng}}$ ang	$\mathcal{W}^{\tilde{ng}}\mathcal{W}^{\tilde{ng}}$ nyíndó	ang

4th.—OF THE SIGNS ($\mathcal{W}^{\circ}\mathcal{W}^{\circ}$ *thámbyin*),

$\mathcal{V}\bar{E}$ KYA and $\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ KRA.

Like the Tibetan ($\mathcal{W}^{\circ}\mathcal{W}^{\circ}$ *ya-btags* and $\mathcal{W}^{\circ}\mathcal{W}^{\circ}$ *ra-btags*), the Lepcha language possesses an affixed *y* and *r*, thus—

$\mathcal{V}\bar{E}$ Kya

is affixed to the following twenty-three letters:

$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Kya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Khya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Gya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Tya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Thya
$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Dya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Pya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Phya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Fya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Bya
$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Mya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Rya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Lya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Hya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Vya
$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Klya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Glya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Plya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Flya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Blya
	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Mlya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Hlya	$\mathcal{W}\bar{E}$ Aya	

* Generally assumes the latter sound.

) 𑄣 Kra

Is affixed to eight letters thus—

𑄣 Kra	𑄤 Gra	𑄥 Ngra	𑄦 Pra
𑄧 Fra	𑄨 Bra	𑄩 Mra	𑄪 Hra
And both are thus conjoined :			
𑄫 Krya	𑄬 Grya	𑄭 Ngrya	𑄮 Prya
𑄯 Frya	𑄰 Brya	𑄱 Mrya	𑄲 Hrya

With these signs, single or conjoined, the vowel and final signs are united.

5th.—OF THE SIGN (𑄳) (𑄴) *thambyin*.

𑄳 RĀN.

There is a sort of circumflex sign, inscribed thus 𑄳 called 𑄳 *Rān*, (pronounced hard as if written dran*). This sign is supposed to be confined to the sole use of the two vowels 𑄱 a and 𑄲 i, but I have seen it written in books (though this is far from being any criterion of correctness) over the 𑄱 i, and when necessary, it ought to be so applied; it would be useful in distinguishing the correct pronunciation, as for instance, in the words 𑄴 *sām*, three, and 𑄴 *sām*, to be sullen, (which latter might be written 𑄴 *sām*). It is evidently the vowel sign (inverted over the vowel. Over 𑄲 it gives a prolonged sound as may be perceived in the difference between the words 𑄲 (𑄳) *drīk*, a creeper (plant), and 𑄲 (𑄳) *rīt*, to curse. Over the 𑄱 a, whether written or inherent, it induces also a guttural sound as 𑄱 (𑄳) *āk*, yes; 𑄱 (𑄳) *am*, to long for, to yearn after, 𑄱 (𑄳) *mān*, meat, 𑄱 (𑄳) *grām*, to hasten, &c. In expressing it over the Roman character, I have adhered to its original form.

* See under head of Asciticious Powers, page 10.