Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

A grammar of the Thangmi language with an ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture

Turin, M.

Citation
Turin, M. (2006, May 17). *A grammar of the Thangmi language with an ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture*. Retrieved from https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4458

Version:	Corrected Publisher's Version
License:	Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden
Downloaded from:	https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4458

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page

Universiteit Leiden

The handle http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4458 holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Turin, Mark
Title: A grammar of the Thangmi language with an ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture
Issue date: 2006-05-17

stellingen, samenvatting en *curriculum vitae*
behorend bij het proefschrift

A Grammar of the Thangmi Language
with an ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture

van
Mark Turin

te verdedigen op
17 mei 2006

A dancing *guru* (shaman) in Dāmāraṅ (Dolakhā) surrounded by Thangmi villagers.

Stellingen

1. Thangmi and Barām are most likely the closest living linguistic relatives of Newar.

2. While the verbal agreement morphology of Thangmi closely resembles the proto-Kiranti model, its nominal morphology is strikingly similar to Nepali and may have been influenced by this dominant national language to which it is genetically unrelated.

3. The complexity and specificity of Thangmi kinship terminology reflect the intricate nature of Thangmi socio-cultural life and the overarching importance of an individual's relationships with his or her relatives.

4. The suggestion by Northey and Morris, two Gurkha officers, that the Thangmi are "coarse in appearance, and the inferior of the other races in social and religious matters...they do not merit further description" (1928: 260) is neither insightful nor accurate.

5. Due to the prevalence of loan words from neighbouring languages in the lexicon of many endangered languages, field linguists must learn a contact language when conducting their research in order to disambiguate one tongue from the other.

6. The term 'dialect', which is not in and of itself pejorative, is preferable to the bland and new-fangled term 'variety' which is currently more fashionable in linguistic circles.

7. In certain subfields of linguistics, the predilection for decontextualised modelling and theoretical abstraction over insights derived from fluency has resulted in practitioners who are rarely plurilingual.

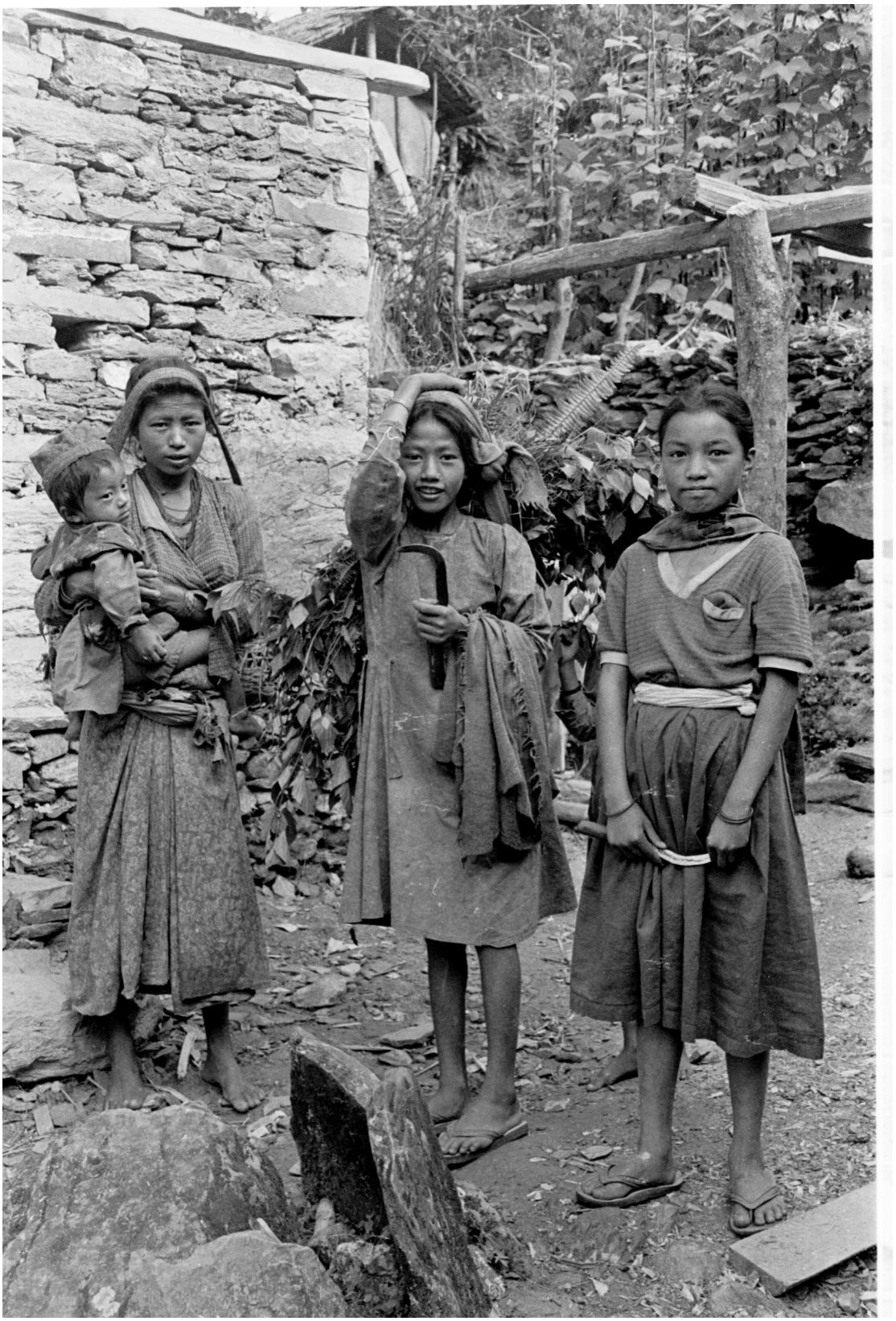
8. In aim and methodology, cryptanalysis closely resembles descriptive linguistics. In both endeavours, altering the position of a single element may fundamentally change the analysis.

9. The general confidence which Dutch citizens display when speaking other languages is both admirable and its own undoing, particularly when they assume that proficiency in spoken English is equivalent to fluency in its written form.

10. Most Dutch bureaucrats interpret rules and regulations literally, assuming a citizen to be guilty until proven innocent. British bureaucrats implement the spirit rather than the letter of the law, and presume that citizens are innocent until proven otherwise. This difference of approach has far-reaching effects on the social formations of these two countries.

11. A lasting legacy of British imperial expansion into the United States and Australia is the small-minded monolingualism which its proponents and agents advanced.

12. It is difficult, without some training, to explain the grammatical rules of one's mother tongue.



Thangmi women in Cokaṭī (Sindhupālcok) on their way to the jungle.