

Course Title: Modern Tibetan Language –I
Course No: SA 636
Total Credits: 1.5
Course Teacher: Dr. Tsetan Namgyal

AIM AND OBJECTIVE

In order to impart a genuine knowledge of Tibetan language particularly the modern Tibetan Language, one must look deeper into the following aspects. The prime objective of introducing the “Modern Tibetan Language” in the school of International Studies, JNU is to give some solid basic idea about the Language particularly for those students and researchers who does not have access to the knowledge of Tibetan Language and wanted to pursue their research on Tibetan studies. This course will help mainly for those non Tibetan students and researchers during their course of research and field work programs like, interacting with Tibetan people, consulting primary sources and visiting Tibetan settlement areas in India and abroad or in TAR region of Republic China.

SIGNIFICANCE AND RELEVANCE

Tibetan is a Tibeto-burmese language that is spoken by people of Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal, and all along the Indian Himalayas belts Sikkim, Arunachal, Ladakh, Kinnor and Lahul Spiti and now by various Tibetan immigrant communities in various countries. It has several dialects, but the ones spoken more widely are Lhasa and Shigatse dialects spoken in Central Tibet, Amdo and Kham dialects spoken in Eastern Tibet, as well as upper region dialect. This language was spoken long before, the formal Tibetan script came about only in the Seventh century during the reign of King SongstenGampo who deputed his emissary named ‘ThuMi Sam Bhota’ along with other young Tibetans to Nalanda University in India where they learnt several languages. To know about Tibetan language one has to know the syntax and its proverbial meanings could help in understanding the Tibetan Language in a better way.

TEACHING METHODS: Lectures, Seminars/Tutorials, discussion, Audio& Video, brainstorming, interaction, quiz etc

EVALUATION PATTERN: Periodical Work and Semester examination

COURSE CONTENTS

1. (A) Introduction of Tibetan Language (Scripts or Alphabets)
- (B) Tibetan alphabet and their classification with Romanized pronunciation (Sgragdangs) pho, mo, ma ning and shin tumo(a) rjes jug cu (Ten super scribed letters as suffixes consonants) Snon jug na- (Five consonant letters as prefixes)Yan jug nis- (Two post suffixes letters)
- (C) Pronunciation of Tibetan Language and the basic (500) Tibetan vocabulary in usage

2. Formation of words

3. Usage with words in different tenses and moods according to the English method. 4. Emphasis will be given on spoken Tibetan preferably Lhasa dialect with the help of various instruments like audio, video machines as modern and traditional Tibetan songs, recitations etc as suitable for ordination.

SELECTED READINGS

Lobzang Thonden, (1980) "Modern Tibetan Language.1", Library of Tibetan works and Archives. Dharamsala

.....Modern Tibetan Language. I.....

Tashi (1990) "A basic Grammar of Modern spoken Tibetan." Library of Tibetan works and Archives. Dharamsala

Tsetan Chonjore & Andrea Abinanti (2003), "Colloquial Tibetan, A textbook on the Lhasa dialect. With reference grammar and exercises"(A contextual approach) LIWA Dharamsala 2003

Roerich GN & Lobzang P. Lhalunpa,(1972)"Book of Colloquial Tibetan".(Dialect of Central Tibet) Manjusri Publishing House, New Delhi

C.A Bell, (1912) "Grammar of Colloquial Tibetan".H.B Hannah

C.A Bell, C.M.G,C.I.E,(1920) "English Tibetan Colloquial Dictionary" Asian Publication Services, New Delhi-

Jaschke-Tibetan Grammar

GN Roerich-A textbook of the Colloquial Tibetan

Pema Chhinjor, 'The New Plan Tibetan Grammar and Translation', Paljor Publications, New Delhi, 1998.

Jaschke .H, (1881) "A Tibetan English Dictionary" with special reference to the prevailing dialects with English and Tibetan vocabulary. Motilal Banarasidas Pvt Ltd Delhi

Goldstein MC. (1984) "English Tibetan Dictionary of Modern Tibetan" Library of Tibetan works and Archives, Dharamsala