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**Evaluation of English-Manipuri Bilingual Dictionaries**

**Leihaorambam Sarbajit Singh, Ph.D.**

# Evaluation of Bilingual Dictionaries: English-Manipuri

Leihaorambam Sarbajit Singh, Ph.D.

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*Abstract:* The British made the history of Manipuri dictionary during the colonial period. As a consequence many Manipuri involving dictionaries have been compiled and published: mono-, bi- or trilingual. For bilingual and trilingual dictionaries, in different combinations of Manipuri, English, Hindi, Bengali or other languages have been produced. So far fourteen English-Manipuri dictionaries including glossaries have been published. In fact, the lexicographical art in Manipuri is in its primal stages and Manipuri dictionaries, which can match the high standards of dictionaries available in developed languages, are still a long way off. English-Manipuri dictionaries have mostly been compiled and edited by non-English speaking people as well as un-trained lexicographers. Unfortunately, trained personnel who work on Manipuri lexicography are of very limited in number. The qualitative values of English-Manipuri dictionaries are a little poor however their works on lexicography is highly appreciable. In this paper, the evaluation of available English to Manipuri Dictionaries will be made.

There are fourteen English to Manipuri Dictionaries including glossaries out of which one dictionary “A Manual of Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary of Idioms” (1965) compiled by *Ch. Pishak Singh* is not available at present. In this paper, only thirteen is evaluated in brief and in a chronological order. The Assessment is done as per information provided in the dictionaries or glossaries. The Manipuri written using Bengali script in this paper is transcribed in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) within forward slashes (/).

## 1. The Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary

Year of Publication	1957
Name of Compiler	Dwijamani Dev Sarma
Number of Pages	471
Number of Entry words	12,000 approximately.

This English-Manipuri dictionary is designed to help the Manipuri speakers who desire to learn English. In this dictionary, English holds the place of source and Manipuri as the target language. This is a dictionary of comprehension.

The body of the dictionary follows the preface to the first edition. The preface provides the introductory notes on pronunciation of English headwords in Bengali script. It says about the accent, length of vowel, consonants, etc. As a guide to dictionary there is a chart of some Manipuri alphabets (in Bengali script) against their English counter parts.

For example:

Short a	= এ /e/, অ /ə/ ;	-a	= এ-ঈ /ej/, অ /ə/, এ /e/ ।
aw	= ও /o/	-aw	= এ-ঊ /əu/ ।
Long a	= এই /ei/	-a	= এ-ই /ei/, এ-অ /eə/, এই /əi/ ।
e	= ঃ	-e	= ি-ই /i/, ি-অ /iə/ ।
Ch (soft)	= চ /c/ ;	Ch (hard)	= ক /k/ ।

The “List of the abbreviations used in this dictionary” follows the preface and is placed just before the body of the dictionary.

For example:

List of abbreviations used in this dictionary

abbr.	-	abbreviation
adj.(s)	-	adjective(s)
adv (s).	-	adverb(s)
conj.	-	conjunction, etc.

The English words are entered alphabetically in their proper place with bold print and set out slightly from the printed column laid out in two columns over 471 pages. It contains approximately 12,000 headwords in English. Besides generally entry there is some information on “general abbreviation and important foreign words and phrases” which concludes the body of the dictionary.

Every entry in this dictionary begins with a headword and all main entries are followed by pronunciation and grammatical information and definitions in English and Manipuri equivalents.

For example:

**abacus**: (এব্—এ—কস) /eb.e.ks/ *n.* a calculating frame with balls sliding on wires. বোল

মতুম মতুম যাওবা মশিং থীবা তম্বা পাম্বে অমা

/bol mə.tum mə.tum jau.bə mə.sinj t<sup>h</sup>i.bə təm.nə.bə pam.bəi ə.mə/

There are different types of headwords besides the simple words.

Homographs are entered as separate headwords:

For example:

**bow** (বাউ) /bau/, *v.* ... ..

**bow** (বো) /bo/, *n.* ... ..

**bow** (বোউ) /bou/, *n.* ... ..

Affixes are also treated as headwords. However, suffixes and combining forms are ignored.

For example:

**By-** *prefix* denoting twice, ... ..

**Anti-** *prefix* denoting against, ... ..

Dummy entries for the irregular forms of past tense, plural, etc. are provided.

For example:

**did** (... ..) *pa.t.* of 'do'

**took** (... ..) *pa.t.* of 'take'

**met** – *pa.t.* & *pa.p.* of 'meet'

**mice** (... ..) *n.pl.* of 'mouse'

The pronunciation of the headword is transcribed in Bengali script within brackets immediately after it (headword). The accentuation is introduced by giving an especial mark (<sup>6</sup>) placed over the last letter of accented syllable of polysyllabic word.

For example:

**bilingual** (বাইলিঙ্গ<sup>6</sup>—বেল) /bai.liŋg.wel/ *adj.* ... ..

The grammatical information of the entry words is provided next to the pronunciation of the head word by giving the word class, abbreviated by *n.* for noun, *v.i.* or *v.t.* for verbs, *adj.* for adjectives, etc.

For example:

**crop** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

**do** (... ..) *v.t.* ... ..

**elder** (... ..) *adj.* ... ..

The grammatical information in the entries in addition to the information on the headword is also provided by keeping a hyphen before the grammatical labels of the word.

For example:

**aim** (... ..) *v.t.* ..... *-n.* purpose..... *-adj.* aimless ... ..

The headwords are defined in English and translated into Manipuri by using Bengali script.

For example:

**betide** (... ..) ... .. to happen to, শোকপা /t<sup>h</sup>ok.pə/।

Variant spellings of some English headwords are clearly indicated in the entry.

For example:

**ay, aye** (... ..) ... ..

**caliber, calibre** (... ..) ... ..

**demarcation, demarkation** (... ..) ... ..

The homonymic words are entered in the separate entries but no marking system is used.

For example:

**bear** (... ..) *v.t.* to carry, পূৰা /pu.bə/।

**bear** (... ..) *n.* a quadruped, শাওম /sə.om/।

Some usage labels are marked in this dictionary, for instance, *fem* for feminine.

For example:

**abbess** (... ..) *n. fem.* ... ..

Cross-references to the main entries is indicated by using a simple technique.

For example:

**angry** – *see* ‘anger’

**cosmic** – *see* ‘cosmos’

The “General Abbreviation” covers five pages. The abbreviations are explained only in English and entered in two columns.

For example:

**A.C.**, Ante Christian (Before Christ), alternating current.

**Brig.**, Brigadier.

**Bros.**, Brothers.

In the last three concluding pages “Important foreign words and phrases” is given in two columns. The foreign words are indicated by using [*Fr*] for French, [*G*] for German and [*L*] for Latin. The labels of the foreign words are placed after the pronunciation of the head word and follows English definition and Manipuri equivalents.

For example:

**A fortiori** (এই-ফোর-শি-ওরাই) /ei.p<sup>h</sup>or.si.orai/ *L.*, with greater force, হেমা কমা /hen.nə kən.nə/।

**Bona fide** (বো-ন্যে-ফাই-ডী) /bo.nje.p<sup>h</sup>ai.di/ *L.*, in good faith, পুকচেল শেংনা /puk.cel seŋ.nə/।

**Café** (ক্যে-ফি) /kje.p<sup>h</sup>i/ *Fr.*, restaurant, হোতেল /ho.tel/।

## 2. Friends’ English to Manipuri Dictionary

Year of Publication	1962
Name of Compiler	R.K. Shitaljit
Number of Pages	1083
Number of Entries	35,000 approximately.

This dictionary intends to serve the Manipuri speaking people learning English. The dictionary keeps English as source language and Manipuri as the target one. It is supposed to be a dictionary for comprehension. This kind of dictionary is also a general bilingual dictionary.

The dictionary starts with a brief preface expressing the usefulness of this work both to the students and to those who are engaged in Anglo-Manipuri work, however, it does not provide any lexicographical information. After the preface of the dictionary “the abbreviations used in this dictionary” is given. The body of the dictionary follows the abbreviation page. It contains approximately 35,000 head words in English and a good number of phrases in English and Manipuri equivalents

are laid out in two columns over 1083 pages. The introductory note or the guide to the entries is not provided. This dictionary also adopts Bengali script for Manipuri, as the Manipuri people are not using their original script (Meetei Mayek) for the last many centuries

The English entries are arranged in alphabetical order. Each entry begins with a headword, which is made prominent by bold print and set out slightly from the printed in two columns. Pronunciation, grammatical information, Manipuri equivalent, and explanation in English follow Head entry. The sub-entries in bold print are also introduced with grammatical information.

For example:

**ant** (অ্যান্ট) /əjant/, *n.* ককচেং /kək.cej/; a small social insect celebrated for industry.  
**ant-bear**, *n.* – ককচেং চাবা শওম /kək.cej ca.bə sə.om/; an ant-eater bear. **ant-catcher**, **ant-thrush**, *n.*, – ককচেং চাবী উচেংক /kək.cej ca.bi u.cek/; bird of thrush family living on ants. **ant eater**, *n.* – ককচেং চাবা জীবা /kək.cej ca.bə ji.bə/; name of various animals that live on ant. **ant-fly**, *n.* – ককচেং মশা পানবী /kək.cej mə.sa pan.bi/; winged ant. ant hill, *n.* – ককচেং মহমগী পুং /kək.cej mə.hum.gi puŋ/; mount over ant's nest; লৈশৌ /ləi.səu/; conical nest of termites. **white-ant** – লৈশৌ /ləi.sou/, termite.

In addition to the above simple headwords, various types of words or elements are also listed as headwords.

Homographs are given in separate entries:

For example:

**bow** (বো) /bo/ *n.* ... ..

**bow** (বো) /bo/ *vt.* ... ..

**bow** (বাউ) /bau/ *v.i.t.* ... ..

**bow** (বাউ) /bau/ *n.* ... ..

**bow** (বো) /bo/ *n.* ... ..

Many productive morphemes are also dealt as headwords. Affixes are indicated with the help of hyphenation (by keeping a hyphen) before the suffix and

after the prefix. The prefixes are identified by abbreviated form *pref.* but in the case of suffixes, in lieu of abbreviation, a context-based explanation is employed.

For example:

**be-** (... ..); *pref.* ... ..

**de-** (... ..); *pref.* ... ..

**un-** (... ..); *pref.* (before adjectives and adverbs)

**-ible** (... ..); *suffix* forming adjectives meaning able to be capable of

**-ie** (... ..); *suffix* from Greek *tkos* and Latin *icus* meaning of (... ..)

**-tdle** (... ..); *suffix* forming names of simple compounds of an element with another element; ... ..

Combining forms are achieved as head entries in this dictionary, and also indicated with explanation in the source language only. The suffix types of combining forms are not clearly distinguished from suffix-entries. Cardio-, electro-, geo-, etc. are considered as combining forms. But the suffix type combining forms like, -mania, -phobe, etc. are not counted as combining forms.

For example:

**cardio-**, *combining form* meaning of the heart (... ..), as in cardiograph also **cardi-** before a vowel.

**electro-** (... ..), *combining form* meaning electricity.

**geo-** (... ..) *combining form* meaning earth as in geo-centric.

**-mania** (... ..), *suffix* denoting scientifically a special type of madness (... ..); eager pursuit (... ..),

**-phobe** (... ..), *suffix* forming nouns and adjectives = fearing (... ..), fearer (... ..).

Various dummy entries are provided for the irregular forms of tense, number, etc.

For example:

**came** (... ..), *p.t.* of come

**took** *p.t.* of take

**told** *p.t. & p.p.* of tell

**men**, *n.pl.* of man

**mice**, *n.pl.* of mouse

The pronunciation of the headword is transcribed in Bengali script within brackets immediately after it.



For example:

**tafia** (টাফিয়া) /tjap<sup>h</sup>ijja/, *n.* ... ..

**take** (টেক) /tek/, *v.t.* ... ..

**tent** (টেন্ট) /tent/, *n.* ... ..

In some cases, the pronunciation of irregular forms of the headword is also given.

For example:

**beseech** (... ..), *v.i.t* [*p.t.* & *p.p.* **–besought** (বিসোট) /bisot/ or beseeched] ... ..

**bless** (... ..) *v.t.* [*p.t.* & *p.p.* **–bless** or **blest** (ব্লেস্ট) /blest/] ... ..

**bonus** (... ..), *n.* [*pl.* **–bonuses** (বোনসিজ) /bonsij/] ... ..

Different spellings of the head words are also indicated in the dictionary.

For example:

**erie, aery, eyrie, eury** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

**dehumanize, -se** (... ..) *v.t.* ... ..

**enrol, enroll** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

**faerie, faery** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

In this dictionary some simple way of cross references are adopted by using ‘*same as*’, ‘*see*’, or ‘=’

For example:

**awless** *same as* aweless

**slavery** *see* slave

**sloe worm** = slowworm

Different usages are also indicated in this dictionary. The compiler adopted a round bracket either after or before the Manipuri equivalents in which the usage labels are clearly marked.

For example:

**assoil** (... ..) *v.t.* (archaic) ... ..

**conk** (... ..) *n.* ... .. (slang) ... ..

**conk** (...) *v.t.* ... .. (colloq) ... ..

**darkling** (...) *ad.* (poetic) ... ..

The grammatical information of the source language is provided by using a number of abbreviations indicating the appropriate grammatical class, for example, *n.* for noun *v.t.* or *v.t.* for verbs, *a.* for adjective, etc. The grammatical label for each

headword is given immediately after the pronunciation. But in case of derivatives or compounds of a head entry the label is placed next to them. Sometimes the label is given before the derivative or compound and lay of hyphen between the label and the word.

For example:

**advent** (... ..), *n.* ... .. **Adventism**, *n.* - ... .. **Adventist**, *n.* - ... ..

Different irregular grammatical forms are indicated properly in this dictionary, for instance,

For plural forms of nouns:

**index** (... ..) *n.* (*pl.* -indexes, indices) ... ..

**succedaneum** (... ..) *n.* (*pl.* - succedanea) ... ..

**sheep** (... ..) *n.* (*pl.* - sheep) ... ..

For past tense, past and present participle forms of verbs:

**sell** (... ..) *v.t.i.* (*p.t.* & *p.p.* -sold (... ..) *pr.p.* - selling) ... ..

**go** (... ..) *v.t.* (*p.t.* -went, *p.p.* -gone, *pr.p.* - going) 2<sup>nd</sup> *pers.* - goest. 3<sup>rd</sup> - goes and *archaic*, goeth)

For comparative and superlative forms of adjectives:

**good** (... ..) *a.* (*comp.* - better. *Super.* - best) ... ..

**little** (... ..) *a.* (*comp.* -less, lesser, *super.* -least, also smaller, smallest)

The meaning of the headword is given in Manipuri just after the grammatical information then rendering into the source language.

For example:

**leal** (... ..) *a.* পুক-শেংবা /puk.seŋ.bə/; - honest.

In some entries, the explanation of the headwords is given only in source language but not in the target language.

For example:

**cat** (... ..) *n.* (*pl.* - cats) হৌদোং /həu.doŋ/; *small domesticated carnivorous quadruped.*

**Monday** (... ..) *n.* নিংখৌকাবা /niŋ.t<sup>h</sup>əu.ka.bə/; *second day of the week* ... ..

Sometimes two or more Manipuri synonymous words are provided in the entry to explain the English head entry.

For example:

**father** (... ..) *n.* পা /pà/; অপোকপা /ə.pok.pə/; পশৌ /pən.t<sup>h</sup>əu/ ... ..

In the case of polysemous words, the different meanings are not illustrated clearly. But homonymic words are entered in separate head entries but no marking system is used.

For example:

**bear** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

**bear** (... ..) *v.t.* ... ..

The different words having different meanings in the source language are corresponded to a single word of the target language without examining the range of difference in meaning of the two words in source and target language.

For example:

**hare** (... ..) *n.* হেঁরা /t<sup>h</sup>e.bə/;

**rabbit** (... ..) *n.* হেঁরা /t<sup>h</sup>e.bə/;

The dictionary has six appendices. These appendices cover 12 pages i.e. from 1068 to 1083.

The appendix -I gives the abbreviation and contraction commonly used in writing and printing (1068 – 1076 p.p.)

For example:

**A.B.** Able-bodied seaman. (*L. Artium Baccalaureus*) Bachelor of Arts.

**Acc.** Accusative.

**Acc.** or **a/c** Account

The appendix-II gives the list of signs and symbols (1077 p.)

For example:

@ at the rate of

& et (=and)

+ plus

– minus

The appendix-III gives Roman numerals (1077-1078 p.p.)

For example:

I 1

II 2

III 3

IV 4

V 5

The appendix-IV gives the Greek Alphabet (1078 p.)

For example:

A	α	alpha	=	a
B	β	beta	=	b
Γ	γ	gamma	=	g
Δ	δ	delta	=	d

The appendix-V gives the Metric system (দশমিক পদ্ধতি) /dæs.mik pə.d<sup>h</sup>ə.ti/

Measures of length, Square measures (বর্গ) /bær.gə/, Measures of weight (অরুশা) /ə.rùm.bə/, Measures of capacity (চনবগী ওম) /cæn.bə.gi ŋəm/, of Metric and British system. In British system, besides the above measures Dry measure is also provided. Equivalent units of English to Metric and Metric to English system are also supplied in this appendix. (1079-1071 p.p.)

The appendix-VI gives 15 numbers of the National Honours and Awards of India and explained it in Manipuri. (1082-1083 p.p.)

For example:

Arjun Award- শার্বা মখল পুম্মজ্ঞা খাম্পদগী হেনবা শার্বোয়দা চহী খুদিংগী মনা অসি পী  
/sa.nə.bə mə.k<sup>h</sup>əl pum.nə.mək.tə k<sup>h</sup>wai.də.gi hen.bə sa.nə.roi.də cə.hi k<sup>h</sup>u.dij.gi  
mə.na ə.si pi/ | ... ..

### **3. A Dictionary of English Idioms & Phrases**

Year of Publication	1963
Name of Compiler	Dwijamani Dev Sarma
Number of Pages	210
Number of Entries	3,300 approximately.

This is a dictionary of idioms and phrases. It contains about 3300 English Idioms and Phrases with Manipuri renderings. The dictionary covers 210 pages. Many of these idioms and phrases are borrowed from different languages.

The headwords are arranged in alphabetical order and made prominent by bold print and capitalizing the initial letters and also set out slightly from the printed column. Every headword is followed by Manipuri equivalents after keeping a dash.

The Manipuri renderings are followed by simple English equivalents. The illustrated sentences are also given for every entry.

For example:

**Account for** – মরম পীবা /mə.rəm pi.bə/, to give reasons for.

You must account for the expenditure

After the general entry of English terms there is a one and a half folio of important foreign words and phrases separately. The different foreign words are identified by giving the names of the language within brackets just after the terms. In this part, no illustration with sentence is done.

For example:

**Ab initio** (*Latin*) – হৌবদগী হৌনা /həu.bə.də.gi həu.nə/, from the beginning.

**Aide-memoire** (*French*) – নিংশিংবগী মতেং /niŋ.sij.nə.bə.gi mə.teŋ/, an aid to the memory.

**Lingua Franca** (*Italian*) – তোঙন তোঙনবা লোল লোনবা মীশিংনা অমগা অমগা ঙাঙনবা মতমদা শীজিন্নবা লোল /to.ŋan to.ŋan.bə lol lon.bə mi.sij.nə ə.mə.gə ə.mə.gə ŋaŋ.nə.bə mə.təm.də si.jin.nə.bə lol/, a language by which people speaking different languages communicate.

A limited number of cross-references are given in the dictionary.

For example:

**Break the neck of** – *same as* “Break the back of”

**Eye to eye** – *see* “See eye to eye with”

**Fits and starts** – *see* “By fits and starts”

#### 4. **Friends’ Pocket Dictionary**

Year of Publication	1966
Name of Compiler	Shitaljit
Number of Pages	1018
Number of Entries	20,000 approximately

This is a bilingual dictionary. In this dictionary, English and Manipuri are used as source and target languages respectively. As a comprehensive type of dictionary it attempts to cover about 20,000 words of English as head entry. This dictionary has 1018 pages.

This dictionary adopts the patterns of “Friends English to Manipuri Dictionary” published in 1962 compiled by the same lexicographer. But the difference between these two dictionaries is only due to the absence of phrases and idioms involved in the entries. This dictionary has also provided the abbreviation used in this dictionary and the form of contraction used in writing and printing. A sample of the entries is given below.

**benevolence** (বেনেভোলেন্স) /be.ne.b<sup>h</sup>o.lens/, *n.* যাইফহনীংবা /jai.p<sup>h</sup>ə.hən.niŋ.bə/; good will.

5. **Literary Termshingi Manipuri Glossary (Manipuri Glossary of Literary Terms)**

Year of Publication	1980
Name of Compiler	Mani Mairambam
Number of pages	167
Number of Entries	170

This is a glossary of English literary terms. The terms are written in English and the explanations are made in Manipuri. It contains 170 entries and covers 167 pages. It is the first glossary of its kind published so far.

The general entry follows the introduction written in Manipuri under the title “*Wahei Kharadang*” (few words). In this the compiler gives a short account of Manipuri language and English literary terms.

The entries are listed in alphabetical order and are being manifested with capital letters. Most of the headwords have been given along with their terminological equivalence in Manipuri within round brackets immediately after it. No pronunciation and grammatical information of the literary terms are given. The detailed explanations of the terms are provided in Manipuri however sometimes words, phrases or even sentences of English are inserted in the entries.

For example:

**AMBIGUITY** (লোঞ্জন্ শেস্তা) /lon.ʃən.sem.bə/

রাইহে অমতা হায়রগা খঙহল্লিবিদি ময়াম অমা ওইহনবা,

/wa.həi ə.mə.tə hai.rə.gə k<sup>h</sup>əŋ.həl.li.bə.di mə.jam ə.mə oi.hən.bə/ ... ..

One of the most remarkable characters of this glossary is to provide or explain the terms with context, for instance,

Shakespeare গী /gi/ Cleopatra দা /də/:-

“Come, thou mortal wretch,  
With the sharp teeth this knot intricates  
of life at once unite. Poor venomous fool.  
Be angry, and dispatch.” ... ..

There is a nine page long “INDEX OF TERMS” after the completion of the general entry. It is arranged in alphabetical order. The page number is provided against each term.

For example:

ABSTRACT	-	1
ABSURD	-	1
ACT	-	2, 56

6. **First Report Manipuri Equivalent of Parliamentary, Legal and Administrative Terms.**

Year of Publication	1981
Name of Compiler	Committee on Official Language Manipuri (80)
Number of Pages	82
Number of entries	1706

This is a glossary of terms specially used in parliamentary, legal and administrative purposes. In this glossary, the terms in English are given as source and their equivalents in Manipuri as target language. It is compiled by a committee on official language Manipuri under the Chairmanship of Shri Y. Yaima Singh the then speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly with seven M.L.A.s (Member of Legislative Assembly) as members and two officials.

Before starting the main body of the glossary there is an introduction followed by six appendices.

In the introduction, the Chairman of the Committee on Official Language (Manipuri) presents the following points.

- The Committee on Official Language (Manipuri) was constituted on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1980 by a resolution of the House of the Manipur Legislative Assembly.
  - The inaugural meeting of the committee was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1980 in the committee Room of the Assembly. It was decided to constitute two sub-committees. The names of the sub-committees are as follows –
    - (i) The sub-committee on Manipuri Equivalents of Parliamentary. Legal and Administrative Terms, this sub-committee in abbreviation is known as ‘MEPLA’
    - (ii) The sub-committee on Manipuri Equivalents of Scientific and Technical Terms, this sub-committee in abbreviation is known as ‘MESAT’
  - On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1980 the MEPLA appointed a Panel of Experts for recommendation of the Manipuri Equivalents of Parliamentary. Legal and Administrative Terms. The names of the Panel of Experts are appended to this report as Appendix-I
- The MEPLA also appointed another Panel of Experts for consideration of the Manipuri Equivalents of Parliamentary. Legal and Administrative Terms, which have been recommended by the first panel. The names of the Panel of Experts are appended to this report as Appendix-II
- The Parliamentary, Legal and Administrative Terms are almost extracted from the “Glossary of Parliamentary. Legal and Administrative Terms with Hindi Equivalents,” published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
  - On the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1980 the MESAT appointed another Panel of Experts of Manipuri Equivalents of Scientific and Technical Terms. The names of the Panel of Experts are appended to this report as Appendix-III.
  - The number of sittings, date of sittings and the name of experts attending the sitting are shown in Appendix-V.
  - The list of books of reference consulted by the committee is also indicated in Appendix-VI.



- The number of Manipuri Equivalents of Parliaments legal and Administrative Terms in this report is one thousand seven hundred and six.

The entries in the glossary are limited to the first English alphabet i.e. 'A' only. The terms are arranged in alphabetical order. The renderings from English to Manipuri are sometimes more than one indicated by a back slash (/).

For example:

1. absence without leave– অয়াবা যাওদনা কারজ্বা  
/ə.ja.bə jau.də.nə ka.rək.tə.bə/ |
2. absent– লাজ্বা/কাদবা/লৈতবা /lak.tə.bə ka.də.bə ləi.tə.bə/ |
3. absence from duty– থবক কারজ্বা /tʰə.bək ka.rək.tə.bə/ |

#### 7. **Second Report Manipuri Equivalent of Parliamentary. Legal and Administrative Terms.**

Year of publication	1982
Name of compiler	Committee on official Language Manipuri (1982)
Number of pages	51+1
Number of entries	1053

This is also a glossary of terms specially used in parliamentary, Legal and administrative purpose. It contains 1053 terms in English along with Manipuri renderings. It is also produced by the same committee of the first of 1981 publication but the only difference is date of sittings and terms. There is an ANNEXURE containing abbreviations.

In the entries, the terms are arranged in alphabetical order of T-series of English alphabet only with serial numbers.

For example:

1. Fabricate – শেমজিনবা, ওইদবা শাগৎপা /sem.jin.bə oi.də.bə sa.gət.pə/ |
2. Fabricated adoption - শাজিনবা য়োকপা /sa.jin.bə jok.pə/ |
3. Fabricated evidence - শাজিনবা শাক্ষি /sa.jin.bə sa.kʰi/ |

In the ANNEXURE only two abbreviations in English with Manipuri equivalents has been given.

For example:

1. A. M.: নুমিং য়ংবা মমাং (নুমাং) /nu.mit juŋ.bə mə.maŋ (nu.maŋ)/।

2. P. M.: নুমিং য়ংবা তুং (নুতুং) /nu.mit juŋ.bə tuŋ (nu.tuŋ)/।

8. **Manipuri glossary of Political Terms (Matamgi Chatnabi Rajniti Wahei Watashing Neina-Lairik)**

Year of publication	1983
Name of compiler	L. Jnanendra Singh
Number of pages	226
Number of entries	500

This is a glossary of political terms involving two languages. The terms are written in English and explanations are made in Manipuri. It contains 500 terms arranged in alphabetical and has 226 pages. It may also be regarded as the first book on its kind. There is no additional information about the use of the dictionary as a guideline to the users.

The entry begins with a term by keeping a little space before the term and followed by a dash. The explanation in Manipuri with Bengal script is provided after this dash many a times it is visible that the compiler has adopted historical accounts to explain the terms for example the term Genocide is illustrated with many historical events and accounts relating in Second World War and Pol Pot of Kampuchea. Etc.

For example:

**Genocide**— মীয়াম পাক্কা হাংপা /mi.jam pak.tək.nə hat.pə/। ... ..

9. **A Dictionary of Geography (Angio-Manipuri)**

Year of Publication	1984
Name of Computer	Leishangthem Ajit Singh
Number of Pages	148
Number of Entries	900 approximately

This is a bilingual dictionary the geographical of terms of English by keeping a little space before the term and a dash after it. The detailed explanations of the terms

are given in Manipuri but many English words, which are not easily translatable, were employed in the Manipuri explanation.

For example:

**Coral Reef** -- কোৱেল পোলিপ /ko.rel po.lip/ (coral polyp) ... .. Coral Reef ... ..; -- Fringing Reef, Barrier ... .. Attol ... ..

There are 11 pages at the end of the book containing useful geographical information for the geography students. The information has been given only in English out of the 11 pages the first 6 pages provides the countries and their corresponding capitals of the six continents viz. Asia. Europe South America North America, Africa and Oceania.

For example:

#### **Asia**

COUNTRY	CAPITAL
Afghanistan	Kabul
Bahrain	Manama
Bangladesh	Dacca

In the followings pages the information on physical geography i.e. Mountain Peaks, Volcanoes, Rivers, Deserts, Islands, Oceans, Principal Lake, Island, Sea and Water Falls is provided. This information contains: Names, Locations and Measurements of the physical objects. The superlative of 27 geographical items of the world with their corresponding magnitude concludes the dictionary.

#### **MOUNTAIN PEAKS**

	Name	Location	Meter	Feet
1.	Mount Everest	Nepal, Tibet	8,848	29,028
2.	Mount Godwin Austent (K)	India-Pak	8,611	28,280
3.	Mount Kanchenjunga	India	8,538	28,250

#### **VOLCANOES**

	Name	Location	Feet
1.	Colopaxi	Equador	19,347
2.	Popocatepert	Mexico	17,887
3.	Klyvuchevskaya	USSR	15,584

## **RIVERS**

	Name	Location	Miles
1.	Amazon	South America	4,195
2.	Nile	Africa	4,149
3.	Missipi Missouri	USA	3,710

## **DESERTS**

	Name	Country	Area in Sq. Miles
1.	Sahara	Africa	3,500,000
2.	Libyan	Africa	650,000
3.	Australian	Australia	600,000

## **ISLANDS**

	Name	Area in Sq. Miles	Location
1.	Greenland	8,40,000	Arctic Ocean
2.	New Guinea	3,17,000	West Pacific
3.	Borneo	2,87,400	Indian Ocean

## **OCEAN**

	Name	Area (Sq. Miles)
1.	Pacific	63,800,000
2.	Atlantic	31,800,000
3.	Indian	28,400,000

## **PRINCIPAL, LACK, ISLAND, SEA**

	Name	Location	Miles Area
1.	Caspian Sea	USSR-Iran	143,550
2.	Superior	USA-Canada	31,820
3.	Victoria Nyanza	Uganda-Tanzania	26,828

## **WATER FALLS**

	Name	Location	Feet (Height)
1.	Angel	Venezuela	2,648
2.	Kukenaam	Venezuela	2,000
3.	Ribbon	USA	1,612

## **THE SUPERLATIVES**

1. Largest Continent: Area – 16988000 Sq. Miles 23.5 per cent of the World's total land area.
2. Largest State: USSR – 8,649550.
3. Largest Ocean: Pacific – 64186,300 Sq. Miles - with an average depth of 4,802 feet.

#### 10. Students' Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary

Year of Publication	1987 (September)
Name of Compiler	H. Mani Singh
Number of Pages	2001 + (vi)
Number of Entries	32,000 approximately

It is English to Manipuri Dictionary for Manipuri speakers. The title reflects that English and Manipuri are the source and target languages respectively. This dictionary works for the target language speakers, so it can be considered as a dictionary for comprehension.

This dictionary does not contain the preface to this edition. The body of the dictionary follows the “Abbreviations on grammatical terms and other abbreviations” which occupies one page”. “The information for dictionary users” is provided in the front most page of the dictionary. The information written in Manipuri explains – about the types of English letters, the application of tilde (~), and the abbreviated forms of somebody and something used in the entries. The last half of the information tells about the pronunciation of English headwords by using Bengali scripts. In this, the accentuation mark is given as ‘ˈ’ and the pronunciation of ‘v’ is replaced by ‘ব’/b/. The compiler explains some more about the pronunciation of ‘wh’ in why, what etc. in Manipuri.

The inclusion or omission of the pronunciation of ‘r’ – sound is also given. The omitted sound of ‘r’ is written in brackets as in water [ˈwɔtə(r)] /ˈwɔtə(r)/ in the pronunciation transcribed in Bengali script the sound (র) /r/ is not to be pronounced.

After having the front matters of the dictionary the alphabetical arrangement of English words, as source language, begins to cast. It contains about 32,000 headwords along with their corresponding Manipuri. It is also interesting to note that many English headwords and phrases are illustrated with sentences. This dictionary has 2001 pages.

The main entries are set flush with the left-hand margin arranged in alphabetical order and made distinct by using bold letters. In all main entries headword is followed

by the information on pronunciation, grammar and by definitions in English then in Manipuri.

For example:

**animal** (<sup>1</sup>এনমল) /'ejn.məl/ n. 1. Living thing that can feel and move about, থরায় পানবা জীবা /t<sup>h</sup>ə.wai pan.bə ji.bə/ | 2. Four footed animal (dog, horse, etc.) মখোঙ্ মরি পানবা শা /mə.k<sup>h</sup>oŋ mə.ri pan.bə sa/ | n. **animal cule**, microscopic animal, যান্না কুপ্পবা জীবা /jam.nə kup.ləbə jibə/ | ns. **animality, animalism.**

Besides the above simple headwords, different types of words or elements are also entered as headwords:

Homographs are given in separate entries with numerical marks.

For example:

<sup>1</sup>**bow** (... ..) n. ....  
<sup>2</sup>**bow** (... ..) v.t. &t. ....  
<sup>3</sup>**bow** (... ..) n. ....

A limited number of productive morphemes are also introduced as head entries.

For example:

**non-** (... ..) *pref.* ....  
**cine** (... ..) *pref.* form used for cinema ... ..

A number of dummy entries for the irregular forms of tense, number, etc. are provided.

For example:

**came** (... ..) *p.t.* of come  
**told** (... ..) *p.t. & p.p.* of tell  
**took** (... ..) *p.t.* of take  
**men** (... ..) *n. pl.* of man ... ..  
**mice** (... ..) *n. pl.* of mouse ... ..

The pronunciation of the headword is transcribed in Bengali script within either round or square brackets just after it.

For example:

**abacus** (<sup>1</sup>এবকস) /'ejb.kəs/ n. ....  
**abattoir** [<sup>1</sup>এবট্টা(র)] /'ejb.twa(r)/ n. ....

In some cases, different spellings of a word are also introduced in this dictionary.

For example:

**aerie, aery** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

**enrol** (l) (... ..) *v.t.* ... ..

**candied, candy** (... ..) *n.* ... ..

Some simple way of cross-references are adopted in this dictionary by using either 'see', or =.

For example:

**baulk** (... ..) *see* balk

**has-** *see* have

**iamb** (... ..) *n.* = iambus

The grammatical information of the source language is given by using the abbreviation indicating the appropriate grammatical class, for example, *n.* for noun, *v.t.* or *v.i.* for verbs, *adj.* for adjective, etc. The grammatical label for each headword is given just after the pronunciation. In the case of derivative forms of some headwords, the grammatical labels are placed before the derived words.

For example:

**perfidious** (... ..) *adj.* ... .., *adv.* ~ly *n.* ~ness ... ..

**protrude** (... ..) *adj.* protrusive ... .., *n.* protusion *adj.* prostusive ... ..

**putrid** (... ..) *adj.* ... .. *n.* ~ity.

In this dictionary, different irregular grammatical forms are indicated properly, for instance:

For plural forms of nouns:

**index** (... ..) *n.* (*pl.* ~es or indices)

**sheep** (... ..) *n.* (*pl.* unchanged, *pl.* ... ..)

For past tense, past and present participle forms of verbs.

**sell** (... ..) *v.t. & i.*; (*p.t. & p.p.* sold) ... ..

**'give** (... ..) *v.t. & i.*; (*p.t.* -gave; *p.p.* given ... ..)

**'go** (... ..) *v.t.* (*p.t.* -went; *p.p.* -gone) ... ..

For comparative and superlative forms of adjectives are indicated as:

**good** (... ..) *adj.* (better; best) ... ..

**little** (... ..) *adj.* (comp. -less; super -least) ... ..

**sad** (... ..) *adj.* (-der, dest) ... ..

The head word is defined first in English and then translated into Manipuri.

For example:

**burdock** (... ..) *n.* wild plant with prickly flower-heads; ... ..

The different meanings of polysemous words are illustrated clearly.

For example:

**hummock** (... ..) *n.* 1. low rock or mound; ... .. 2. wooded land above a marsh, ... .. 3. ridge in an ice field, ... ..

The homonymic words are entered in separated head-entries with numerical making.

For example:

<sup>1</sup>**bear** [... ..] *n.* .....

<sup>2</sup>**bear** [... ..] *v.t. & i.* .....

The dictionary provides six pages for appendices for different information. In the first part of the appendix (i.p.), some popular abbreviated forms have been provided only in source language along with their full forms.

For example:

U.N.O. United Nations Organization

U.S.A. United States of America

M.A. Master of Arts

In the following pages “Countries, Related Nouns, Adjectives and Currencies” (ii.p.) are provided.

For example:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Noun/Adjective</b>	<b>Currency</b>
Afghanistan	Afghan	Afghani
Australian	Australian	dollar
Belgium	Belgian	franc

The remaining four pages of appendix provide the information on “words and phrases from Latin, French, etc. used in English Language” and are placed as the concluding part of the dictionary. In this part, words of Latin, French, etc. are given in bold print then followed by the label (*L*) for Latin, (*It*) for Italy and (*Fr*) for French. Then the explanations in English and Manipuri are given.

For example:

**Ab extra** (*L*), from without, ... ..

**Ab initio** (*L*), from the beginning, ... ..

**Affaire d’amour** (*Fr*), a love affair, ... ..

**a grands frais** (*Fr*), at great expense, ... ..



**At freco** (*It*), in the open air; cool, ... ..

**Prima-facie** (*It*), at first view or consideration, ... ..

**11. Concise Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary**

Year of Publication	1987
Name of Compiler	H. Mani Singh
Number Pages	1246 + 6
Number of Entries	25, 000 approximately

This is English to Manipuri Dictionary. English is the source language and Manipuri the target one. It is also a comprehensive type of dictionary since it serves for the target language speakers. It has about 25, 000 entry words in English and cover 1246 + 6 pages for appendix.

This dictionary follows the patterns of his “Students’ Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary”. The same introduction, abbreviation and appendices of the other dictionary are adopted in this dictionary also. These two dictionaries are almost identical. The difference is only in size and number of headwords.

**12. Anglo-Meetei Legal Dictionary**

Year of Publication	1989
Name of Compiler	Sanabam Raghmani Mangang
Number Pages	129
Number of Entries	462

This is a glossary of legal terms involving English and Manipuri languages. The terms are written in English and the explanations are made in Manipuri. It has 462 legal terms and 129 pages. This is also the first glossary of its kind.

The general entry follows the preface and set down in Manipuri on two pages. From the very beginning of the book every terms in English has been rendered into Manipuri. In this book, the compiler writes about the application of technical terminology.

For example:

“the law” কুচু পথাপ /ku.cu pə.t<sup>h</sup>ap/ and “law” কুচু লোল /ku.cu lol/, ... ..

The terms are given in alphabetical order with serial numbers. The pronunciation of every term is given within brackets just below it, transcribing in Bengali script. No grammatical information is provided. The explanation in Manipuri is started with a hyphen.

For example:

1. **Abandonment** -থাদোকপা হনদোকপগী থবক /t<sup>h</sup>a.dok.pə hun.dok.pəgi t<sup>h</sup>ə.bək/ |

(এবান্দনমেস্ত) /e.band.ment/

2. **Abduction** -কনাগুম্বা মী অমবু নাথৈদুনা থম্বা। /kənagum.bə mi əməbu nat<sup>h</sup>əidunə

t<sup>h</sup>əm.bə/ ... ..

(এবদক্সন) /eb.dək.sən/

### 13. **The Millennium Dictionary of Anglo-Manipuri**

Year of Publication	2001
Name of Compiler	I. R. Babu Singh
Number Pages	628
Number of Entries	16400 approximately.

This is the latest English to Manipuri dictionary so far published. In this dictionary, English and Manipuri serve as source and target language respectively. The dictionary covers 628 pages and 16400 headwords approximately.

As it is a dictionary for Manipuri speaker learning English, the preface is written in Manipuri with Bengali script. In the preface, some information about the pronunciation of headwords and grammatical information used in the dictionary have been given. Just after the preface there is a page for abbreviation used in the dictionary and it is followed by contents of the dictionary then the body of the dictionary. The contents page indicates the appendices with page numbers.

The head entries are arranged in alphabetical order and made prominent by bold print in two columns. Every headword is followed by i) grammatical information in English in abbreviated form, for instance, *n.* for noun, *a.* for adjective, etc., ii) synonyms or explanatory notes in English, iii) grammatical information transcribed in Bengali script, for instance, *ন.* for *n.*, for *এ. a.* etc., iv) pronunciation of the headword

in Bengali script, and v) renderings in Manipuri respectively. The sub-entries in bold print are also introduced with grammatical information and pronunciation.

For example:

**ant** *n.* small social insect, *না. এন্ট ককচেং* /nə. ent kək.çeŋ / *n.* **ant eater** animal which feeds on ants *না. এন্ট ইটর ককচেং চাবা জীব* /nə. ent i.tər kək.çeŋ cabə jibə/

As the pronunciations of headwords or sub-entries are given in Bengali script just before the Manipuri renderings, which is also in the same script, makes a little confusion to the users.

This dictionary has 22 appendices at the concluding part and covers 63 pages. It comprises of following information:

**Phrases & Idioms:**

It gives 155 English phrases and idioms with Manipuri meanings.

**Latin, Greek, French, Italian expressions:**

It gives 155 exotic terms. The foreign terms are identified by using—(*L*) for Latin, (*Gk*) for Greek, (*Gr*) for German, (*Ital*) for Italian, (*Fr*) for French. The pronunciation and Manipuri meaning are given in Bengali script.

**Terminology:**

It gives 153 terminologies of different subjects with pronunciation and Manipuri meaning in Bengali Script.

**Important Years:**

It gives the years at which important historical events that had been happened. It starts from B.C. 470—Birth of Socrates to 1984—India explodes second nuclear bomb at Pokhran, May 11 & 13. The information is provided only in English.

**Chemical Elements:**

It gives the name of chemical, symbol, and atomic number in English.

**Temperatures, Weight, Capacity Measure:**

It gives the equivalence of Celsius (Centigrade) and Fahrenheit and their conversion rule and table of Weight and Capacity of Measure.

**Proof Reading Guide:**

It gives marks, symbols, or abbreviations (27 totals) with Manipuri explanation.

**Difference between words:**

It gives English pair of words with grammatical information and Manipuri renderings. The total number of words in English is 438.

**Meetei Mayek (Alphabet):**

It gives the Meetei Script with corresponding information.

**Languages recognized by Sahitya Akademi, Official Languages of India, Signs of Zodiac:**

It gives 22 Languages recognized by Sahitya Akademi, 16 Official Languages of India, and Signs of Zodiac, names and corresponding Manipuri meanings.

**The Greek Alphabet:**

It gives Capital, Lower case, Name, and English transliteration of The Greek Alphabet.

**The Russian Alphabet:**

It gives Capital, Lower case, Approximate Pronunciation of Name, and English transliteration of The Russian Alphabet.

**Square Measure, Linear Measure, Roman Numerals:**

It gives the tables of Square Measure, Linear Measure, and Roman Numerals.

**Some Proverbs:**

It gives 150 proverbs in English with Manipuri equivalents.

**Tips of Grammatical words:**

It gives some tips on the use of grammatical words in English.

**Common Mistakes:**

It gives Common Mistakes while writing English with corrected forms under the following headings—Verb, Noun & Determiners, Prepositions, and Miscellaneous.

**Antonyms:**

It gives a three page of English antonyms with pronunciation and Manipuri equivalents in Bengali script.

**Common Abbreviations:**

It gives 130 English abbreviations with their full forms.

**Ranks of Indian Military Officers:**

It gives the ranks of the Air Force, the Army, and the Navy.

**Common Mathematical Signs:**

It gives 42 Common Mathematical Signs.

**Countries with Capitals and Monetary Units:**

It gives 93 countries with their capitals and monetary units.

**Table of Daily Wage:**

It gives a table of Daily Wage in Rupees.

From the above evaluation of English-Manipuri dictionaries we could understand that most of the dictionaries are of comprehensive types and specially designed for target language speakers. The general bilingual dictionaries are six in number and other dictionaries are of special types. The general types of bilingual dictionaries have more or less followed the same pattern and have given the same kind of information. It accordingly comes into view that they are either modified or slightly expanded from various earlier dictionaries. Most of the dictionaries do not provide detailed introduction or guide to dictionary users regarding grammatical, phonological, and semantic information. The grammatical level and pronunciation of the headwords are provided in all the general bilingual dictionaries. For each and every sub-entry, the grammatical level is marked out but the pronunciation has been given in few dictionaries. The pronunciation of the source language has been transcribed in Bengali script. A lesser number of usage levels have also been given. The dictionaries do not adopt a proper cross-reference. Appendices for common abbreviation, weight and measures, etc. have been placed in few dictionaries. All the dictionaries are of small or medium size. These dictionaries require improvement in many respects.

## LIST OF ENGLISH-MANIPURI DICTIONARIES

1. The Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary (1957).  
-- *Dwijamani Dev Sarma.*
2. Friends' English to Manipuri Dictionary (1962).  
-- *R. K. Shitaljit Singh.*
3. A Dictionary of English Idioms and Phrases (1963)  
-- D. M. Dev Sarma.
4. A Manual of Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary of Idioms (1965)  
-- *Ch. Pishak Singh.*
5. Friends' Pocket Dictionary (English-Manipuri) (1966)  
-- *Shitaljit.*
6. Literary Tarmshingi Manipuri Glossary (1980)  
-- *Mani Mairenbam.*
7. First Report on Manipuri Equivalent of Parliamentary, Legal, and Administrative Terms (1981)  
-- *Committee on Official Language, Manipur Legislative Assembly.*
8. Second Report on Manipuri Equivalent of Parliamentary, Legal, and Administrative Terms (1982)
9. Manipuri Glossary of Political Terms (1983)  
-- *L. Jnanendra Singh.*
10. A Dictionary of Geography (Anglo-Manipuri) (1984)  
-- *L. Kesho Singh.*
11. Concise Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary (1987)  
-- *H. Mani Singh.*
12. Students' Anglo-Manipuri Dictionary (1987)  
-- *H. Mani Singh.*
13. Anglo-Meetei Legal Dictionary (1989)  
-- *Sanabam Raghmani Mangang.*
14. The Millennium Dictionary of Anglo-Manipuri (2001)  
--- *I. R. Babu Singh.*

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8 : 12 December 2008

**Evaluation of English – Manipuri Bilingual Dictionaries –  
Leihorambam Sarbajit Singh, Ph.D.**

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