

**THE PRINCIPLES OF
MURATHEE
GRAMMAR**

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The principles of Murathee grammar by J. Stevenson

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J. STEVENSON

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN laying before the public another *Murathee* Grammar, in addition to those which have already issued from the press, some apology seems necessary for my undertaking such a work. I have only then to say, that these outlines have entirely arisen from my own necessities. While studying the language, I found many points, relative to which I wished information, not at all touched on by grammarians, and others treated too concisely to convey clear ideas to the mind. To remedy these defects, I early commenced making a collection of notes of various kinds on points of grammar, and have continued doing so for eight years. I now wish to put the students of *Murathee* in possession of the fruits of my experience, and when some future student shall add to, simplify, and improve on, the principles here laid down, it will afford greater pleasure to no one than to myself.

One evident advantage I have enjoyed, in composing these Principles, above my predecessors, is the possession of the *Murathee* Dictionaries which have been lately published. They have rendered it comparatively easy,

by a careful induction of particulars, to ascertain what really are the grammatical rules by which the language is regulated. Nor has this advantage been overlooked in the following compilation ; for both of the *Murathee* Dictionaries have been more than once turned over, from beginning to end, by myself and my assistants.

Two of the compilers of the *Murathee* Kosh, Purshoo Ram Punt Godbole, and Dajee Shastree Shookla, have aided me in collecting and examining words for examples to the various rules given, and in furnishing the lists of exceptions. And in order to ascertain the declension of feminine nouns ending in a consonant, every word was discussed by four learned Brahmuns from different and distant parts of the country, and determined accordingly ; yet in respect to many of these words the usage is very various.

Advantage has also been taken of the many points of grammar cleared up in Captain Molesworth's Dictionary. It is hoped, however, that the student will study these grammatical notices in the Dictionary itself, especially those of them contained in the Preface, as, in this confidence, several things of considerable importance have here rather been glanced at than discussed. I have also had the advantage of consulting Captain Molesworth personally, and my friend the Rev. Mr. Nesbit, on many of the difficulties which have occurred, and benefitting by their suggestions. To Captain Molesworth's Dictionary also the student is referred for the full rendering of the words given as examples or

exceptions, the meanings attached to them here being rather for the convenience of beginners, and to serve as mementos to more advanced students, than to give a full interpretation of the word. Where words of several meanings are introduced, and the rule or exception applies to them only in one sense, such words are marked with an asterisk.

Besides the Rajapoorce and Wadee dialects, spoken in Malwan, there are two principal dialects of the *Murathce* language spoken in the *Murathce* country, viz. the *Desh* dialect, spoken in those parts of the *Dukhu* which lie to the northward and eastward of Poona, and the *Kôku* dialect, spoken throughout both the *Kôkus*. The language about Sattara, and in the southern parts of the *Dukhu*, is a mixture of the two dialects, inclining chiefly, however, to the *Kôku*. I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to avoid the extremes of both the *Kôku* and *Desh* dialects, inclining generally to the latter, but keeping always in view the general analogy of the language.

In studying *Murathce*, the student, as soon as he has learnt the letters, and made himself master of the marks used for the vowels, should immediately begin, without troubling himself much with the double letters, to learn to pronounce accurately the sentences at the end; and, while going on with the Grammar, he should learn to analyze those sentences, and commit them to memory, in such a way as to be able to use them in conversation whenever they are required. Afterwards he should begin

to read some easy book, such as the Children's Friend or Æsop's Fables, marking and committing to memory such easy and useful sentences as may occur from day to day. In this way he will find his studies go on profitably and pleasantly.

The student is requested to observe that the common contractions used by grammarians are frequently used; and that, in the references to books, B. means the 1st vol. of the *Bal Mitra*, or *Children's Friend*; E. means *Æsop's Fables*; K. the *Murathee Kosh*; and S. the *Sinhasan Butteeshi*.

In regard to the expression of *Murathee* words in English characters, the system of Dr. Gilchrist has been followed, as, though less philosophical than the rival system of Sir William Jones, being, on the whole, better fitted to lead to an approximation, at least, to the true sound. A few omissions and additions have been made, as will appear from the 1st Table of Letters, to adapt it better to the *Murathee* language.

As I have endeavoured to give the requisite information relative to the various topics discussed, under their respective heads, no further prefatory remarks seem necessary.

If this attempt should facilitate the progress of those who are endeavouring to sow the seeds of useful knowledge, and teach the Natives of the *Murathee* country the principles of Divine Science, the author will esteem all his labour well bestowed.

NOTICE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

THE Second Edition of this Grammar was carried through the press by the Rev. ROBERT NESBIT, to whom the author takes this opportunity of expressing his grateful acknowledgments for this labour of love, while he himself was prevented by sickness and absence from India from personally superintending the printing.

“Since the present Edition went to press, a new *Murathec* Grammar has been published by the Rev. E. BURGESS, of the American Mission. The author was not aware, till he saw the advertisement in the *Dayanodaya* announcing its appearance, that such a treatise had been prepared, or he would have awaited its publication before taking steps for reprinting this work. As matters, however, now stand, the public will have the choice between his guidance and mine. It is gratifying to me to see the advance that has been made with respect to *Murathec* Grammar since I began my labours, and the adoption of many important parts of my work in that of my successor. And I should gladly have avoided all criticism on Mr. BURGESS' treatise, but that I might either be thought to make light of his labours, or appear to approve, where we differ, of his deviations from the principles on which I have proceeded. I trust, then, Mr. BURGESS will excuse me, if I point out some of the most material things I deem faulty in his work. Nor will the remarks I shall require to make be irrelevant to the object I have in view in the whole of this Grammar—that of directing students to a correct and idiomatical style of writing and speaking *Murathec*.

Points of no practical importance in which he dissents from me, as in saying that *तौ* is a substantive pronoun as well as an adjective

pronoun, instead of being used substantively like all other adjectives, and that आहे is derived from the root अच्, I do not stop to discuss.

As one recommendation of the new Grammar, it is said (Preface, p. v.): "One important particular in which the present treatise differs from preceding ones is, that it departs from the Sanskrit rules in regard to the declension of nouns, and adopts a scheme which renders the subject of inflection more simple and easily comprehended." If the meaning of this sentence be that the eight cases of Sanskrit Grammar have been discarded, and a smaller number adopted, then, by turning to this Grammar, and examining it from page 20 to page 28, any one may see that in reference to all the nouns that will admit of it, Mr. BURGESS' plan of having but three cases is the one I have here followed, and it is the one I had adopted from the first. If reference is made to the mode of arranging the nouns into declensions, I would remark that no advantage seems to me to be gained, by the new plan of classification according to the vowel that precedes the particle that marks the case in the inflections, over that of Colonel KENNEDY and DADOBA PANDURANG, who, following the Sanskrit Grammarians, class them according to the terminating vowel of the nominative. Take for example the nouns दादा, हत्ती, चाकू, सवे, बायको, which are examples of Mr. BURGESS' five declensions: it is evident that the rule for inflecting all these different words is the same, viz. to add the proper particle to the unchanged nominative, giving us दादाला, हत्तीला, चाकूला, &c.; yet these nouns are distributed among all the declensions, just as if they had been classed according to the terminating vowels of the nominative. Take next the nouns दादा, सासरा, पाणी, कोकरू, ताहू, all of which belong to Mr. BURGESS' first declension, because the vowel आ immediately precedes the affix that marks the case. Here it is evident that one rule is required to explain why, as the dative of दादा is दादाला, that of सासरा is सासरांला, inserting य, and not सासराला. Then another rule is required to explain how पाणी becomes पाण्याला; a third to show why कोकरू becomes कोकराला; and a fourth to explain how तारवाला is deduced from ताहू. Mr. BURGESS actually gives no less than five rules.

The principle adopted in this Grammar is intended to meet this difficulty, by arranging nouns according to the change that the terminating vowel of the nominative undergoes in the inflections, and thus to make one rule serve for each of the declensions, instead of making so many necessary for the very first of them.

In regard to nouns of the third declension ending in silent अ, which change the terminating vowel in the inflections of the singular to ए, and in those of the plural to आ, as they are not distinguished in the Dictionaries from those of the fourth declension, which change it in both cases to ई, it is necessary to furnish a list of those nouns.

In this Grammar lists of all feminine nouns ending in अ are given. Perhaps Mr. BURGESS is right in omitting the latter class of nouns, but those who use his Grammar have a right to expect a complete list of the former,—the nouns that take ए in the inflections of the singular,—especially as he says (page 28), “If all other feminine nouns in अ are declined as belonging to the second declension [*i. e.* with ई], it will not be grammatically incorrect.” In running down but a small portion of the list in this Grammar, and comparing it with the corresponding portion in his, I find he has omitted several words in that portion, and among them खाट, भूक, भूज, and खाट, important nouns of common occurrence. If the student, then, were to be guided by his list, he would say भूकीने for भूकेने, and make भूज in the plural भूजी, instead of भूजा.

In his first declension, also, Mr. BURGESS gives वारूटे, &c. bad, पाण्ये waters, दिथे seeds, which few can ever have heard or seen, and at best are but the lowest forms of the Kôkuneë dialect, and should not have been inserted in a Grammar of the language.

Another important point in which Mr. BURGESS claims precedence over his predecessors is the fulness of the paradigmas of the verb. My aim in each edition has been not to lengthen, but to shorten the paradigm, under the apprehension that in the first edition I might not have had “leisure enough to be short,” and imagining that it was as necessary to avoid terrifying the student by superfluous length as to lay before him what was essential. There are many compound tenses that require