

(Handwritten signature)



Jawaharlal Nehru University
 जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय
 Centre of Linguistics & English
 School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies
 New Delhi-110057, India

1009A
 2011/11/04
 11/04/11

Prof. Anvita Abbi
 Director

First Project Report

Yun'shibing Voices of the Great Andamanese

Submitted by the Project Director
 Prof. Anvita Abbi

1.1 The project, *Marshaling Voices of the Great Andamanese*, presently under the directorship of Prof. Anvita Abbi of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, is primarily about documenting the highly endangered Great Andamanese language. The project aims at a detailed descriptive grammar, a split-linguistic descriptive and a dictionary in Great Andamanese, Hindi and English, and an audio archive of all the available oral texts of the nearly extinct Great Andamanese spoken at the Poon Beach Island and in Port Blair. We intend to record the language in its entirety. The project will probe into the phonological and morphological systems of the language so as to reconstruct its core grammar. This may reflect the degree of variation that exists in today's speech, represented by different people in the same community. A major objective to prepare a bilingual pictorial dictionary in Great Andamanese, English and Hindi. A major objective of the project will be preparation of primers and other teaching materials in the language. This could be given back to the community and in particular to the young children of the tribe, who sadly have no other means of learning their language and retaining the vibrant culture as presently there is no transmission of the language from elders to the young.

2.1 Duration: This is a 12-year project which started on 10 September 11. During the last of these years, an employee in the project at the Centre of Linguistics and English, Jawaharlal Nehru University, was sent to Port Blair on 26th February 2011 for the fieldwork. The research staff was allowed to work with the tribe under the permission of the Government of India (G.O. 2002-11, 1009 dated 14th July, 2004) under the project number of 1009A.