

བོད་སྐད་



Importance

- There are innumerable scriptures and books written in this language covering various subjects from the highest philosophy to the account of air, earth, water, space and animals.
- There are hundreds and hundreds of volumes of books in the field of psychology, neuroscience and traditional medicines.
- The age-old wisdom of India, Buddhist philosophy written in Sanskrit, is available in tact only in Tibetan.
- If someone wants to study the Buddhist philosophy complete and thorough, Tibetan is the only language today that can be done.
- The formula of the Buddhist dialectical debate, which is one of the main mediums to study Buddhist wisdom, can be done only in Tibetan.

The 24th International Festival of Raleigh takes place from October 2nd to 4th, 2009 at the Raleigh Convention Center. This year's Cultural Booth theme is language. Therefore, ACT NC created this brochure to highlight the Tibetan language.

=====

3500 Apache Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: 919 862 8624
E-mail tibetawareness@yahoo.com

www.Tibetawareness.com/tibetawareness

བོད་དོན་གོ་རྟོགས་ལྷན་ཁྲིམས་ལེ་ཁང་།

Association Cognizance Tibet

North Carolina

ACT NC



Supporting His Holiness the
Dalai Lama's non-violent
Middle Path approach to
Sino-Tibet issue.

Tibetan Language

Origin

Tibetan language is as old as the Tibetan people are. No record reveals the exact date of Tibetan people, but some geological evidences indicate that the Tibetans have existed at least for over 15,000 years.

Script

During the reign of the 33rd king of Tibet, Songtsen Gampo, 618 – 649 CE, Thonmi Sambhota developed the Tibetan script based on Sanskrit. This able minister, Thonmi Sambhota, did his research on the spoken languages of various parts of Tibet, and formulated the writing. The developmental process of this language has evolved during the past 1,350 years, and it is still on the move.

Family

Tibetan language falls under the Tibeto-Burmese language family. Among the 5 to 7 thousand languages spoken in the world today, Tibetan language ranks one of the oldest.

Usage

The total number of people in the world who speak Tibetan is roughly 7 million. Many researchers use Tibetan to do their research work. Today, Tibetans, who live in the three traditional provinces of Tibet, speak Tibetan. People in Ladakh, Bhutan, and most of the Northern borders of Nepal speak Tibetan. Over, 130,000 Tibetans, who live in exile in the free world, not only speak Tibetan they are leading the language to a new height. Scientific subjects are translated into Tibetan. Textbooks from kindergarten to high school are now available in Tibetan.

Threat

If the sinicization of Tibet goes on as it did during the past 50 years, this language could soon become extinct.

Feature

There are 5 vowels and 30 consonants. They are written like:

5 Vowels:

ཨ་ ཨི་ ཨུ་ ཨོ་ ཨྲ་

30 Consonants:

ཀ་ཁ་ག་ང་ ཅ་ཆ་ཇ་ཉ་ ཏ་ཐ་ད་ན་ པ་ཕ་བ་མ་ ཚ་མ་ཇ་མ་ འ་ཟ་འ་ཡ་ ར་ལ་ག་ས་ ཏ་ཨ།

Uniqueness

Using only one vowel, one can write full article in this language. If one can read one page properly, then all the literature written in this language can be read.

Samples of different ways of writing Tibetan

Uchen

། འདྲེ་བྱེད་ཐམས་ཅད་མི་རྟགས་པ། ཟག་
བཅས་ཐམས་ཅད་སྐྱག་བསྐྱེལ་བ། ཚོས་ཐམས་ཅད་
སློང་ཞིང་བདག་མེད་པ། ལྷ་ཅན་ལས་འདས་པ་ཞི་བ།

Umed

Meaning of the above text

All composite things are impermanent. Everything defiled is suffering. All phenomena are empty and without inherent entity. Nirvana is peace.