

EDITORIAL FOREWORD

This description of the Jero language appears in sequel to the author's Wambule grammar. Jero is related to Wambule and spoken in an adjacent area, but remains different enough to merit a grammar of its own. This volume is testimony to the author's enduring commitment and continued service to the language communities where he stayed and made so many dear friends. The book also contains a historical comparative study of the Kiranti languages, the branch of the Tibeto-Burman language family to which both Jero and Wambule belong. This systematic reconstruction is the most recent and complete study of Proto-Kiranti to date and supersedes all earlier lexical and phonological comparisons of Kiranti languages.

George van Driem

ཐེང་ལྷུག། Thimphu, 5 December 2004

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Dörte Borchers came to Leiden from Göttingen in 1997 and expressed her desire to work on a grammar of an indigenous language of Nepal. In this way she said that she hoped to render service to a native language community of the Himalayas. At that time, and often since, Dörte told me that linguistic fieldwork and the analysis of raw language data were the most delightful and meaningful activities to which she felt privileged to be able to devote a large part of her life. A thoughtful and conscientious approach to the analysis of the data characterises her work.

Dörte was born in Bremen on 6 October 1966, where she grew up and completed her primary and secondary education. Afterwards until 1996, she studied both linguistics and the cultural and religious history of India and Burma at the University of Göttingen and at the Ruprecht Karls University in Heidelberg. She joined the Himalayan Languages Project in Leiden in 1997 and, between 1997 and 2001, conducted her linguistic fieldwork together with her many friends in the Sunwar community in eastern Nepal. The fruits of her efforts have taken the form of this grammar of Sunwar. With this careful study, Dörte had made a substantive contribution to linguistics and rendered a lasting service to the Sunwar people, just as she set out to do in 1997.

George van Driem
Pokhara, 15 January 2008