

Preface

Dr Thupten Kunga Chashab graduated from the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala, India. He came to Warsaw in October 1994, at the invitation of Polish orientalists who addressed His Holiness the 14th Dalai lama during His first visit to Poland in 1993 with the request to depute a Tibetan lecturer. At present Dr. Thupten Kunga Chashab holds the position of lecturer in Tibetan at the Oriental Institute, Warsaw University; he also teaches Tibetan at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

Dr. Thupten Kunga Chashab is one of the very few Tibetan refugees who obtained academic degrees at European universities. In 2001 he got his M.Phil. at the Oslo University* where he studied under supervision of Professor Per Kvaerne, within the framework of a special academic program for Tibetans. After his return to Poland in 2003, Thupten Kunga Chashab obtained a Ph.D. degree at the Warsaw University where he presented his dissertation „System of Classical Tibetan Grammar based on Dngul chu Dharmabhadra’s Treatise *Si tu’i zhal lung* (1806)”, which has been prepared under the supervision of the undersigned.

The present work is a revised version of his doctoral dissertation. It contains an introduction on the beginnings and development of Tibetan grammar and a discussion of some knotty points of Tibetan grammar, an edition and annotated English translation of Dharmabhadra’s commentary *Si tu’i zhal lun* from 1806, together with the transliterated and translated Tibetan root grammar texts of *Sum cu pa* and *Rtags kyi ’jug pa*, as parts of the main work, as well as the appendices and a glossary of grammatical terms.

The work of Dr. Thupten Kunga Chashab is a valuable contribution to the study of Tibetan grammar, presented from the standpoint of tradi-

* *The Lives of Dngul Chu Yab Sras; including a study of religious expenditure and Tibetan monetary system in the 19th century*, M. Phil. Thesis, University of Oslo, 2001. Published as an article: “A Study of Religious Expenditure in Tibet in the 19th Century Based on the Biography of Dharmabhadra”, *Acta Orientalia* 63:2002, pp. 175-206.

tional Tibetan learning. For the first time, a full translation of Dngul chu Dharmabhadra's *Si tu 'i Zhal lung*, one of the most important commentaries in the long tradition of Tibetan grammar, is now available in a European language. I am convinced that the present work will provide a stimulus to the further, more comprehensive research on traditional Tibetan grammar.

Warsaw, November 2006

Marek Mejer