In the past few years, spoken Tibetan has become increasingly popular in the Western world. More and more tourists, students, and scholars are travelling across the cultural areas between Tibet and other Tibetan regions. Western Tibetans are in turn employed in the tourism sector, which is rare to see Western tourists enjoying a walk around the Barkhor market in Lhasa trying to speak or utter some commonly memorized Tibetan words and phrases to smiling shopkeepers and amused pilgrims. A well-written and all-round practical textbook is what we were all waiting for.

Central Tibetan for business, work, or pilgrimage. However, as far as I know, most Tibetans hardly use this term to refer to any ‘common Tibetan’ language. ‘Shakal’ is one of the many terms used by the Western scholars. However, it specifically translates the term pb lung shad, or common speech (of the Chinese language). While the people of Lhasa, for instance, usually refer to their spoken language as Lhasa kha (Lhasa dialect), it is called ‘Tibetan’ by the Chinese (zhi mao kyi spyi skad slob dey). Most Khampas (northeastern Tibetans) still refer to it as skad, or Tibetan language. The second part of the textbook (pp. 55-361) is divided into forty-one lessons reflecting a quadruplate scheme: dialogue, new words, commentary, and exercises. The dialogues have been tailored to a true-life situation that I find essential in learning a spoken language. Situational dialogues such as ‘com- munication on pilgrimage’, ‘at the football match’, ‘the Banakshöl’, ‘in the kitchen’, and in addition to test readings such as A kho ston pa’s Sang (The Tale of Aku ston paa), lead the reader step-by-step into the world of speech and the richness of its language. The authors have included occasional but clever sidebars, called civiliza- tion, which give a very concise but practical overview of some features of the Tibetan way of life. The third section is devoted to the description of the dis- tinctive characteristics of classical Tibetan, and spoken Tibetan. Here the student will find rubrics dedicated to Tibetan literature (pp. 362), the ‘song of separation’ (pp. 362), and more speech differences between classical and spoken Tibetan (pp. 371-408). A series of six ‘Annexes’ (pp. 411-28), giving the work an even more definitive linguistic imprint, are consecrated to the description of Tibetan grammar and phonology. A section is devoted to the use of honorific forms, and the features of for- mal speech that are often masked. Here Nicolas Tournadre and Sangda Dorje introduce us to the complexities of the lan- guage, which may require the use of four different honorific forms, especially in Lhasa and in certain circumstances. The last three lessons are devoted to expressions borrowed from other languages, nouns, verbs, and grammar tables.

The already thick book contains two glossaries (pp. 479-549), both of which are short and present everyday terms. The French-Tibetan and Tibetan-French glossaries together contain more than 4,600 entries.

The Manual is also worth praising for its accompanying dou- ble CD set, containing readings by three Tibetan speakers including the author, which makes learning the language much easier with all of the same speed variations. While these readings cover a major portion of the phonology sections, dialogues, and tests from each lesson, it is a shame that the important ‘new words’ list is not included on the CDs. As a result, students need to read and memorize quite a large number of Tibetan words with- nothing to rely on other than the given phonetic transcripts.

The well-written manual makes this book a good travel compan- nion or pocket manual for quick reference on Tibetan travel- els and tours. However, overall, the Manual is a well-written and complete cutting-edge grammar and textbook, making immediate communication in Tibetan accessible for everyone.

By Antonio Terrone

A book about not Asia, not even about the Pacific Rim, Culture and Sustainable Development in the Pacific is instead about the Pacific region in the strict sense of the term. The strategic importance of the Pacific, both by the US and the Asian economic tigers, especially over the past two decades, does in most other regions of the world. Pacific countries have therefore also constitutional functions that are in the substance sec- tors of matter and culture that carry considerable political weight. Most Pacific countries are democratic, but since the electorate determines a great proportion of its livelihood from the substance sec- tors, matters of culture and tradition carry considerable political weight. Most Pacific countries are therefore also constitutional functions that are in the substance sec- tors of matter and culture that carry considerable political weight. Most Pacific countries are democratic, but since the electorate determines a great proportion of its livelihood from the substance sec- tors, matters of culture and tradition carry considerable political weight. Most Pacific countries are democratic, but since the electorate determines a great proportion of its livelihood from the substance sec- tors, matters of culture and tradition carry considerable political weight.