

A Preliminary Survey of the Kurtoep Verb
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Kurtoep is an East Bodish language of eastern Bhutan (Lhuntse Province). It is very closely related to Bumthang (van Driem 1995) and Cuona Monpa (Lu 1986), and also quite close to Tibetan. This paper will present an overview of the verbal system, including 1) morphophonemic alternations reflecting older stem-final consonants, 2) newer tense/aspect morphology, and 3) a first glimpse at the complex (and typically Bodish) evidential system. The data will be discussed in the light of comparative facts from other Bodish languages, particularly Tibetan, Cuona, and Tshangla. Implications of the Kurtoep data include strong evidence for shared regional, pan-Bodish phonological and grammatical developments long after the original divergence of Tibetan and East Bodish, as well as evidence bearing on the origin and development of other grammatical features of Tibetan, e.g. conclusive evidence of a copular origin for the Tibetan locative postposition *na*.