

# Part 1.

## Introduction

### 1. Objectives and approach

The present book is a revised version of my Ph.D. dissertation. It consists of five parts, three appendices<sup>1</sup> and a glossary. The introductory chapter consists of a general overview of classical Tibetan grammar which has its basis in two known root texts, *Sum cu pa* and *Rtags kyi 'jug pa*: a brief history, its authorship, its development and its place in the modern Tibetan language. In explanatory remarks I have tried to present a number of points which have not been widely examined by modern Tibetan and Western scholars, raising for discussion certain problems the Tibetans themselves face in their grammar. This discussion is not only a discussion of the problem of the commentaries examined but is, in a wider sense, an examination of the general problems of classical Tibetan grammar.

I have tried my best to offer to readers some ideas and a new approach on the points which I have discussed. One should, however, keep in mind that the discussions carried out here are presented from the point of view of traditional Tibetan grammar, and not from the point of view of European linguistics.

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<sup>1</sup> My papers on *Mkhas pa 'i kha rgyan*, which is found in the appendix, and on the function of particles *la, na* and the insertion of the instrumental case in Part 2 (explanatory remarks), were presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Seminar of Tibetan Studies in Oxford and that Tuebingen University (B114 research project), respectively.