

influence of Hinduism on the Rongkhols (sic. Hrangkhols) is observed in case of eating of meats also."²⁵ Their favourite dishes are **chang-al an**, mixture of vegetables, meats cooked with soda from ash (alleys); **an irmung** (cooked vegetables with hot-chillies in bamboo containers), etc. All these preparation are served with rice. Drinking red tea is common.

The Hrangkhols are very fond of drinking indigenous rice-beer which is called '**zu**'. It is important in every occasion. The **zu** (liquor) makes the people intoxicant, eventually leads to quarrelling, fighting one another. They also smoke the indigenous product of tobacco. However, Soppitt noted, "The Rangkols seldom smoke..."²⁶

Drug like **kani** (opium) had been used in Hrangkhol community. It was said that the opium was introduced by the British people when they occupied the North Cachar and South Cachar in early nineteenth century. Opium patta shop was opened at Haflong, N.C. Hills. ²⁷ As a result, they became addicted to opium whereupon they expense a lot of money, and eventually led to a bad society of Hrangkhols.

F. SOCIO-CULTURAL LIFE

1. Family structure and inheritance:

The Hrangkhol family is a patriachal system. The father is the head who exercised an arbitrary power in the family matter, while the mother is only to take care of their children and house-keeping. Having conversation and gossiping within family is very rare.²⁸ Even a husband never address his wife by

²⁵ B.N. Bordoloi and G.C. Sharmah Thakur (eds.), *Tribes of Assam*, Part II, Guwahati, 1988, p.52.

²⁶ C.A. Soppitt, "*A Short Account of the Kuki-Lushai Tribes on the North-East Frontier with An outline Grammer of the Rangkhoh-Lushai Language*, Reprinted, Aizawl, 1976, p.11.

²⁷ E.D. Suchiang, "My reminiscence of Haflong Town (prior to 1947)," in *100th of Haflong Centenary Commemorative Souvenir (1895-1995)*, Haflong, 1995, p.121.

²⁸ Dangliana, *Hrangkhawl Itham*, p.23.