

because these signs have been so long employed to denote the usual, though vague distinctions of *grave*, *acute* and *circumflex* accents, and *long* and *short* syllables, that they would perpetually mislead readers of every nation; besides, it may be found useful to reserve them, to be placed over those syllables which in English we call *accented*, in order to denote that part of a word, upon which the greatest force, or stress of the voice falls in pronunciation.*

The elegant scholar, with whose remarks I have introduced this subject, and from whose well-considered opinions no man should dissent without great hesitation, after observing, that “our English alphabet and orthography are disgracefully and almost ridiculously imperfect,” recommends, for the purpose of denoting modifications of this kind, the adoption of “some of the marks used in our treatises on fluxions;” and accordingly in his notation of Asiatick words, he makes use of either one, two, or three points placed over the letters, thus, z, z, z.† This notation has the

* Eliot employed two of the accents in the following manner: “We use,” says he, “onely two Accents, and but sometime. The *acute* (´) to shew which syllable is first *produced* in pronouncing of the word; which, if it be not attended to, no nation can understand their own language; as appeareth by the witty conceit of the *Tityre tu’s*: ó produced with the accent is a regular distinction betwixt the first and second persons plural of the Suppositive Mode; as

Naumog, if we see (as in *Log*)

Naumóg, if ye see (as in *Vogue*.)

The other accent is (˘) which I call *nasal*; and it is used only upon (ó) when it is sounded in the nose, as oft it is; or upon (á) for the like cause.” *Indian Grammar*, p. 3. These *nasal* sounds may be more conveniently designated in the manner adopted in the *Polish* language, which will be mentioned in a subsequent part of this paper.

† Dissertation, in Jones’ Works, vol. i. p. 186.