Chapter 9

Conclusion

The present work provides the structural description of Anal in the Chandel district of Manipur. The Anal language is one of the Kuki-Chin-Naga sub-groups of the Tibeto- Burman sub-family of languages. On the basis of the structural analysis, the following conclusion can be drawn:

(i) Anal exhibits the basic six-vowel system found in Proto-Kuki-Chin and most of its descendants. Six vowels in the language are /*i, e, a, ə, o* and *u*/.All the six vowels are voiced and oral. Moreover, they also can occur in all the three positions of the word i.e., initial, medial and final positions.

(ii) There are twenty three consonant phonemes /*p, b, t, d, k, č, ǰ,* p^h, t^h, k^h, *m̥, n̥* , *hŋ, m, n, ŋ, s, h, l̥, l, r̥, r* and *v* / in Anal. However, all the consonantal phonemes cannot occur in all the three positions.

(iii) Anal has eight stops consisting of unaspirated voiceless /*p, t, k*/, aspirated voiceless stops /p^h, t^h, k^h / and unaspirated voiced stops /*b, d*/. It is observed that the unaspirated voiced stop /*g*/ is absent in the language. The absence of unaspirated voiced stop /*g*/ is one of the typical features of Kuki-Chin languages as shared by Anal.

(iv) There are six nasal sounds in Anal i.e., the voiced /*m, n,* and *ŋ*/ and the voiceless / *m̥, n̥, ŋ̥*/, out of them voiced nasals occur in all the three positions viz., initially, medially and finally however, voiceless nasals occur only in the initial and medial positions of words.

(v) There are two rhotics, voiced rhotic /*r*/ and voiceless rhotic /*r̥*/ and also two lateral sounds viz., the voiced lateral /*l*/ and the voiceless lateral /*l̥*/ in the language.

(vi) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, aspiration is phonemic in the language and the voicing is also one of distinctive features in the case of consonantal phonemes in Anal.

(vii) The absence of */z/* is very common in Kuki-Chin languages of Northeast India and it reflects in the phonological structure of Anal.

(viii) Like the majority of Tibeto-Burman languages, Anal is a tone language in which a change in the pitch of the syllable corresponds to a change in its meaning. The number of contrasting tones in Anal is two i.e., Anal has two contrastive lexical tones.

(ix) Like many other Kuki-Chin languages, consonant clusters are very rare in Anal. However a few numbers of consonant clusters are found syllable initially conversely, no consonant clusters are found syllable finally as many other Tibeto-Burman languages do.

(x) The syllable in Anal consists of a nucleus with or without an onset and with or without a coda. The nucleus or peak in the language is always a vowel. In other words, the vowel element is essential to the structure of Anal syllable; that is, a syllable is not possible without the vowel element.

(xi) Structurally, nouns in Anal can be defined as a class of word that can be postposed by morphemes for gender */-pa, -pu, -nu/* etc., plural */-rul/, /-hin/* and */je/,* and cases */-tuŋ, -ki, -ha/* etc.

(xii) Number is not grammaticalised in almost all the Tibeto-Burman Languages, except a few Kuki-Chin languages. Anal being a Kuki-Chin language of the region exhibits the typological feature of the Kuki-Chin languages as subject-verb agreement and object-verb agreement is present as far as person/number is concerned.

(xiii) Anal has no grammatical gender. The gender distinction in Anal is natural i.e., all the male comes under the masculine and all the female comes under the feminine. All inanimate things fall under the neuter gender.

(xiv) There are no gender distinctions of any kind in Anal pronouns however the singular-plural distinctions are found in pronouns. Pronouns in Anal are sub-class of nouns nevertheless, they are distinguished from the nouns by the criterion of person i.e., pronouns can be used in all three persons whereas nouns always use in the third person.

(xv) Like many other Kuki-Chin languages, Anal has exclusive-inclusive distinction only in the case of first person plural pronoun such as *nihin* 'we (exclusive) vs. *ənihin* 'we (inclusive)'.

(xvi) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, numeral system in Anal is of decimal type. The vigesimal system is totally absent in the numeral system of the language. It is also stated that the majority of the numeral roots in the language are mono-morphemic and bi-morphemic numerals are combination of numeral root plus prefixes as in *ə-k^{h}e* 'one', *ə-t^{h}um* 'three', *pə-li* 'four', *pə-ŋa* 'five' etc.

(xvii) As in many other Tibeto-Burman languages, case relations in Anal are expressed by means of postpositions. Case relation in Anal is expressed by postposing the case markers to the nouns or pronouns.

(xviii) Most of the adjectives in Anal are derived from the stative verbs by adding derivational prefixes *i-*. It is one the common phenomena to form adjectives in most of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Southeast Asia.

(xix) In Anal, verbs can be defined as roots that can take the morphemes for aspects, moods, causative etc. Like many other Kuki-Chin languages, verbs in Anal are marked for persons and numbers except for the case of genders. Interestingly, the monosyllabic verbs are very common in Anal as many other Tibeto-Burman languages do.

(xx) Like many other Kuki-Chin languages, tense is not distinctive in Anal. So the aspect commonly is an important part of the representation of time in Anal as most of the Tibeto-Burman languages do. Anal has five aspectual distinctions: (i) simple (ii) progressive (iii) perfective (iv) irrealis and (v) completive.

(xxi) As in many other Kuki-Chin languages, Anal has a system of pronominal prefixes accompanying verbs which show agreement between the verb and its subject and object arguments.

(xxii) In Anal, noun phrase consists of the head noun which is usually followed by one or more modifiers. Generally modifiers may be adjective, a possessive, a numeral, or a quantifier.

(xxiii) Like many other languages in the world, Anal verb phrase must have a verb, whereas NPs or adverbs are optionally present in the phrase. In other words, the core of a verb phrase is a verbal nucleus consisting of one or more verbs i.e., either lexical or be verbs. This V nucleus may be either preceded or followed by adverbials of different types: time, place, manner and so on.

(xxiv) Anal exhibits the characteristic features of Kuki-Chin languages, as pronouns can be dropped in the sentences and the pronominal prefixes are attached to the verbs conveying the meaning of subjects.

(xxv) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages (not almost all), Anal displays the strong agreement system, either in the form of prefix or suffix. The language possesses the well-built agreement system both for subject and object for all persons except for the third person object agreement and plural number.

(xxvi) Nominalization and relativization in Anal is often made in the same morphosyntactic process. In other words, there is no morpho-syntactic difference between relative clause and nominalized clause in the language. There are three nominalizers in the language: (i) general nominalizer *i-* (ii) agentive nominalizer -*ča* (iii) locative nominalizer -*na.*

(xxvii) Pronominalization is one of the morphological features shared by Tibeto-Burman languages. Anal, being a Tibeto-Burman language has nominal pronominalization i.e., the pronominal prefixes are attached to the nominal roots that expresses the sense of possession.

(xxviii) Anal does not have the lexical causative as most of the Kuki-Chin languages do. However, the language possesses the morphological causative marker *pə~pi~pe* which is prefix to the verb root.

(xxix) There are three basic types of clauses viz. declarative, interrogative and imperative. Declarative clauses in Anal are usually the normal, unmarked clause type. Structurally declarative clause can be categorized into two types: (i) verbal predicate and (ii) non-verbal predicate. The verbal predicate in Anal is formed by the verb i.e., the verb is the predicator of the verbal predicate. Non-verbal predicate is formed with either copula *va* ~ *və* or copular verb *əm*.

(xxx) Most of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India, the interrogative clause in Anal is formed by using question word or question particle, sometimes both are used jointly to form the interrogative clause. In Anal, four strategies are employed to form interrogative clause viz. (i) by using question word (ii) by using question particle (iii) by using question word and particle (iv) by using rising intonation.

(xxxi) The imperative clause in Anal is signaled by the particles *va* for the singular and *k^{h}in* for the plural numbers which are being attached to the verb root in the post-verbal position.

(xxxii) Reflexivization in Anal is expressed by means of reflexive morpheme *-da* 'self' which is mainly attached to the corresponding noun or pronoun/pronominal prefix.

(xxxiii) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, negation in Anal is expressed by means of affixation particularly the prefixation and suffixation. There are two negators in Anal: (i) *mə* and (ii) *-mi.* Interestingly, the negator *mə* can occur in both pre and post verbal positions, whereas the negator *-mi* can only occur in the post-verbal position.

(xxxiv) Like many other south Asian languages, the basic order of the words in unmarked sentences in Anal is Subject, object, Verb (SOV). As many other SOV languages, Anal maintains the alternate order of words i.e., OSV.