DECLARATION

I Sapam Sangita Chanu, bearing Registration No. Ph.D/1544/2011 dated 19.09.2011, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled **"A DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAROF ZEME"** is the record of work done by me and that the content of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University/Institution.

This thesis is being submitted to Assam University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics.

Place : Candidate

Dtae : (Sapam Sangita Chanu)

AKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would like express my heartiest gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Kh. Dhiren Singha, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar for his guidance and support to complete my dissertation successfully. Without his inspiration and guidance my work would not be possible to complete.

I am also greatly thankful to all the faculty members of the Department of Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar for their inspiration and encouragement.

I am also thankful to Mr. Sabir Ahmed, non-teaching staff, Department of Linguistics Assam University, Silchar for helping me when I get confused in every official work during my research work.

I would like to thank each and every individual of Zeme community for welcoming me into their village lives and sharing their language and culture with me during my field visit. I specially want to thank Aringting Newme, Menjale Newme and their family for their warm welcome and hospitality during my stay for field work and helping me at every stage of writing my dissertation till completion.

I would like thank all the senior scholars, my base mate and junior at the department of Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar for their moral support and encouragement in completion of my dissertation.

I also would like to thank to my junior Aheibam Linthoingambi Chanu for accompanying me during my first visit to the field place (Tousem).

I specially would like to thank my dear junior and my roommate Loitongbam Sarankumari Devi for her moral and physical support in every step during my research work.

I would also like to thank my junior Leichombam Muhindro Singh (Ph.D scholar dept. of Biotechnology) for helping me while I get any difficulty during my research work.

I would also like to extend my thanks to my dear juniors Dr. Laishram Bijenkumar Singh and Dr.Waikhom Pinky Devi for their incredible help and encouragement in every step of my research work.

Last but not the least, I am very thankful to my parents, my elder sister and my brother in law for supporting and encouraging me in every steps of this journey. Without their support it would not be possible for me to complete this research work.

Place: Assam University

Date: (Sapam Sangita Chanu)

Table of Contents

Certificate……..……. I

Declaration…….. II

Acknowledgements……..... III

Table of contents……. IV

List of tables……... VI

List of figures…….....VII

Abbreviations……..... VIII

Maps

Chapter 1 Introduction……..... 1

1.1. Language and People……... 1

1.2. Geographical and Demographical Distribution …..... 2

1.3. Genetic Affiliation..... 3

1.4. Literary and Cultural background…….… 7

1.5. Script…… 9

1.6. Education…… 10

1.7. Bilingualism/Multilingualism…….…… 10

1.8. Attitude of the Speaker……..….. 11

1.9. Data and Methodology……...…. 11

Chapter 2 Review of Literature…….....… 12

Chapter 3 Phonology…….…… 16

3.1. Phonemic Inventory…….…… 16

3.1.1. Vowels…….……. 16

3.1.2. Consonant…….……. 17

3.2. Tone…….…….. 18

3.3. Contrasting pairs…… 20

3.3.1. Vowels…….……. 20

3.3.2. Consonants……..……. 22

3.4. Distribution of phonemes……..……. 27

3.4.1. Vowels……..... 27

3.4.2. Consonants…….…… 31

3.5. Diphthongs……..…….. 46

3.5.1. Distribution of diphthongs…… 47

3.6. Consonant sequence…….…… 51

3.6.1. Gemination ……..…….. 51

3.6.2. Homorganic……..……..… 51

3.6.3. Contiguous……...…….. 53

3.7. Syllabic Structures…….. 53

3.7.1. Monosyllabic words……... 54

3.7.1.1. Open syllable…… 56

3.7.1.2. Closed syllable……..... 57

3.7.2. Disyllabic words…… 55

3.7.2.1. Open syllable…… 55

3.7.2.2. Closed syllable…….. 56

3.7.3. Trisyllabic words……..... 56

3.7.3.1. Open syllable…….……... 56

3.7.3.2. Closed syllable…….. 57

Chapter 4 Noun morphology……..……... 58

4.1. Noun……...…….. 58

4.1.1. Basic Nouns…… 58

4.1.1.1. Monosyllabic mono-morphemic nouns……... 58

4.1.1.2. Disyllabic mono-morphemic nouns……. 59

4.1.1.3. Tri-syllabic mono-morphemic nouns……... 59

4.1.2. Derived Noun…… 60

4.1.3. Compound Nouns……..… 61

4.1.3.1. Noun + Noun……..……. 61

4.1.3.2. Noun + Adjective…….……..……. 62

4.1.4. Semantic types of nouns……..……..……. 62

4.1.4.1. Common nouns…… 63

4.1.4.2. Proper noun…….. 67

4.2. Gender…….. 69

4.2.1. By using opposite lexical items…….. 69

4.2.2. By using *pəiyu* and *pui*……... 70

4.2.3. By using *səi* and *pui*…… 70

4.2.4. By using *re* and *pui*……. 71

4.2.5. Neuter gender……. 71

4.3. Number…… 72

4.3.1. Pluralisation of Personal Pronoun……74

4.3.2. Pluralisation of demonstartive pronouns…… 75

4.3.3. Pluralisation of kinship terms…… 75

4.4. Numerals……...…… 77

4.4.1. Cardinal numerals……. 78

4.4.1.1. Basic numerals……. 78

4.4.1.2. Compound numerals……. 79

4.4.1.2.1. Additive compound numerals…… 79

4.4.1.2.2. Multiplicative compound numerals…….. 82

4.4.1.2.3. Multiplicative cum additive compound numerals ……..... 86

4.4.2. Numerals in Noun Phrase construction ……. 88

4.4.3. Ordinals numerals……... 90

4.4.4. Fractional numerals…… 91

4.4.5. Multiplicative numerals……..… 91

4.4.6. Distributive numerals…….…… 92

4.4.7. Restrictive numerals……...…… 93

4.4.8. Approximate numerals……...…… 93

4.5. Case and postpositions…….…… 94

4.5.1. Nominative Case……. 95

4.5.2. Accusative Case…….…… 97

4.5.3. Dative Case…… 98

4.5.4. Locative Case……. 99

4.5.5. Genitive Case……..100

4.5.6. Instrumental Case……102

4.5.7. Associative case……..103

4.5.8. Ablative Case …….….105

4.6. Pronouns…….…. 106

4.6.1. Personal pronoun ……..... 107

4.6.2. Demonstrative pronoun…….……. 107

4.6.2.1. Proximate …….…. 108

4.6.2.2. Remote…….…. 109

4.6.3. Interrogative pronoun……..…… 111

4.6.3.1. Basic interrogative……..…..…111

4.6.3.2. Derived interrogative……..…..…111

4.6.4. Reflexive pronoun…….…… 113

4.6.5. Indefinite pronoun……..… 114

Chapter 5 Verb Morphology……..… 117

5.1. Verbs…….……117

5.1.1. Simple verbs……...…… 117

5.1.1.1. Monosyllabic verb……... 118

5.1.1.1.1. Open monosyllabic verb roots…….. 118

5.1.1.1.2. Closed monosyllabic verb roots…… 119

5.1.1.2.1. Disyllabic verb……..... 119

5.1.1.2.1.1. Open disyllabic verb roots……... 119

5.1.1.2.1.2. Closed disyllabic verb roots…….. .. 120

5.1.2. Compound verb…….……... 121

5.1.2.1. Verb + Verb (V+V)……...… 121

5.2. Classes of verbs……..…….… 122

5.2.1. Transitive……...……..…….. 122

5.2.1.1. Mono-transitive……...…….…… 122

5.2.1.2. Ditransitive…… 124

5.2.2. Intransitive……...…….. 125

5.3. Semantic classification of verbs……..... 127

5.3.1. Verbs of action……..…….. 127

5.3.2. Verbs of cognition……..... 127

5.3.3. Verbs of cooking…… 128

5.3.4. Verbs of existence……...…...… 128

5.3.5. Verbs of grooming……..... 128

5.3.6. Verbs of instrument/fighting……..... 129

5.3.7. Verbs of motion……...…....129

5.3.8. Verbs of occupation…… 129

5.3.9. Others verbs…… 130

5.4. Tense/Aspect……...……. 130

5.4.1. Simple Aspect……. 131

5.4.2. Progressive Aspect……. 132

5.4.3. Perfective Aspect…….133

5.4.4. Irrealis Aspect……...…….....135

5.5. Mood……. 136

5.5.1. Imperative mood……..….. 136

5.5.2. Permissive mood…….… 140

5.5.3. Capability mood…….…… 141

5.5.4. Obligatory mood……. 142

5.5.5. Probability mood…… 143

5.5.6. Conditional mood……... 144

5.5.7. Necessity mood……..... 146

5.5.8. Intensive mood……..... 147

5.5.9. Optative mood…… 148

5.6. Adjectives…….……...……. 149

5.6.1. Semantic types of adjectives ……. 149

5.6.1.1. Adjectives denoting quality…….. 150

5.6.1.2. Adjective denoting quantity……. 150

5.6.1.3. Adjectives of dimension……...…… 150

5.6.1.4. Adjectives of taste…… 151

5.6.1.5. Adjectives of colour…….…… 151

5.6.1.6. Adjective of comparison……..…… 151

5.7. Adverbs…….… 152

5.7.1. Classification of Adverbs……... 153

5.7.1.1. Simple adverbs…….… 153

5.7.1.2. Derived adverbs…… 154

5.7.1.2.1. Derivation of adverbs from noun…... 154

5.7.1.2.2. Derivation of adverb from stative verbs……..… 154

5.7.2. Semantic classification of adverbs…….. 155

5.7.2.1. Adverb of manner…….… 155

5.7.2.2. Adverb of time……..….156

5.7.2.3. Adverbs of location and direction…….… 157

5.7.2.4. Adverbs of degree…….….157

Chapter 6 Constituent Order……. 159

6.1. Basic constituent order…….……. 159

6.2. Order of subject and verb…….……..… 160

6.3. The order of noun and adjectival……..…… 161

6.4. Order of noun and demonstratives…… 162

6.5. Order of numerals and noun…….. 164

6.6. Order of genitive and noun…… 166

6.7. Order of specifier and adjectival……...… 167

6.9. Order of verb and adverb……...…… 168

6.10. Order of verb and negative particle……... 169

6.11. Order of verb and question particle……... 170

6.13. Order of noun, numeral and adjectival…….. 171

6.14. Order of noun plus adjectival and quantifiers……... 173

6.15. Order of relative clause and noun…….. 174

6.16. Order of verb and imperative marker…… 175

6.17. Zeme and Greenberg Universals……... 176

6.17.1. *Universal 1*…… 176

6.17.2. *Universal 4* ……..... 177

6.17.3. *Universal 7*…… 178

6.17.4. *Universal 9*…… 179

6.17.5. *Universals 14*……. 180

6.17.6. *Universal 22*……... 181

6.17.7. *Universal 27*……..… 183

6.17.8. *Universal 36*…….. 184

6.17.9. *Universal 39*…….. 186

6.17.10. *Universal 40*…… 187

6.17.11. *Universals 41*……... 188

6.17.12. *Universals 42*……... 189

Chapter 7 Phrase Structure……...……. 190

7.1. Noun phrase……190

7.2. Noun phrase with adjectival……..… 190

7.3. Noun phrase with double adjectival…….. 192

7.4. Noun phrase with demonstrative…….. 194

7.5. Noun phrase with demonstrative plus adjectival…..… 195

7.6. Noun phrase with quantifiers……..… 197

7.7. Noun phrase with numerals……... 198

7.8. Noun phrase with adjectival and specifiers……..… 200

7.9. Noun phrase with postpositions…… 201

7.10. Co-ordinate noun phrase…… 202

7.10.1. Conjunctive…… 203

7.10.2. Disjunctive……. 204

7.11. Verb phrase…… 205

Chapter 8 Clause and its Sentence Structure…… 209

8.1. Zeme clause types……. 209

8.1.1. Declarative clause…… 209

8.1.1.1. Declarative verbal clause…….. 209

8.1.1.2. Declarative non-Verbal clause…….. 209

8.1.1.2.1. Nominal construction …… 211

8.1.1.2.2. Existential/locative/possessive clause…….. 213

8.1.2. Imperative clause…….… 215

8.1.3. Interrogative clause……. 217

8.1.3.1. By using question word…… 217

8.1.3.2. By using question particle…… 218

8.1.3.3. By using question word and question particle..219

8.1.3.4. By using rising intonation…….… 221

8.1.4. Adverbial clause……..… 222

8.1.5. Temporal clause……...224

8.1.6. Desiderative clause……..225

8.1.7. Conditional clause……... 226

8.1.8. Relativisation ……..229

8.1.8.1. Head relative clause……...……229

8.1.8.2. Headless relative clause…… 230

8.1.8.2.1. Subject relative clause…… 231

8.1.8.2.2. Object relative clause…… 233

8.2. Nominalization……... 234

8.2.1. Derivational nominalization…… 234

8.2.1.1. Nominalizer –*be*…….… 235

8.2.1.2. Nominalizer –*be*……. 235

8.3. Pronominalization……..237

8.3.1. Kinship terms……...238

8.3.2. Body parts……238

8.3.3. Objects……238

8.4. Causativisation…….. 239

8.5. Reflexivization……...240

8.6. Negation…….…242

8.6.1. Negation in declarative clause ……242

8.6.1.1. Negation in verbal predicate…….… 243

8.6.1.2. Negation in nominal predicate…….. 244

8.6.2. Negation in existential/possessive/ locative

Construction…….. 245

8.6.2.1. Existential……. 245

8.6.2.2. Possessive……..247

8.6.2.3. Locative…….248

8.6.3. Negation in interrogative clause……. 250

8.6.4. Negative Prohibitive (imperative)……. 251

8.6.5. Negative hortative……... 252

8.6.6. Negation in nominalised clause……..… 254

8.6.7. Negative infinitive pronouns…….. 255

8.6.8. Negative interjection……... 256

8.6.9. Negative strengthening……... 258

8.6.10. Negative conditional…….… 259

8.7. Interrogative…….. 260

8.7.1. Yes/No question……. 260

8.7.2. Wh question…… 262

8.7.3. Alternative question ……... 268

8.7.4. Tag question……... 268

8.8. Types of sentences…… 270

8.8.1. Simple sentence…….. 270

8.8.2. Complex sentence…… 271

8.8.3. Compound sentence…… 273

Chapter 9 Conclusion…… 275

Bibliography……... 285

Appendix I Folk story ……..297

Appendix II Folk story……...302

Appendix III Zeme Vocabulary……. 305

List of Tables

Table no. 1. Vowel phonemes of Zeme……16

Table no. 2. Consonant phonemes in Zeme……...17

Table no. 3. Tones in Zeme……...18

Table no. 4. Zeme monosyllabic open syllable……54

Table no. 5. Zeme monosyllabic closed syllable……...55

Table no. 6. Zeme disyllabic open syllable……...55

Table no. 7. Zeme disyllabic closed syllable……56

Table no. 8. Zeme tri-syllabic open syllable……..56

Table no. 9. Zeme tri-syllabic closed syllable……...57

Table no. 10. Kinship terms ……63

Table no. 11. Pluralization of personal pronouns……74

Table no. 12. Basic Numerals in Zeme ……...78

Table no. 13. Case markers in Zeme ……..95

Table no. 14. Personal pronouns in Zeme ……107

Table no. 15. Aspects in Zeme ……130

Table no. 16. Derived Adjectives in Zeme ……...149

Table no. 17. Pronominal Categories in Zeme……..189

List of Figure

Fig no.1. Genetic Classification of Sino-Tibetan Groups, from Benedict (1972:6)……..3

Fig no.2. Genetic Classification of Kuki-Chin-Naga group according to Bradley (1997)……4

Fig no.3. Classification of Sino-Tibetan languages by Matisoff (2001)……..5

Fig no.4. Genetic Classification of Tibeto-Burman languages according to Burling (2003)……6

List of Maps

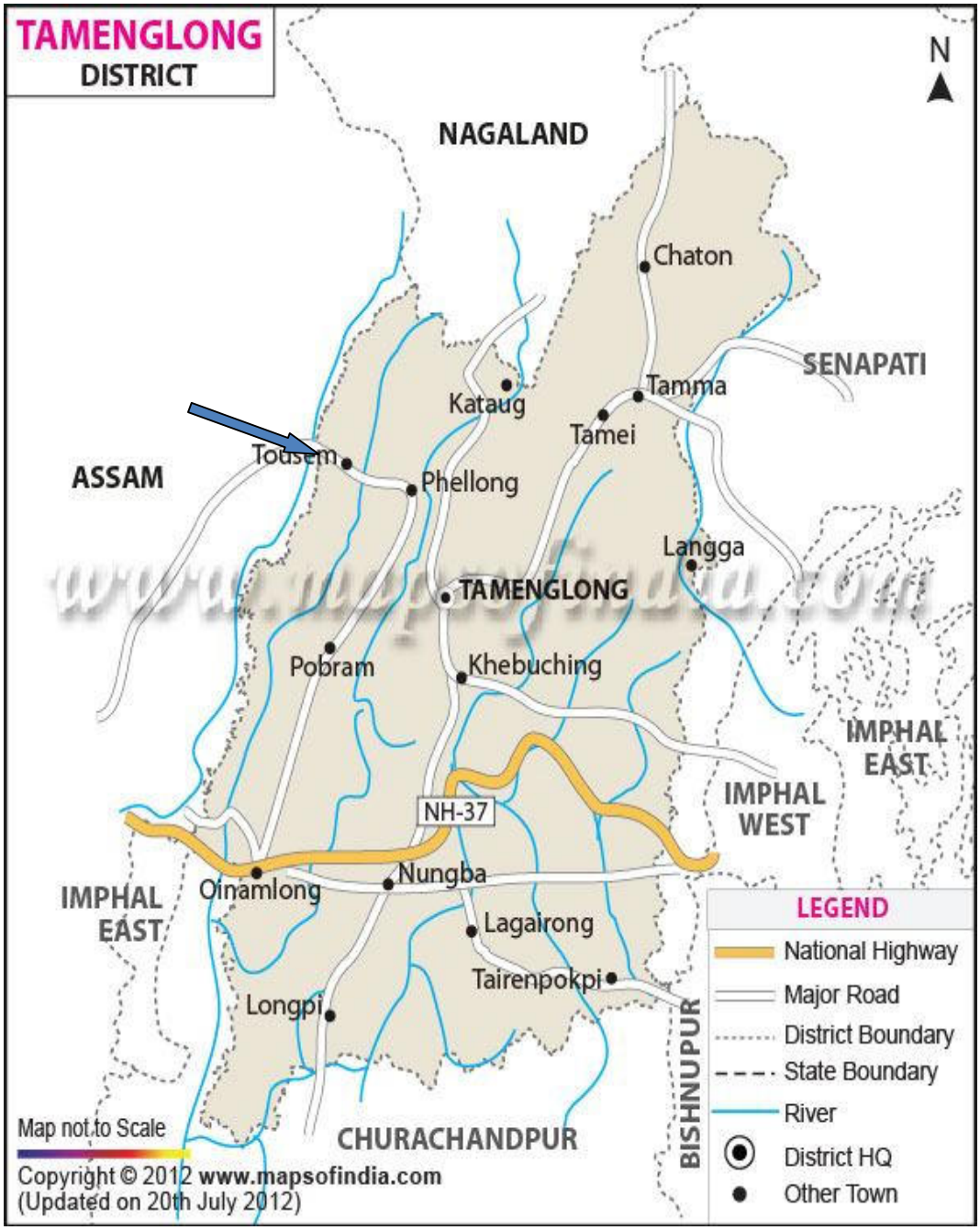
Map1. Map of India showing Manipur…….xxi

Map2. Map of Manipur showing Tamenglong district……xxii

Map3. Map of Tamenglong district showing Zeme speaking area Tousem. ……..xxiii

Map1. Map of India showing Manipur

Map2. Map of Manipur showing Tamenglong district



Map3. Map of Tamenglong district showing Zeme speaking area Tousem

ABBREVIATIONS

List of abbreviations and symbols:

ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
ADJV	adjectival
ADV	adverbial
ASP	aspect
ASS	associative
C	consonant
CAP	capability
CAUS	causative
CER	certainity
COND	conditional
CONJ	conjunctive
DAT	dative
DECL	declarative
DEM	demonstrative
DES	desiderative

DISJ	disjunctive
EVD	evidential
EXIST	existential
EMP	emphatic
F	female
GEN	genitive
HONF	honorific
HOR	hortative
IMP	imperative
INST	instrumental
INT	interrogative
INTS	intensifier
IRS	irrealis
LOC	locative
N	noun
NEG	negative
NOM	nominative
NP	noun phrase

NUM	numeral
NMZ	nominalizer
OBL	obligatory
OPT	optional
PERF	perfective
PERM	permissive
PROB	probability
PROH	prohibitive
PROG	progressive
PL	plural
POL	polite
POST	post position
Q	question particle
QM	question marker
QUNT	quantifier
REFL	reflexive
REL	relativizer
SG	singular

SPEC	specifier
SOV	subject object verb
V	verb
V	vowel
VP	verb phrase
VR	verbal root
1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
*	ungrammatical
Ø	null