Chapter-3

Phonology

3.1. Phonemic Inventory

The phonemic inventory of Zeme consists of twenty (20) consonant phonemes, six (6) vowels and two (2) tones (raising and falling). The phonemic inventory of Zeme is described in the following sections.

3.1.1. Vowels

Zeme has six (6) vowel phonemes viz., */i, e, ə, a, o and u/* showing a three way contrast of tongue positions: front, central and back. It also distinguished at the three levels of tongue height- high, mid and low. In Zeme, the front and central vowels are unrounded while back vowel is rounded. The following table no.1 shows the vowel phonemes of Zeme.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low		a	

Table No.1.Vowel phonemes of Zeme

3.1.2. Consonant:

There are twenty (20) consonantal phonemes, ***/p, b, t, d, k, g, p^h, t^h, k^h, č, s, z, h, m, n, ŋ, l, r, w, y/*** in Zeme. According to their place of articulation, they can be categorized as bilabial, alveolar, palatal, velar and glottal. Similarly in terms of their manner of articulation, consonant phonemes of Zeme can be categorized into stops, fricatives, nasals, trill, lateral and approximant. All the consonantal phonemes occurs word initially and medially. However, the nasals, ***/m, n, ŋ/*** and voiceless stops, ***/p, t, k /*** can occur in all the three positions of the word. The consonant phonemes of Zeme are illustrated in the following table no.2.

		Bilabial		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
		Vl.	Vd.	Vl.	Vd.	Vl.	Vd.	Vl.	Vd.	Vl.	Vd.
Stops	**UAS**	p	b	t	d			k	g		
	AS	p^h		t^h				k^h			
Affricates						č					
Fricatives				s	z					h	
Nasals			m		n				ŋ		
Lateral					l						
Trill					r						
Approximant			w				y				

Table no. 2: Consonant phonemes in Zeme

From the above illustration, it is stated that Zeme has nine stops consisting of un-aspirated voiceless */p, t, k/*, aspirated voiceless stops */p^h,t^h, k^h/* and un-aspirated voiced /*b, d*/ which lack their aspirated counterpart */b^h/* and */d^h/.* 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 Zeme. Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, Zeme has three nasal sounds */m, n, and ŋ*/, all of them occur in all three positions viz., initially, medially and finally. Other consonant sounds in the language are affricates */č/,* fricative */s, z, h /,* lateral */l/,* trill */r/* and approximant */w/*and /*y/* respectively.

3.2. Tone:

Tone is a term refers to the distinctive pitch level of a syllable. Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, Zeme has two tones i.e., raising and falling. The raising and falling tones are marked by acute /´/ and grave /`/ respectively as shown in the following table no. 3.

Rising	Falling
´	`

Table no.3: Tones in Zeme

hə́li ‘burgain’

hə̀li ‘pot’

kúbe	‘calling’
kùbe	‘caurage’
hégi	‘evening’
hègi	‘curry’
míra	‘flame’
mìra	‘bone’
pə́ko	‘voice’
pəǩo	‘shell’
hábe	‘white’
hàbe	‘collect’
čákbe	‘pulling’
čàkbe	‘counting’
niyə́mbe	‘sandy’
niyə̀mbe	‘overflow’

3.3. Contrasting pairs

The contrasting pairs of vowels and consonants in the language are described as follows:

3.3.1. Vowels:

The six (6) vowel phonemes of Zeme are established on the basis of the following contrasting pairs which are illustrated in the following examples:

/a/ vs. /o/:

/sabe/	'say'
/sobe/	'boil'
/həza/	'rat'
/həzo/	'monkey'

/a/ vs. /u/:

/heka/	'fish'
/heku/	'creditor'
/pəča/	'fat'
/pəču/	'to him/her'

/a/ vs. /e/:

/miča/	'fat'
/miče/	'sinew'

/həka/	‘parrot’
/həke/	‘knife’

/i/ vs. /u/:

/mizi/	‘name’
/mizu/	‘face’
/miki/	‘home’
/miku/	‘throat’

/o/ vs. /u/:

/čobe/	‘ride’
/čube/	‘begin'
/kobe/	‘bellows’
/kube/	‘brave’

/i/ vs /e/:

/pemi/	‘tail/fee’
/peme/	‘image’
/gibe/	‘red’
/gebe/	‘challenge’

/e/ vs. /ə/:

/keli/	‘squirrel’
/kəli/	‘mongoose’

/hera/	‘god’
/hərа/	‘bean’

/e/ vs. /o/:

/lebe/	‘protect’
/lobe/	‘flow’
/pəke/	‘word’
/pəko/	‘voice/shell’

3.3.2. Consonants:

The twenty (20) consonant phonemes of Zeme are established on the basis of the following contrasting pairs which are illustrated in the following examples:

/p/ vs. /b/:

/pabe/	‘naughty’
/babe/	‘bright’
/pibe/	‘bind’
/bibe/	‘cut’

/t/ vs./d/:

/tuibe/	‘grasp’
/duibe/	‘short’
/taibe/	‘near’
/daibe/	‘again’

/k/ vs. /g/:

/kebe/	‘demand’
/gebe/	‘gain/red’
/kumbe/	‘lost’
/gumbe/	‘cover’

/p/ vs. /p^h/:

/pai/	‘village court’
/p^{h}ai/	‘cloth’
/puibe/	‘lead’
/p^{h}uibe/	‘full’

/t/ vs. /t^h/:

/kəntabe/	‘straight line’
/kənt^{h}abe/	‘play’
/ka-ketabe/	‘fry’
/ka-ket^{h}abe/	‘washing’

/k/ vs. /k^h/:

/kabe/	‘stamp’
/k^{h}abe/	‘bitter'
/kube/	‘brave’
/k^{h}ube/	‘bold’

/m/ vs. /n/:

/pəmi/	‘cost’
/pəni/	‘time’
/məibe/	‘ripe’
/nəibe/	‘like/believe’

/m/ vs. /ŋ/:

/məube/	‘mistake’
/ŋəube/	‘see’
/məibe/	‘ripe’
/ŋəibe/	‘nudge’

/n/ vs. /ŋ/:

/nəiyube/	‘ask’
/ŋəiyube/	‘lean’
/nəibe/	‘like/believe’
/ŋəibe/	‘nudge’

/p/ vs. /t/:

/pibe/	‘see’
/tibe/	‘long’
/təri/	‘race’
/pəriya/	‘line’

/p/ vs. /k/:

/pəkbe/	‘run’
/kəkbe/	‘answer’
/pumbe/	‘swelling’
/kumbe/	‘sweet/cover’

/t/ vs. /k/:

/tobe/	‘throw’
/kobe/	‘wait’
/kube/	‘courage’
/tube/	‘argument’

/l/ vs. /r/:

/lube/	‘take’
/rube/	‘burn/roast’
/limbe/	‘dance’
/rimbe/	‘calm’

/č/ vs. /s/:

/čobe/	‘ride’
/sobe/	‘boil (tr)’
/čube/	‘begin’
/sube/	‘dig’

/s/ vs. /z/:

/sobe/	'boil'
/zobe/	'sell'
/səube/	'leave'
/zəube/	'leak'

/s/ vs. /h/:

/suibe/	'follow'
/huibe/	'wash'
/sabe/	'say'
/habe/	'white'

/č/ vs. /h/:

/čaibe/	'die'
/haibe/	'mixed'
/čibe/	'know'
/hibe/	'earn'

/w/ vs. /y/:

/kuwabe/	*'wait'*
/kiyabe/	*'reading'*

3.4. Distribution of phonemes

3.4.1. Vowels

Zeme has six vowel phonemes and all vowel phonemes in the language cannot occur in all three positions: initial, medial, and final. Vowels */o, u, a/* cannot occur word initially, on the contrary vowel */ə/* cannot occur word finally. Vowel */i, u /* can occur in all the positions and occurrence of vowel */u/* in the initial position is very rare in the language.

Occurrence of */i/:*

Initial position

/i/	'I'
/iŋga/	'crow'
/iŋkui/	'bee'
/inčai/	'salt'
/insum/	'drum'

Medial position

/tiŋŋe/	'mosquito'
/kimpʰum/	'roof'
/tiŋ/	'rain'
/ritbe/	'heavy'

/hiŋbe/	‘fear’

Final position

/rədi/	‘tiger’
/kuri/	‘garden lizard’
/imbaci/	‘mango’
/həli/	‘cooking pot’
/təpi/	‘support belt

Occurrence of */e/:*

Medial position

/əket/	‘one’
/peken/	‘wing’
/kəreŋ/	‘grasshopper’
/mineŋ/	‘ligament’
/hetciŋ/	‘wood’

Final position

/mine/	‘thigh’
/iŋkane/	‘cockroach’
/pike/	‘horn’
/miŋke/	‘kidney’
/mice/	‘sinew’

Occurrence of */a/:*

Medial position

/pətaŋ/	'handle'
/mizak/	'arm pit'
/midaŋ/	'buttock'
/mihak/	'palate'
/inraŋ/	'cactus'

Final position

/inča/	'oven'
/mira/	'flame/bone'
/həga/	'crab'
/kunda/	'rhinoceros'
/miga/	'chest'

Occurrence of */ə/:*

Initial position

/əgu/	'my'
/ənui/	'we'
/əsa/	'tea'

Medial position

/bəmti/	‘bench’
/mitəm/	‘hair’
/pəmbi/	‘ray’
/pəkəm/	‘valley’
/panəŋ/	‘gill’

Occurrence of */o/*:

`**Medial position**

/tokči/	‘brinjal’
/pəčop/	‘slough’
/pičop/	‘shoe’
/pəičop/	‘crown’
/hekičop/	‘knife belt’

Final position

/kəmo/	‘cloud’
/kəpo/	‘elephant’
/tiŋo/	‘porcupine’
/mikoklo/	‘knee’
/mimuiko/	‘lip’

Occurrence of *[u]:*

Initial position

[uyeŋ]	'peacock'

Medial position

[pumbum]	'bud'
[gumləi]	'turmeric'
[gutbe]	'shave'
[runbe]	'hush'
[dumpok]	'bomb'

Final position

[miku]	'throat'
[hetu]	'thorn'
[intu]	'stone'
[tebu]	'wasp'
[mizu]	'face'

3.4.2. Consonants

All consonant phonemes cannot occur in the initial, medial and final positions of a word. Some of the phonemes *[p^h, b, t^h, d, k^h, č, z, s, h, l, r, w, y]* can occur only in the initial and medial positions but not in the final position. Out of the twenty three

consonants, voiced nasals */m, n, ŋ/,* voiceless stops */p, t, k /* can occur in all three positions. They are illustrated in the following examples:

Occurrence of */p/:*

Initial position

/pumbe/	'swelling'
/pikʰəi/	'trunk'
/petčaŋ/	'after'
/puŋbe/	'carry'
/pero/	'empty'

Medial position

/pampi/	'half'
/mipumči/	'strength'
/dəpin/	'stream'
/mipo/	'dress'
/hepa/	'mushroom'

Final position

/pičip/	'nest'
/pəsap/	'piece'
/pəhop/	'swamp'
/kuičiyap/	'honey-comb'

/mibačop/	'glove'

Occurrence of */pʰ/:

Initial position

/pʰai/	'cloth'
/pʰəitak/	'grass'
/pʰəita/	'grazing'
/pʰaibe/	'casting'
/pʰuibe/	'full'

Medial position

/kəpʰai/	'bran (grain husk)'
/kepʰəiyu/	'hoe'
/impʰiyak/	'trap'
/təpʰəm/	'duck'
/nepʰin/	'mucus'

Occurrence of */b/:

Initial position

/bəŋgoči/	'guava'
/bibe/	'cut'
/buida/	'enough'
/basa/	'servant'

/buiki/	‘cowshed’

Medial position

/pebau/	‘gang’
/kebəŋki/	‘jail’
/pebəm/	‘place’
/kəbun/	‘snow’
/ruibum/	‘egg’

Occurrence of */t/:*

Initial position

/tiŋkai/	wind’
/təlab/	‘caterpillar’
/təloine/	‘caockle’
/tiŋkau/	‘locust’
/timbepe/	‘leech’

Medial position

/heti/	‘deer’
/intiya/	‘ant’
/hetəi/	‘dog’
/ketum/	cow’
/pətaŋ/	‘handle’

Final position

/čirit/	‘tailor’
/hərarit/	‘disease’
/pitet/	‘heat’
/təmset/	‘hair pin’
/pərit/	‘weight’

Occurrence of */t^h/:

Initial position

/t^hiŋbehi/	‘prohibited time’
/t^hauba/	‘oilcake’

Medial position

/kənt^huibe/	‘spit’
/pərt^haudibe/	‘essence’
/kit^hinki/	‘hut’
/int^hau/	‘sugarcane’
/tinit^hi/	‘weekly wage’

Occurrence of */d/:

Initial position

/dui/	‘water’
/dəpin/	‘steam’

/duilui/	‘lion’
/dibe/	‘big’
/dumbe/	‘pack’

Medial position

/midaŋ/	‘buttock’
/pədui/	‘liquor’
/hədo/	‘barn’
/lidibe/	‘cauldron’
/kidibe/	‘dagger’

Occurrence of *[k]:*

Initial position

/kiyabe/	‘read’
/kəzi/	‘eel’
/keleŋre/	‘eagle’
/kuri/	‘lizard’
/kup^{h}eŋ/	‘butterfly’

Medial position

/pəko/	‘voice’
/heka/	‘fish’
/pəke/	‘word’

/heku/	‘creditor’
/hətuki/	‘court’

Final position

/kəsak/	‘kail’
/naimik/	‘sun’
/rihik/	‘louse’
/tediyak/	‘hammer’
/tiyak/	‘net’

Occurrence of */kʰ/:*

Initial position

/kʰəmpak/	‘door leaves’
/kʰəgaiči/	‘bitter guard’
/kʰagau/	‘crawfish’
/kʰauruige/	‘hide (animal skin)’
/kʰauriŋ-ŋi/	‘cattle festival’

Medial position

/mikʰo/	‘smoke’
/iŋkʰəm/	‘door’
/pikʰəi/	‘trunk’
/kəkʰoiča/	‘fishing rode’

/iŋkʰadakpe/	‘basket making’

Occurrence of */g/:*

Initial position

/giŋbe/	‘patient’
/gabe/	‘without’
/gutbe/	‘enter’
/guibe/	‘feed’
/gadibe/	‘lost’

Medial position

/iŋga/	‘crow’
/miga/	‘chest’
/həgi/	‘curry’
/hegi/	‘afternoon’
/pehige/	‘in time’

Occurrence of */č/:*

Initial position

/cali/	‘kettle’
/čekaki/	‘pocket’
/čəlaŋ-baŋ/	‘cotton tree’
/čiŋrəiyu/	‘yam’

/čiyambe/	‘art’

Medial position

/rəči/	‘pepper’
/inča/	‘oven’
/kəčak/	‘gold’
/pəčiŋ/	‘interest’
/gimiči/	‘bullet’

Occurrence of */s/:*

Initial position

/səibe/	‘count’
/sube/	‘dig’
/səkpe/	‘drink’
/soibe/	‘hear’
/sabe/	‘say’

Medial position

/misun/	‘belly’
/kisa/	‘partial’
/təsiyəŋ/	‘curse’
/mikəsa/	‘molar’
/herasi/	‘religion’

Occurrence of */z/:*

Initial position

/zobe/	‘sell’
/zugaibe/	‘lead’
/zočobe/	‘rise’
/zupakbe/	‘elopement’
/zinaba/	‘human excrement’

Medial position

/heza/	‘mouse’
/pəzi/	‘name’
/kəza/	‘crossbeam’
/inzu/	‘over’
/həza/	‘monkey’

Occurrence of */h/:*

Initial position

/həmi/	‘fire’
/hərao/	‘grave’
/huibe/	‘long’
/huitobe/	‘rinse’
/həkauki/	‘cave’

Medial position

/kəha/	‘bridge’
/rəhet/	‘cane’
/pəhi/	‘time’
/mihui/	‘soul’
/mihi/	‘wage’

Occurrence of */m/:*

Initial position

/məgum/	‘cobra’
/mipum/	‘body’
/mipi/	‘leg’
/mibɑ/	‘hand’
/mikini/	‘gum’

Medial position

/təmɑ/	‘root’
/pəme/	‘map’
/pemi/	‘fee’
/kemo/	‘cloud’
/hemizai/	‘hell’

Final position

/keram/	‘otter’
/pegum/	‘lid’
/iŋkum/	‘orchid’
/pələm/	‘cause’
/hiŋnəm/	‘blessing’

Occurrence of */n/:*

Initial position

/niyakbe/	‘crusher’
/nimbe/	‘catch’
/nabe/	‘near’
/numbe/	‘hinder’
/nəmrobe/	‘hunt’

Medial position

/təna/	‘pus’
/mane/	‘pumpkin’
/tane/	‘till’
/tonibe/	‘throw away’
/hənei/	‘fox’

Final position

/pančin/	‘claw/paw’
/minčin/	‘nail’
/tiŋbun/	‘ash’
/hekun/	‘horse’
/peken/	‘wing’

Occurrence of */ŋ/:*

Initial position

/*ŋaulok/*	‘heron’
/*ŋəmhəiyu/*	‘touch-me-not
/*ŋaube/*	‘sight’
/ŋaikəiyube/	‘fall’
/ŋaugai-lakbe/	‘hate’

Medial position

/həŋa/	‘langur’
/tiŋibe/	‘mosquito’
/tiŋo/	‘porcupine
/pəŋa/	‘yolk’
/həŋi/	‘festival’

Final position

/kənraŋ/	‘fin’
/həčuwaŋ/	‘mynah’
/mituŋ/	‘breast’
/mikətaŋ/	‘jaw’
/miŋkiŋ/	‘marrow’

Occurrence of */l/:*

Initial position

/liyambe/	‘fly’
/luŋbe/	‘birth’
/letbe/	‘open’
/lugetbe/	‘harvest’
/ləisitaŋ/	‘pencil’

Medial position

/keli/	‘squirrel’
/mitəli/	‘forehead’
/mila/	‘naval’
/keləŋ/	‘thread’
/pələm/	‘reason’

Occurrence of *[r]:*

Initial position

[rəhiŋ]	'crane'
[rəči]	'pepper
[rekəma]	'crocodile'
[riŋbe]	'alive'
[rəhuiki]	'building'

Medial position

[bərabe]	'dawn'
[mira]	'flame'
[turiči]	'pomegranate'
[məre]	'garden'
[həriya]	'rope'

Occurrence of *[w]:*

Initial position

[waŋbe]	'come'
[waŋkəduibe]	'assembly'
[waŋcəŋbe]	'arrive'

Medial position

/hekuwa/	'dish'
/məčuwa/	'shirt'
/pəruwa/	'tune'
/pəsuwa/	'before'
/keluwa/	'soon'

Occurrence of */y/:*

Medial position

/kiyabe/	'read'
/liyabe/	'show'
/siyadibe/	'fail'
/tiyəkpe/	'gossip'
/pəriya/	'standard'

3.5. Diphthongs:

Zeme has six diphthongs */ai, ao, oi, əu, ui, əi/*. All the six diphthongs cannot occur in all the three position. Among these, */ao/* cannot occur in medial position and the occurrence of */oi/* in the final position is rare in this language.

3.5.1. Distribution of diphthongs:

Occurrence of *[ai]:*

Medial position

[kaibe]	'put'
[čaibe]	'death'
[naimik]	'sun'
[pigaibe]	'bind'
[zugaibe]	'guide'

Final position

[tiŋkai]	'air'
[mičai]	'back'
[həzai]	'blood'
[həbai]	'trap'
[kezai]	'lake'

Occurrence of *[ao]:*

Medial position

[saobe]	'rest'
[miyaone]	'cat'
[naokube]	'marriage'

/ŋaokenabe/ ‘despair’

/ŋaokən-nabe/‘despise’

Final position

/inrao/ ‘comb’

/hərao/ ‘grave’

/misao/ ‘elbow’

/čao/ ‘who’

/čipao/ ‘old’

/mitəsao/ ‘cubit’

Occurrence of /oi/:

Medial position

/koibe/ ‘pick’

/soibe/ ‘hear’

/bəroine/ ‘ring’

/doibe/ ‘tempt’

/kihoibe/ ‘wave’

Final position

/kakhoi/ ‘hook’

/kəramoi/ ‘dust’

Occurrence of */əi/:*

Medial position

/ləisi/	*'book'*
/rəidi/	'general'
/zəipi/	'cauliflower'
/təipi/	'pea'
/təiwaŋbe/	'bring'

Final position

/micəi/	'liver'
/iŋgəi/	raw'
/inrəi/	'axe'
/hegəi/	'metal'
/hepipəi/	'flag'

Occurrence of */ui/:*

Medial position

/pʰuibe/	'full'
/buidibe/	'enough'
/mimuiko/	'lip'
/inzuiki/	'chicken
/čuitobe/	'eraser'

Final position

/misui/	‘heel’
/mimui/	‘mouth’
/mihui/	‘soul’
/hemui/	‘sin’
/herui/	‘spirit’

Occurrence of */əu/:*

Medial position

/məube/	‘guilt’
/səube/	‘leave’
/rəube/	‘write'
/təube/	‘burn’
/səugaibe/	‘abandon’

Final position

/pədəu/	‘quarter’
/həzəu/	win’
/məgəu/	‘straw’
/həgəu/	‘frog’

3.6. Consonant sequence

Consonant sequences in Zeme are very rich and they only occur in word medial position only. The three different types of consonant sequences are found in Zeme. The possible consonant sequences in the language are illustrated as follows:

(1) Gemination

(2) Homorganic

(3) Contiguous

3.6.1. Gemination

Consonants which have similar features both in place and manner of articulations are treated as Germination. In Zeme, gemination is found in the nasal sounds only and occurs in the word medial position as illustrated in the following examples:

-n.n-	*/kən.nuŋbe/*	'melt'
-ŋ.ŋ-	*/tiŋ.ŋe/*	'mosquito'
-m.m-	*/im.maŋ/*	'fireplace'

3.6.2. Homorganic

In homorganic sequence, phonemes have similar feature either in place of articulation or manner of articulation as illustrated in the following examples:

-ŋ.p-	*/məreŋ.pa/*	‘marigold’
-ŋ.g-	*/iŋ.gak/*	‘craw’
-ŋ.k-	*/iŋ.kui/*	‘bee’
-ŋ.k^h-	*/iŋ.k^{h}im/*	‘mole’
-ŋ.m-	*/tiŋ.mik/*	‘day’
-k.p-	*/mərik.pui/*	‘insect’
-k.b-	*/sək.be/*	‘drink’
-m.b-	*/im.bun/*	‘beetle’
-m.p-	*/im.pet.bəŋ/*	‘marsh’
-m.d-	*/həkum.daŋ/*	‘bolt’
-n.m-	*/kun.məraŋ/*	‘donkey’
-n.s-	*/kun.səibe/*	‘earthworm’
-n.r-	*/kən.raŋ/*	‘fin’
-n.t-	*/kun.ta/*	‘bell’
-n.t^h-	*/in.t^{h}ui/*	‘basket’

3.6.3. Contiguous

Contiguous sequence is a sequence in which phonemes have adjacent or neighbouring positions either in place or manner of articulation. Consider the following examples:

-n.č-	*/pan.čin/*	'claw/paw'
-ŋ.d.-	*/tiŋ.dəiyu/*	'clay'
-m.g-	*/həgum.gim/*	'tusk'
-m.l-	*/him.lo/*	'hill'
-ŋ.r-	*/kəleŋ.re/*	'eagle'
-ŋ.h-	*/tuŋ.hi/*	'cyclone'
-ŋ.č-	*/tiŋ.ču/*	'rock'
-k.č-	*/tok.či/*	'brinjal'
-ŋ.l-	*/soŋ.liŋ/*	'sea'

3.7. Syllabic Structures:

A syllable in Zeme must contain a vowel or vowel like element functioning as a nucleus of the same. The syllabic structures of monosyllabic words in the language are: CV, CVV and CVC. It is also observed that Zeme words contain

only of a vowel as exemplified below. Here the symbol V and C represents vowels and consonants respectively.

3.7.1. Monosyllabic words

In monosyllabic words, the CV is the most common pattern however, a vowel can be a syllable or a morpheme or a word in Zeme as many other Tibeto-Burman languages do. Furthermore, monosyllabic words in Zeme can be open or closed syllables as discussed in the following sections:

3.7.1.1. Open syllable

The pattern of open syllable in mono-syllabic words in Zeme is illustrated in the following table with examples:

Lexeme	Gloss	Syllable type
i	'I'	V
pa	's/he'	CV
dui	'water'	CVV

Table no. 4: Zeme monosyllabic open syllable

3.7.1.2. Closed syllable

The pattern of closed syllables in mono-syllabic words in Zeme is illustrated in the following table no.5.

Lexeme	Gloss	Syllable type
tiŋ	'rain'	CVC
tak	'cooked rice'	

Table no. 5: Zeme monosyllabic closed syllable

3.7.2. Disyllabic words

Disyllabic words are commonly found in Zeme. In other word, the native Zeme speaker frequently used disyllabic words in their day to day conversation. The disyllabic word in Zeme can be of open and closed syllable as illustrated below:

3.7.2.1. Open syllable

The disyllabic word with various syllabic patterns in Zeme is illustrated in the following table no.6.

Lexeme	Gloss	Syllable type
ibe	'good'	VCV
inča	'oven'	VCCV
lebe	'protect'	CVCV
čuibe	'push'	CVVCV
ritbe	'stalk'	CVCCV
gumləi	'turmeric'	CVCCVV

Table no. 6: Zeme disyllabic open syllable

3.7.2.2. Closed syllable

The disyllabic closed syllable with various syllabic patterns in Zeme is illustrated in the following table no. 7.

Lexeme	Gloss	Syllable type
kəzik	'heat'	CVCVC
inraŋ	'cactus'	VCCVC
pumbum	'bud'	CVCCVC

Table no. 7: Zeme disyllabic closed syllable

3.7.3. Trisyllabic words

Trisyllabic words are also commonly found in Zeme. Trisyllabic words in Zeme can be divided into open and closed syllable as can be illustrated as follows:

3.7.3.1. Open syllable

Open trisyllabic words with various syllabic patterns in Zeme are illustrated in the following table no.8.

Lexeme	Gloss	Syllable type
kuliyu	'gecko'	CVCVCV
liyambe	'fly'	CVCVCCV
pəmbiyu	'flash'	CVCCVCV
kunrekpe	'spider'	CVCCVCCV

Table no. 8: Zeme trisyllabic open syllable

3.7.3.2. Closed syllable

Closed trisyllbic words with various syllabic patterns in Zeme are illustrated in the following table no. 9.

Lexeme	Gloss	Syllable type
təbiyaŋ	'goose'	CVCVCVC
kunmərəŋ	'donkey'	CVCCVCVC
inčiŋkəŋ	'coal'	VCCVCCVC

Table no. 9: Zeme trisyllabic closed syllable