Chapter-5

Verb morphology

5.1. Verbs

Generally verbs are considered as those forms which can take or are capable of taking tense, aspect, mood, causative markers etc. Similarly verbs in Zeme can be defined as roots that can take the morphemes for aspects, moods, causative, negative etc. Verbs in Zeme are not marked for persons, numbers and genders. Moreover, verbs in the language denote actions, activities, states, processes etc. All the verbs in Zeme are bound forms in nature i.e., they cannot stand independently in any construction and as a result, the suffixes including declarative *-ləi,* nominalizers *-be*, etc, must be added to the verb roots as such *tet* 'be go', *tet-be* 'go'*lak* 'be beat', *lak-be* 'beat' and so on. Structurally, verbs in Zeme can be classified into (i) Simple verbs and (ii) Compound verbs:

5.1.1. Simple verbs

Simple verb in Zeme may be composed of monosyllabic or disyllabic roots. Some of the examples are given below:

5.1.1.1. Monosyllabic verb

Most of the mono-syllabic verbs in Zeme seem to be either open or close syllables. In other words, both the open and close monosyllabic verb roots are found in the language. The monosyllabic verb roots with different syllabic structure are illustrated in the following examples:

5.1.1.1.1. Open monosyllabic verb roots:

CV	*ru*	'be burn'
	čo	'be cheat'
	do	'be cut'
	su	'be dig'
	lu	'be get/take'
	to	'be throw'
CVV	*pəi*	'be give'
	cai	'be die'
	səi	'be count'
	tui	'be catch'
	dəi	'be touch'

5.1.1.1.2. Closed monosyllabic verb roots:

CVC	*tet*	'be go'
	sək	'be drink'
	puŋ	*'be bear'*
	hiŋ	*'be fear'*
	dum	'be pack'
	ləŋ	'be pack/send'
	nim	'be grasp'
	gim	'be sift'
	lim	'be dance'

5.1.1.2.1. Disyllabic verb:

5.1.1.2.1.1. Open disyllabic verb roots:

CVCV	*pi.ko*	'be watch'
	kə.ŋa	'be help'
	ga.di	'be lose'
CVVCV	*dəi.sa*	'be annoy'
	səu.di	'be drop'
	pʰai.ra	'be knit'

CVCVV	*pi.gai*	‘be bind’
	ki.hoi	‘be wave’
	hə.rao	‘be grave’
CVCCV	*nəm.ro*	‘be hunt’
	tiŋ.ču	‘be grow’
	kən.či	‘be hang’

5.1.1.2.1.2. Closed disyllabic verb roots:

CVCVC	*ri.pet*	‘be rescue’
	pi.mak	‘be untie’
	ti.yək	‘be gossip’
	ki.yam	‘be insist’
CVCCVC	*kən.ruŋ*	‘be scream’
	kən.rit	‘be draw’
	kən.gim	‘be yawn’
	kən.tim	‘be suck’
CVVCVC	*təi.luŋ*	‘be use’
	pui.lum	‘be amuse’
	hoi.pun	‘be groan’
	p^{h}ai.dak	‘be weave’

5.1.2. Compound verb

As in many other Tibeto-Burman languages compound verbs in Zeme are not commonly found as the nominal compounds do. However certain compound verbs attested in the language. More specifically, two lexical verbs can be compounded to get compound verbs conveying different semantic expression in Zeme as shown in the following examples:

5.1.2.1. Verb + Verb (V+V)

(a)	*həli*	+	*waŋ*	>	*həliwaŋ*
	back		come		'be return'
(b)	*təi*	+	*waŋ*	>	*təiwaŋ*
	bring		come		'be bring'
(c)	*pəi*	+	*rui*	>	*pəirui*
	give		grab		'be repay'
(d)	*lu*	+	*to*	>	*luto*
	get		throw		'be remove'
(e)	*hui*	+	*to*	>	*huito*
	long		throw		'be rinse'

(f)	*rəi*	+	*tet*	>	*rəitet*
	preserve		go		'be escort'

5.2. Classes of verbs

There are two classes of verbs in Zeme: (i) transitive and (ii) intransitive. Morphologically there is no distinction between transitive and intransitive verbs in Zeme. However, the duo can be categorized by their arguments as described below:

5.2.1. Transitive

The class of transitive verbs includes verbs with two or more arguments. Transitive verbs have agent and object arguments. In Zeme, the grammatical functions of agent and object are generally indicated by word order and postpositional 'case' markers i.e., the agent NP precedes the object NP, which in turn precedes the verb. Transitive verbs in Zeme can be sub-classified into two (i) mono-transitive and (ii) di-transitive.

5.2.1.1 Mono-transitive

Mono-transitive verbs in Zeme are those verbs which can take an object argument: the direct object. In mono-transitive construction, the order of constituents is either AGENT - DIRECT OBJECT -VERB. Mono-transitive verbs in Zeme are illustratated in the following examples:

(97) *i* *tak* *təiyu-ləi*

I rice be eat-DECL

'I eat rice.'

(98) *nəŋ* *hečaiki* *tet-ləi*

you market be go-DECL

'You go to market.'

(99) *henapoine-ne* *pə-ču* *ŋəu-ləi*

child-NOM he-ACC be see-DECL

'The child sees him.'

(100) *pa* *kirket* *kənt^{h}a-ləi*

he cricket be play-DECL

'He plays cricket.'

(101) *pa* *ləisi* *kiya* *la-ləi*

he book be read EXIST-DECL

'He is reading a book.'

(102) *pa* *hələiyu* *təiyu* *la-lə̃i*

she song be sing EXIST-DECL

'She is singing a song.'

5.2.1.2. Ditransitive

The ditransitive verbs are those verbs, which can take two object arguments i.e., direct, and indirect objects. In ditransitive construction, the order of constituents is either AGENT - INDIRECT OBJECT - DIRECT OBJECT -VERB or AGENT - DIRECT OBJECT - INDIRECT OBJECT - VERB i.e., both the order is possible in Zeme language as can be seen in the following examples:

(103) a. *kagetəipəiyu-ne* *nəpoine-həŋ* *imbači* *pəi-lə̃i*

teacher-NOM child-DAT mango be give-DECL

'Teacher gave the mango to the child.'

(103) b. *kagetəipəiyu-ne* *imbači* *nəpoine-həŋ* *pəi-lə̃i*

teacher-NOM mango child-DAT be give-DECL

'Teacher gave the mango to the child.'

(104) a. *səmani-ne* *pinky-həŋ-ge* *čiyaka* *pəi-lə̃i*

Samani-NOM pinky-DAT-LOC bag be give-DECL

'Samani give a bag to Pinky.'

(104) b. *səmani-ne* *čiyaka* *pinky-həŋ-ge* *pəi-ləi*

Samani-NOM bag pinky-DAT-LOC be give-DECL

'Samani give a bag to Pinky.'

(105) a. *saran-ne* *ə-həŋ* *ləisitaŋ* *pəi-ləi*

Saran-NOM 1-DAT pen be give-DECL

'Saran gave me a pen.'

(105) b. *saran-ne* *ləisitaŋ* *ə-həŋ* *pəi-ləi*

Saran-NOM pen 1-DAT be give-DECL

'Saran gave me a pen.'

5.2.2. Intransitive

Intransitive verbs are those verbs which cannot take object arguments. In other words, the intransitive verbs only take subject argument. Interestingly, intransitive verbs are either stative or action verbs as illustrated in the following examples:

(106) *nəmrui* *liyam-ləi*

bird be fly-DECL

'Bird flies'

(107) *menza* *pak-ləi*

menja be run-DECL

'Menja run'

(108) *hətəi-rəme* *taŋ-ləi*

dog-PL be bark-DECL

'Dogs bark'

(109) *aring* *lim-ləi*

aring be dance-DECL

'Aring danced'

(110) *hiŋbaŋ* *hu-ləi*

tree be tall-DECL

'The tree is tall.'

(111) *əzaŋpəiyu* *ti-ləi*

man be tall-DECL

'The man is tall.'

5.3. Semantic classification of verbs

In addition to the above classes of verbs, semantically verbs in Zeme can further be classified into following categories: (i) verbs of action (ii) verb of cognition (iii) verbs of cooking (iv) verbs of existence (v) verbs of grooming (vi) verbs of instrument/fighting (vi) verb of motion (vii) verb of occupation etc., as can be demonstrated in the following examples:

5.3.1. Verbs of action

lak	'be beat'
ru	'be burn'
tui	'be catch'
pəi	'be give'
taŋ	'be bark'
kai	'be put'

5.3.2. Verbs of cognition

giŋ	'be endure'
kanuŋ	'be trust'
kiyam	'be insist'
nim	'be grasp'

gim	‘be sift’
doi	‘be tempt’

5.3.3. Verbs of cooking

so	‘be boil (tr)
laŋ	‘be cook’
pigəi	‘be peel’
rəi	‘be preserve’
kənču	‘be pound’

5.3.4. Verbs of existence

liya	‘be appear’
bəmti	‘be last’
kəntiŋ	‘be heed’
kənzo	‘be resemble’
sao	‘be rest’

5.3.5. Verbs of grooming

huito	‘be rinse’
nuikənči	‘be scour’
čui	‘be scrape’
hui	‘be wash’
biyak	‘be sweep’

5.3.6. Verbs of instrument/fighting

gugai	'be defend'
le	'be protect'
kəp	'be shoot'
təugo	'be surround'
rit	'be stalk'

5.3.7. Verbs of motion

kəiyu	'be climb'
giyut	'be enter'
liyam	'be fly'
pak	'be run'
čak	'be pull'

5.3.8. Verbs of occupation

hetata	'be cultivate'
iŋget	'be reap'
inkakpet	'be hatch'
liŋ	'be plant'
ropet	'be write/compose'

5.3.9. Others verbs

piko	'be watch'
dui	'be win'
ləi	'be tire'
pemapi	'be take care of'
kənriya	'be set'

5.4. Tense/Aspect

Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, tense is not prominent in Zeme. So aspect commonly is an important part of the representation of time in Tibeto-Burman languages. There are four types of aspects found in Zeme as shown in the following table no. 15.

Aspects	Markers
Simple Aspects	Ø
Progressive Aspects	*-bəm*
Perfective Aspects	*-ludə*
Irealis Aspects	*-gu~ra*

Table no.15: Aspects in Zeme

5.4.1. Simple Aspect:

Simple aspect expresses simple statement, habitual meaning and universal truth. In Zeme, simple aspect is unmarked as can be seen in the following examples:

(112) *i* *tak* *təiyu-ləi*

I rice be eat-DECL

'I eat rice.'

(113) *nəŋ* *heməi* *təiyu-ləi*

you meat be eat-DECL

'You eat meat.'

(114) *tiŋkai* *pebəmsəŋne-ge* *la-ləi*

air everywhere-LOC EXIST-DECL

'Air is everywhere.'

(115) *heka* *hədui-ge* *luŋ-ləi*

fish water-LOC live-DECL

'Fish live in water.'

(116) *pa* *hačaiki* *tet-lai*

he market be go-DECL

'He goes to market.'

(117) *kəbuisəŋ-rəme* *pʰəitak* *təiyu-lai*

bull-PL grass be eat-DECL

'The bulls are grazing.'

(118) *hənapoine* *ə-ču* *ŋəu-lai*

child 1-ACC be see-DECL

'The child sees me.'

5.4.2. Progressive Aspect:

Progressive Aspect is expressed by the aspectual marker *-bəm* which is attached to the verbal root followed by the declarative marker *-lai* as can be seen in the following examples:

(119) *i* *nəmrui* *ŋəu-bəm-lai*

I bird be see-PROG-DECL

'I am seeing the bird.'

(120) *i* *nəmrui* *ŋəu-bəm-ləi*

I bird be see-PROG-DECL

'I was seeing the bird.'

(121) *tərai* *tak* *təiyu-bəm-ləi*

Tarai rice be eat-PROG-DECL

'Tarai was eating rice.'

(122) *i* *hənəi-ne* *iŋgəiyuki* *ka-bəm-ləi*

I boat-NOM river be cross-PROG-DECL

'I am crossing the river with a boat.'

(123) *pa-ze* *ləisikuwak* *rəu-bəm-ləi*

he-DET book be write-PROG-DECL

'He is writing a book.'

5.4.3. Perfective Aspect:

Perfective aspect in Zeme language is expressed by the marker -*ludə* which is attached to the verb and followed by the Declarative marker -*ləi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(124) *pənui* *həčaiki* *tet-ludə-ləi*

they market be go-PERF-DECL

'They had gone to the market.'

(125) *moses* *inruibuŋ* *təiyu-ludə-ləi*

Moses egg be eat-PERF-DECL

'Moses has taken egg.'

(126) *i* *ta* *təiyu-ludə-ləi*

I work be do-PERF-DECL

'I have done the work.'

(127) *pa-ne* *ləisi* *rəu-ludə-ləi*

he-NOM book be write-PERF-DECL

'He has written a book.'

(128) *cem* *nəmrui* *ŋəu-ludə-ləi*

Cem bird be see-PERF-DECL

'Cem had already seen the bird.'

5.4.4. Irrealis Aspect:

Irrealis aspect in Zeme is expressed by the marker *-gu~ -ra* which is attached to the verbal root and followed by the declarative marker *-ləi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(129) *pa* *tet-gu-ləi*

he be go-IRS-DECL

'She will go'

(130) *ə-sipəiyu* *waŋ-gu-ləi*

1-brother be come-IRS-DECL

'My brother will come.'

(131) *iŋgitpui* *int^{h}a* *lubecəŋ* *pa* *təiyu-gu-ləi*

football play after he be eat-IRS-DECL

'After playing football he will eat.'

(131) *i* *həki-imp^{h}um-gene* *insakəiyu-ra-ləi*

I house-roof-ABL be jump-IRS-DECL

'I will jump from the roof.'

(132) *i* *inčomai* *waŋ-ra-ləi*

I tomorrow be come-IRS-DECL

'I shall come tomorrow.'

(133) *pa* *cirket* *int^{h}a-ra-mak-ləi*

he cricket be play-IRS-NEG-DECL

'He will not play cricket.'

5.5. Mood

5.5.1. Imperative mood

Imperatives are a verb form which generally indicates commands, instruction or request (Payne, 1997). The imperative construction is often with second person subject. Imperatives in Zeme mainly expressed by postposing the morpheme *-ləu* to the verb as can be seen in the following examples:

(134) *duŋ* *kəiyu-ləu*

sit down-IMP

'Sit down'

(135) *p^{h}əitak* *luto-ləu*

grass be remove-IMP

'Remove the grass'

(136) *iŋkʰəm* *kai-ləu*

door be close-IMP

'Close the door'

(137) *pə-ču* *ku-ləu*

he-ACC be call-IMP

'Call him'

(138) *inčet* *mədai* *cəŋne* *waŋ-ləu*

hour four after be come-IMP

'Come after 4 o'clock.'

Polite imperative in Zeme is expressed by postposing the morpheme -*gurəi* to the verb root followed by the declarative marker -*ləi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(139) *i* *hədui* *sak-gurəi-ləi*

I water be drink- POL-DECL

'Let me drink water (politely).'

(140) *i* *niyuspepər* *kiya-gurəi-ləi*

I newspaper be read-POL-DECL

'Let me read newspaper (politely).'

(141) *i* *dəisuŋ* *lu-gurəi-ləi*

I umbrella be buy-POL-DECL

'Let me buy an umbrella (politely).'

(142) *i* *həčaiki* *tet-gurəi-ləi*

I market be go-POL-DECL

'Let me go to market (politely).'

(143) *i* *hətak* *təiyu-gurəi-ləi*

I rice be eat-POL-DECL

'Let me eat rice (politely).'

(144) *i* *məmi* *pi-gurəi-ləi*

I film be watch-POL-DECL

'Let me watch film.'

It is interesting to note that the imperative mood of request is expressed with the polite imperative word *iŋgiya* 'please' as can be seen in the following examples:

(145) *iŋgiya* *ə-həŋ* *ləisitaŋ* *pəi-ləu*

please 1-DAT pen be give-IMP

'Please give me a pen.'

(146) *iŋgiyaze* *aige* *duŋ-ləu*

please here be sit-IMP

'Please sit here'

(147) *iŋgiyaze* *ai* *imbači* *təiyu-ləu*

please DEM mango be eat-IMP

'Please eat this mango.'

(148) *iŋgiyaze* *ə-gu* *op^{h}is-ge* *waŋ-ləu*

please 1-GEN office-LOC be come-IMP

'Please come to my office.'

(149) *iŋgiyaze* *ə-nui-gu* *ləisiki-ge* *tet-ləu*

Please 1-PL-GEN school-LOC be go-IMP

'Please go to our school.'

5.5.2. Permissive mood

The permissive mood in Zeme is expressed by using the lexical verb *pəi* 'be give' followed by the honorific morpheme followed by the imperative marker as described below.

(152) *pə-ču* *tet-ra* *pʰəiyu-gai-ləu*

3-ACC be go-INF be give-HONF-IMP

'Allow him to go.'

(153) *pə-ču* *kentʰa-be* *pi-ra* *pʰəiyu-gai-ləu*

3-ACC be play-NMZ watch-INF be give-HONF -IMP

'Allow him to watch the match.'

(154) *pənui-du* *kentʰa-ra* *pʰəiyu-ləu*

3PL-ACC be play-INF PERM-IMP

'Allow them to play.'

(155) *pənui-du* *giyut-ra* *pʰəiyu-gai-ləu*

3PL-ACC be enter-INF PERM-HONF-IMP

'Allow them to enter.'

5.5.3. Capability mood

In Zeme, capability mood is expressed by using the verb *či* followed by the intensive marker -*dui* followed by the declarative marker -*ləi* as demonstrated below.

(156) *muhi beŋgoli kuwa sa či-dui-ləi*

Muhi Bengali language be speak be able-CAP-DECL

'Muhi can speak Bengali language.'

(157) *saran tak laŋ či-dui-ləi*

Saran rice be cook be able-CAP-DECL

'Saran can cook rice.'

(158) *anil kircet int^{h}a či-dui-ləi*

Anil cricket be play be able-CAP-DECL

'Anil can play cricket.'

(159) *menja həlimlim či-dui-ləi*

Menja be dance be able-CAP-DECL

'Menja can dance.'

(160) *nəŋ* *silčər* *tet* *či-dui-ləi*

you silchar be go able-CAP-DECL

'You can go to Silchar.'

5.5.4. Obligatory mood

In zeme, the obligatory mood is expressed by the obligatory marker *-ra* which occurs postverbally before the declarative marker. In other words, the obligatory marker *-ra* also occurs before the aspect markers if the aspect markers are present in the clause. Consider the following examples.

(161) *i* *waŋ-ra-ləi*

I be come-OBL-DECL

'I should come.'

(162) *nəŋ* *ləisi* *təiwaŋ-ra-ləi*

you book be bring-OBL-DECL

'You should bring book.'

(163) *nəŋ* *hələŋ-ra-gu-ləi*

you be cook-OBL-IRS-DECL

'You will have to cook.'

(164) *pa* *nəmai* *waŋ-siŋ-ra-gu-ləi*

he today be come-CER-OBL-IRS-DECL

'He will have to come today.'

5.5.5. Probability mood

Probabity mood in Zeme is expressed by using the morpheme *ləiyu-* followed by the declarative marker *-ləi* as can be seen the following examples:

(165) *nəmai* *tiŋri* *waŋ-ləiyu-ləi*

today rain be come-PROB-DECL

'Rain may come today.'

(166) *nəŋ* *pə-ču* *ku* *ləiyu-ləi*

you 3-ACC be call PROB-DECL

'You may call her.'

(167) *pa* *nəŋ-ču* *ku* *ləiyu-ləi*

he you-ACC be call PROB-DECL

'He may call you.'

(168) *pa* *rənuŋči* *təiyu* *ləiyu-ləi*

she banana be eat PROB-DECL

'She may eat banana.'

(169) *pa* *čiŋbaŋ* *inzak* *ləiyu-ləi*

he tree be climb PROB-DECL

'He may climb the tree.'

(170) *i* *ə-ki* *tet* *ləiyu-ləi*

I 1-house be go PROB-DECL

'I may go home.'

(171) *aize* *makahəga-be* *ləiyu-ləi*

it thief-NMZ PROB-DECL

'It may be thief'

5.5.6. Conditional mood

The conditional mood in Zeme is expressed by postposing the conditional marker -*dina* to the verb root as shown in the following examples.

(172) *nəŋ-ne* *kəiyu-dina*

you-NOM be climb-COND

'If you climb'

(173) *pə-ne* *təiyu-dina*

he-NOM be eat-COND

'If he eats'

(174) *nəŋ-ne* *tet-dina*

you-NOM be go-COND

'If you go'

(175) *nəŋ-ne* *lim-dina*

you-NOM be dance-COND

'If you dance'

(176) *nəŋ-ne* *pəhige* *waŋ-dina*

you-NOM in time be come-COND

'If you come in time'

5.5.7. Necessity mood

Necessity mood in Zeme is expressed by the verb *nəŋ* followed by the declarative marker as can be seen in the following examples:

(177) *i* *hədui* *nəŋ-ləi*

I water need-DECL

'I need water.'

(178) *i* *rəŋkaŋ* *kəsa* *nəŋ-ləi*

I money some need-DECL

'I need some money.'

(179) *pa* *pəkaŋ* *nəŋ-ləi*

he friend need-DECL

'She needs a friend.'

(180) *ə-sipəiyu* *kakətəipəiyu* *nəŋ-ləi*

1-elder brother teacher need-DECL

'My elder brother needs a teacher.'

(181) *pənui* *məta* *təiyu-ra* *nəŋ-ləi*

3PL work be do-IRS need-DECL

'They need to do the work.'

(182) *minahəŋ* *ket* *zəi* *mi-ra* *nəŋ-ləi*

person one be sleep well-IRS need-DECL

'One needs to sleep well.'

5.5.8. Intensive mood

The intensive mood in Zeme is expressed by using the desiderative verb *nəi* which is attached to the verbal root and followed by the declarative marker *-ləi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(183) *i* *təmeŋloŋ* *tet-nəi-ləi*

I tamenglong be go-wish-DECL

'I wish to go to Tamenglong.'

(184) *tərai* *herapipəiyu* *təiyu-nəi-ləi*

Tarai doctor become-wish-DECL

'Tarai wish to become a doctor.'

(185) *ragui təusem-ge bəm-nəi-ləi*

Ragui tousem-LOC be stay-wish-DECL

'Ragui wish to stay at Tousem.'

(186) *awan pəpui-pəpəiyu-nai imp^{h}al-ge bəm-nəi-ləi*

Awan mother-father-ASS imphal-LOC stay-wish-DECL

'Awan wish to stay with his parents at Imphal.'

5.5.9. Optative mood

The optative mood in Zeme is expressed by *verbs like* which is attached to the verb2. In other words the V1 can not take the optative suffix in such constructions as can be seen in the following examples:

(187) *nəŋ-ču hera-ne hiŋnəm gai-be-ləu*

you-ACC God-NOM bless HON-NMZ-IMP

'May god bless you'

(188) *nəŋ-ču hera-ne ŋa gai-be-ləu*

you-ACC God-NOM help HON-NMZ-IMP

'May god help you'

5.6. Adjectives

Adjectives in some of the Tibeto-Burman languages are indistinguishable either from nouns or verbs, i.e., adjectives frequently share the morphosyntactic features of nouns or verbs. Adjectives in the language do not employ as a distinct category of words as noun or verbs do.

Suffix	VR	Gloss	DRVD ADJ	Gloss
-be	*heba*	'be dirty'	*heba-be*	'dirty'
	siya	'be bad'	*siya-be*	'bad'
	rənči	'be strong'	*rənči-be*	'strong'
	niŋciŋ	'be clever'	*niŋciŋ-be*	'clever'
	hu	'be tall'	*hu-be*	'tall'
	ti	'be tall'	*ti-be*	'tall'
	ku	'be brave'	*ku-be*	'brave'

Table no.16: Derived Adjectives in Zeme

5.6.1. Semantic types of adjectives

Semantically, adjectives can be categorized into various fields such as, dimension, human propensity, colour, age, value etc., Dixon (1982, 2004). This is true in case of Zeme. The so called adjectives or adjectivals in Zeme can be classified in the following categories. These include:

5.6.1.1. Adjectives denoting quality

kahebabe	‘dirty’
ibe	‘good’
pərənčibe	‘strong’
kube	‘brave’

5.6.1.2. Adjective denoting quantity

pəriyak-kibe	‘many’
kečeine	‘few’
habe	‘white’

5.6.1.3. Adjectives of dimension

tibe	‘long’
duibe	‘short'
miča	‘fat’
ribe	‘lean’
dibe	‘big/large’

5.6.1.4. Adjectives of taste

kumbe	'sweet'
təiyube	'hot'
kahegəibe	'cold'
hiyabe	'sour'
k^{h}abe	'bitter'

5.6.1.5. Adjectives of colour

habe	'white'
gibe	'red'
kənzibe	'yellow'
tikbe	'black'

5.6.1.6. Adjective of comparison

There are three forms in adjective of comparison namely positive, comparative and superlative. However, positive form in Zeme is unmarked as many other languages of the world do. Nevertheless, the comparative and superlative is overtly marked by the morphemes *-bi* and *-laŋ* respectively. The adjectives of comparison in Zeme are illustrated in the following examples:

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
(a)	*i-be*	*i-bi-be*	*i-laŋ-be*
	good	better	best
(b)	*dui-be*	*dui-bi-be*	*dui-laŋ-be*
	short	shorter	shortest
(c)	*ri-be*	*ri-bi-be*	*ri-laŋ-be*
	thin	thinner	thinnest
(d)	*di-be*	*di-bi-be*	*di-laŋ-be*
	big	bigger	biggest
(e)	*hu-be*	*hu-bi-be*	*hu-laŋ-be*
	tall	taller	tallest
(f)	*pəluisiya-be*	*pəluisiya-bi-be*	*pəluisiya-laŋ-be*
	ugly	more ugly	most ugly

5.7. Adverbs

An adverb is a word, which modifies the verb, an adjectival. The adverbs in Zeme always precede the verbs. In other words, the adverbs in Zeme cannot occur in the postverbal position. It is also important to note that the adverbs in some of the Sino Tibeto-Burman languages like Chinese either precedes or follows the verbs,

however all the adverbs in Zeme cannot follow the verbs as can be seen in the following examples:

(189) *rəhaŋpəiyu* *k^{h}oine* *tet-ləi*

boy slowly be go-DECL

'The boy goes slowly.'

(190) *ə-nui* *inzimai* *waŋ-ləi*

1-PL yesterday be come-DECL

'We came yesterday.'

(191) *pa* *inčomai* *waŋ-gu-ləi*

he tomorrow be come-IRS.DECL

'He will come tomorrow.

5.7.1. Classification of Adverbs

Syntactically adverbs in Zeme can be classified into two categories viz., (1) simple and (ii) derived.

5.7.1.1. Simple adverbs:

Simple adverbs in Zeme are underived one i.e., they are not derived from any other word classes.

nəmai	'today'
inčomai	'tomorrow'
inzimai	yesterday
neka	now
keluwa	soon

5.7.1.2. Derived adverbs:

5.7.1.2.1. Derivation of adverbs from noun:

tiŋčo	*insəŋne*	'every morning'
nai	*insəŋne*	'every day'
tiŋkum	*insəŋne*	'every year'
tiŋmui	*insəŋne*	'every night'
pəkəiyu	*insəŋne*	'every month'

5.7.1.2.2. Derivation of adverb from stative verbs:

mi-be	'mad'	*mi-səŋ-be*	'madly'
let-be	'open'	*let-səŋ-be*	'openly'
rit-be	'heavy'	*rit-səŋ-be*	'heavily'

kum-be	'sweet'	*kum-səŋ-be*	'sweetly'
keluwa-be	'quick'	*keluwa-səŋ-be*	'quickly'
hu-be	'high'	*hu-səŋ-be*	'highly'
koči-be	'loud'	*koči-səŋ-be*	'loudly'
miniŋga-be	'angry'	*miniŋga-səŋ-be*	'angrily'
miluŋpum-be	'angry'	*miluŋpum-səŋ-be*	'angrily'
həŋa-be	'lazy'	*həŋa-səŋ-be*	'lazily'
ŋəurəu-be	'lazy'	*ŋəurəu-səŋ-be*	'lazily'

5.7.2. Semantic classification of adverbs:

Semantically, adverbs may be categorized as (i) adverbs of manner (ii) adverbs of location and direction (iii) adverbs of time and (iv) adverbs of degree.

5.7.2.1. Adverb of manner

(192) *sa* *inči-ləu*

be.speak be loud-IMP

'Speak loudly'

(193) *muhindro* *khoine* *təiyu-ləi*

Muhindro slowly be eat-DECL

'Muhindro eat slowly'

(194) *hələiyu* *təiyu* *mi-ləu*

song be sing be nice-IMP

'Sing nicely'

5.7.2.2. Adverb of time

(195) *john* *inzimai* *tet-gu-ləi*

he tomorrow be go-IRS-DECL

'John will go tomorrow.'

(196) *i* *inzimai* *nəŋ-ču* *ŋəu-ləi*

I yesterday you-ACC be see-DECL

'I saw you yesterday.'

(197) *nəmai ənui* *inčet* *məŋəiyu* *ta* *loi-gu-ləi*

today 1PL hour 5(five) work be finish-IRS-DECL

'Today we will finish our work by 5 o'clock.'

(198) *nəka* *pa* *niŋga* *ta-də-ləi*

now he be.angry do-EVD-DECL

'Now he is no more angry.'

5.7.2.3. Adverbs of location and direction

There are two locative adverbials in Zeme (i) *aige* 'here and (ii) *čige* 'there'. These locational adverbs in Zeme are formed by adding locative marker -*ge* to the proximate and remote determiner root *ai* and *či* respectively as can seen in the following examples:

(199) *i* *aige* *la-ləi*

i here EXIST-DECL

'I am here'

(200) *hənapoine* *čige* *sap-la-ləi*

child there be stand-EXIST-DECL

'The child stands there.'

5.7.2.4. Adverbs of degree

In Zeme adverbs of degree is expressed by using the specifier *səŋ* followed by the declarative marker -*ləi* as can be seen in the following examples:

(201) *nəmai* *həgəi* *səŋ-ləi*

today be cold very-DECL

'It was very cold today'

(202) *inzimai* *həlum* *səŋ-ləi*

yesterday be hot very-DECL

'It was very hot yesterday'

(203) *i* *sək* *iŋki* *səŋ-ləi*

I be drink much very-DECL

'He drinks too much much.'

(204) *i* *inda mai* *zəi* *iŋki* *səŋ-ləi*

I before today be sleep much very-DECL

'I slept too much day before yesterday.'