

Chapter 5

Conclusion

According to Grierson LSI (1903), Liangmai belongs to Naga-Kuki sub-group of the Tibeto-Burman family. Liangmai is one of the constituent tribe of Zeliangrong within the generic term called “Naga”. The term Zeliangrong consists of Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei that was coined on 15th February 1947 at the Keishamthong, Imphal Conference. This is the combination of the first syllable of the three tribes, i.e: Ze from Zeme, Liang from Liangmai and Rong from Rongmei (Ze+Liang+Rong=Zeliangrong). The language is spoken primarily in Manipur and also in Nagaland. In Manipur they are found in Sub-Division of Tamei and Tousem of Tamenglong District. In Nagaland they are found in the sub-Division of Tening and Jalukie of Paren District. According to 2001 census of India the total population of Liangmai is 34,232. They are said to have migrated from South-West China. But we do not have exact historical documents to show the migration and origination. It is one of the 33 recognized tribes by the government of Manipur which includes Aimol, Anal, Hmar, Maram, Mao, Paite, Simte, Thangal, Tangkhul and Thadou etc. In Nagaland Liangmais are recognized as Zeliang which comprises of Zeme and Liangmai. The language spoken by the people of Liangmai is known as Liangmai language. No Liangmai in Manipur follow any other religion but Christianity in the year 2007. There are still non-christians in Nagaland but with a less number. The Liangmai even today enjoy the maximum luxury of nature- pollution free air, organic food, spring water and blue mountain range that don't seem to end. The Language is mutually intelligible in both Manipur and Nagaland even though the language has slight variation from place to place and village to village. Liangmai language has been already introduced for teaching till class ten (high school level) in Manipur since January 2014. They have the ability to speak at least three or four languages viz, mother tongue, English, Manipuri and Nagamese; apart from this they have the capacity to speak Hindi to some extent.

The proposed study will have a systematic summary of all the major findings that will be incorporated. As it has not been scholarly studied before, this study was carried out to describe the Phonology and Morphology of Liangmai. Variations can be observed

in the above analysis; due to the varieties of Liangmai spoken in different places. This variation is based on geographical location. Thus, the variety spoken in one village slightly differs from the variety spoken in another village. These variations will be incorporated as Liangmai is spoken in different states.

The findings of this study show that in Liangmai, there are twenty consonants, six vowels, nine diphthongs and three tones. Occurrence of syllable or word-final position is totally missing in fricative, laterals, trills and semi vowel /w/ and /y/. The vowel /e/ and /o/ are very rare in word-initial positions comparison with the others remaining vowels. Liangmai is an agglutinative language having the characteristics of SOV language. The majority of the monosyllabic words of Liangmai have the CV structure, that is, they are open ended syllables. Three tones viz., high, mid and low which are contrastive to each other but different pitch variation as in /pá/ 'read', /pa/ 'foot print' and /pà/ 'he'.

Liangmai permits up to two consonants clusters in a syllable-initial and medial positions. It is observed that the consonants clusters in Liangmai are very few in number. The initial consonants clusters in Liangmai can be unaspirated voiceless stop /p/ and /k/, while the lateral and tap sound /l/ and /r/ occupy their positions as the second members of the consonant clusters. The consonants /p/, /t/, /b/, /k/, /m/ and /n/ are attested as germinate in Liangmai

There are nine diphthongs in Liangmai language /ia/, /iu/, /au/, /ao/, /ou/ /ui/, /ei/, /ai/, and /oi/ respectively. Occurrence of diphthongs in word initial position is limited in Liangmai. The only diphthongs in initial position are /ui/ and /ei/. It is also to be noticed that /ui/ occur more frequently than other diphthongs in the medial and final position in the language. All the diphthongs are found in word final position in Liangmai.

Noun in Liangmai are largely monosyllabic, but bisyllabic nouns are also quite frequent in the language. Monosyllabic *mik* 'eye' *ben* 'hand', Disyllabic word *tət^hi* 'dog' *tət^hai* 'deer'. There are three pronominal markers such as- /ə-/ -first person, /nə-/ -second person and /pə-/ -third person. Gender distinction in Liangmai is determined on the natural recognition of sex. Human and animate nouns are referred to as Masculine or feminine genders on the basic of natural sex. For human being [+human – inanimate] in Liangmai is marked by /piu/ 'male' and /pui/ 'female'. And in case of

animals, /-tsi/ ‘male’ and /pui/ female’, but in case of pigs the suffix *-kiu/* is marked for male and *-ŋee/* for female which haven’t give birth to young one. The dual form is marked by *-nai* while the plural is marked by suffixing *-duŋ* and *-liu*. There are nine case markers in Liangmai. Nominative /-niu/, Accusative/-tu/, Genitive/-gu/, Locative/-k^hu/ /-gə/, /-ləm/, Instrumental /-niu/, Ablative/-gəsul/, /-ləmsul/, Associative/-nai/, /-pənai/ , Dative /-leŋ/ Benefactive /-leŋ/. Quantifier in Liangmai are /keŋziu/ ‘many’ /inkiuziu/ ‘more’ /keŋkhə/ ‘much’ /khəŋsia/kəsia/ ‘some’ /pakhiŋ/ ‘all’ /mathiu/ ‘all’ /poina/ ‘little’ etc. Classifier is very rich in Liangmai. Liangmai makes use of classifier for denoting shape, size, physical and state etc. classifier in Liangmai usually follow the noun, for examples *-dan/*: This classifier is used for any object which are short but longer than its wide or breadth. An object may be round, flat or in any shape. *-k^həŋ/* it is used after noun to indicate the human being only. *-kaŋ/* indicates any objects which are solid and irregular in shape. *-keŋ/* it indicates that an object is long or short but thin in shape, ropelike structure which are thin. *-muai/* it signifies any things which are in a state of powder. *-poi/* this classifier indicates both animate and inanimate size and age. This classifier ‘poi’ is usually followed by the suffix ‘na’. *-kem/* this classifier is used to signifies any creepers plant. *-nian/* this classifier signifies anythings which are in the form of powder or paste. The most common types of compounds are the compound nouns.

<i>Kəbaŋ</i>	<i>ky</i>	>	<i>kabaŋky</i>	‘prison’
slave	house			
<i>tsəheŋ</i>	<i>tsaŋiu</i>	>	<i>tsaheŋ-tsaŋiu</i>	‘weapons’
dagger	spear			
<i>Katiu</i>	<i>kata</i>	>	<i>katiukata</i>	‘ornament’
necklaces	bangles			

Liangmai personal pronoun differentiates three persons: first person, second person and third person. These three persons can be distinguished into three numbers: singular, dual and plural.

The first person singular pronoun is *-i* ‘I’ and opposite of it is *-əliu* ‘we’. There is no question of inclusive or exclusive in the first person plural form. There is also dual form- *əniah*, *əne*, *ənai* (*ə*-first personal pronouns, *-nia*, *-ne* ‘two’). It has also objective singular form: *-ək^hugə* ‘to me’ and *-ək^hu-gəsu* ‘from me’.

The second personal pronouns are *naŋ* ‘you’ (singular), *nəliu* ‘you’ (plural) and the dual form *nənai* ‘you two’ *nə*- second person pronominal, *nai* - pertains to two.

The third personal pronouns are *pə* ‘he/she’ and *pəliu* ‘they’ and the dual form is *pənai*. *Pə*-third person pronominal, *nai* - Pertains to two; the objectives singular is *pək^hugə* ‘to him’ *pək^hu-gəsu* ‘from him’. The plurality is expressed through suffixation of */-liu/* to the first second and third personal pronouns.

	Singular	dual	plural	object
First person	<i>I ‘me/myself’</i>	<i>ənia ‘1^p+two’</i>	<i>əliu ‘we’</i>	<i>ək^huga ‘to me’</i>
Second person	<i>Naŋ ‘you’</i>	<i>Nənai ‘2ndp+two’</i>	<i>nəliu ‘you’</i>	<i>nak^huga ‘to you’</i>
Third person	<i>pə ‘he/she’</i>	<i>pənai ‘3rdp+two’</i>	<i>pəliu ‘they’</i>	<i>pək^huga ‘to him’</i>

Possessive pronoun is formed by suffixation of genitive suffix */-gu/*. In Liangmai, there are two basic or principal interrogative pronouns. They are *-sao* ‘who’ and *-de* ‘what’. All other interrogative pronouns are formed by adding different case ending or other suffixes to the basic interrogatives. The interrogative pronoun */de/* ‘what’ is never used in asking the name of a person, instead *-sao* ‘who’ is used for the purpose. Liangmai language also uses various reduplication processes for the sole purpose of creating new words by either repeating a syllabus or the whole word. Different processes of reduplication like expressives that includes onomatopoeias, sound symbolism, idiophones and imitative, word reduplications are also used in Liangmai. Liangmai has four negative particles namely- */mək/*, */lək/*, */ma/* and */dulo/*. The negative marker */mək/* is used in both past and non-past aspect, */lək/* is used only in non past aspect, the negative particle *-/ma/* is used in imperative negation. The word always follows the verb and takes the suffix *-/ne/* in the imperative sentence, and */dulo/* is used in lets negation.