

Chapter 6

Conclusions

(i) The syllable of Zeme can be generalized as $(C_1)V_1(V_2)(C_2)T$. The onset is composed of (C_1) . The nucleus is composed of either an obligatory vowel V_1 as monophthong or a diphthong $V_1(V_2)$. The coda (C_2) is consonant final and T represents the tone.

(ii) Zeme has six phonemic vowels and thirty eight consonant phonemes.

(iii) All consonants appear as initial consonant (C_1) . The monophthong V_1 has no limitation but whenever the diphthong $V_1(V_2)$ occurs, the second vowel (V_2) is restricted to either close front unrounded vowel /i/ or close rounded back vowel /u/

(iv) There are three contrastive tones in Zeme: high //, mid (unmark) and low /'.

(v) The syllable of Liangmai can be generalized as $(C_1)V_1(V_2)(C_2)T$. The onset is composed of (C_1) . The nucleus is composed of either an obligatory vowel V_1 as monophthong or a diphthong $V_1(V_2)$. The coda (C_2) is consonant final.

(vi) Liangmai has six phonemic vowels and thirty nine consonant phonemes.

(v) All consonants appear as initial consonant (C_1) . The monophthong V_1 has no limitation but whenever the diphthong $V_1(V_2)$ occur the second vowel (V_2) is restricted to both closed unrounded front vowels /i/ or close rounded back vowel /u/

(vi) The second consonant in the medial consonant cluster (C_2) is restricted to liquids /r/ and /l/, and it occurs only after obstruent sounds /p/, /t/ and /k/.

(vii) Consonant clusters in Liangmai are found only in reduplicated form of words like /tra ra/ 'sprinkle' /kluŋ kluŋ/ 'thundering sound' /prum prum/ 'clapping sound' /plik plik/ 'clicking/twinkling' etc.

- (viii) Liangmai has three contrastive tones namely (i) high //, (ii) mid (unmark) and (iii) low /'//.
- (ix) The basic syllable of Rongmei can be generalized as (C₁)V₁(V₂)(C₂)T. The onset is composed of (C₁). The nucleus is composed of either an obligatory vowel V₁ as monophthong or a diphthong V₁(V₂). The coda (C₂) is consonant final.
- (x) Most of the Tibeto-Burman languages have tendency of dropping unstressed or reduced vowel to form -CC- clusters particularly in word medial positions of words. Likewise, Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei languages have similar linguistic features to form clusters by dropping vowels in casual or spontaneous speech.
- (xi) Some of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Northeast India have a common trait that they usually made, insertion of transitional sounds particularly glide to break vowel clusters in their phonological structure without any etymological motivation. Likewise in Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei, semi-vowels /y/ or /w/ are inserted in between two vowels to break the vowel clusters.
- (xii) The voiceless aspirated alveolar stop /th/ of Rongmei becomes the voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ in Liangmai.
- (xiii) Similarly the voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ of Liangmai becomes the voiceless alveolar affricate /č/ in Zeme.
- (xiv) The diphthong /eu/ of Zeme becomes /iu/ in Liangmai.
- (xv) The initial stops *p, *b, *t, *d *k and *g are Proto Zeliangrong stop sounds reconstructed from Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei.
- (xvi) The nasal stops *m, *n, and *ŋ are Proto Zeliangrong nasals reconstructed from Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei.
- (xv) The fricative *s, *z and affricate *č are Proto Zeliangrong as reconstructed from Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei.

- (xvi) The liquids *l and *r are Proto Zeliangrong as reconstructed from Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei.
- (xvii) The vowels *i, *e, *a, *ə, *o and *u are Proto Zeliangrong Vowels as reconstructed from Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei.
- (xviii) The stops /p/, /b/, /t/, /d/, /k/, and /g/ of Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei are reconstructed as Proto Zeliangrong stop consonants *p, *b, *t, *d, *k and *g. It is also observed that above Proto Zeliangrong stop consonants are correspondence to the Proto Tibeto Burman stops.
- (xix) The nasals /n/, /m/ and /ŋ/ of Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei are reconstructed as Proto Zeliangrong nasal consonants *n, *m and *ŋ.
- (xx) The fricatives /s/, /z/ and /h/ of three languages are reconstructed as Proto Zeliangrong fricative consonants *s, *z and *h.
- (xxi) The affricates /č/ of three languages are reconstructed as Proto Zeliangrong affricates *č.
- (xxii) The liquids /l/ and /r/ of three languages are reconstructed as Proto Zeliangrong liquids *l and *r.
- (xxiii) The vowels /i/, /u/, /a/, /o/, and /e/ of three languages are reconstructed as Proto Zeliangrong vowels *i, *u, *a, *o, and *e.
- (xxiv) The 1st person, 2nd person and 3rd person pronominal prefixes of Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei are reconstructed as *a-, *n- and *p-.
- (xxv) The seven types of Proto Zeliangrong syllabic structure are established from the syllabic structures of Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei.