

## Chapter-6

### Conclusions

The word Toto is derived from the Tibetan word *toḍbo* means 'dweller of high attitude mountains' later the word *toḍbo* becomes Toto. The Toto Language still have no script and the status of the language is endangered. According to the Linguists Toto has close affinity with the Newar, Mogar and Gurung and Lepcha to some extent. Hence, Toto was placed under the Tibeto-Burman language Family of Non-Pronominalised Group. The present study also reveals the same.

Toto people are multilinguals they speak Bengali, Hindi, Nepali and other market languages also to some extent. Toto people encourage their children to speak their mother tongue in their home. The Toto people have positive attitude towards their mother tongue. Totos are considered as a minor group and their Language is Endangered among the Languages spoken in the North Eastern region.

A few Anthropological works on Toto people are found like the study of their physical and material culture, Folk literature, religion and so on. However Linguistic work is found very scanty. Which is mentioned in the Introduction chapter as well as in the Review of literature also.

The present work on Grammar of Toto is an earnest attempt to bring out the unique features of Phonological, Morphological and Syntactical aspects also to some extent. As per the study the Toto Language agrees most of the features of the Tibeto Burman Languages.

On the basis of the structural description of Toto, the following conclusions can be drawn.

(i) Toto exhibits the basic six-vowel system found in most of the Tibeto-Burman languages and their dialects. The six-vowels in the language are /i, e, ə, a, o and u/.

(ii) All the vowels in the language are voiced and oral. It is also noticed that vowel length is not phonemic in the language.

(iii) All the vowels can occur in all the position of a word i.e., initially, medially and finally.

(iv) There are nine diphthongs in Toto: /iu/ /ei/, /eu/, /əi/, /ai/, /au/, /oi/, /ou/ and /ui/. Diphthong /ui/ occurs in all positions, /iu/ and /eu/ occur initial and medial positions, /ai/, /oi/, /əi/, and /ei/ occur medial and final positions while /ou/ and /au/ occur only in the medial positions of word.

(v) Like the majority of Tibeto-Burman languages, Toto is a tone language in which a change in the pitch of the syllable corresponds to a change in its meaning. The number of contrasting tones in Toto is two i.e., Toto has two contrastive lexical tones: high and low.

(vi) There are eighteen consonantal phonemes in Toto: /p, b, t, d, c, ʃ, k, g, m, n, ŋ, s, z, h, r, l, w and y/. All the eighteen consonantal phonemes cannot occur in all three positions.

(vii) Toto has ten stops consisting of unaspirated voiceless /p, t, k/, aspirated voiceless stops /p<sup>h</sup>, t<sup>h</sup>, k<sup>h</sup>/ and unaspirated voiced /b, d/ which lack their aspirated counterpart /b<sup>h</sup>/ and /d<sup>h</sup>/.

(viii) Interesting feature in the language is the non-occurrence of trill phoneme /r/ in the word final position is also noticed.

(ix) 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 Toto.

(x) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, no consonant clusters are found syllable finally.

(xi) Noun in Toto may be defined as a class of words that can be affixed by morphemes for number *-bi ~biya*, determiner *-i & -u* gender *-meme* 'female' and *-poja* 'male' and case suffixes *-hiŋ, -ko, -se, -ta*, etc..

(xii) Unlike other Tibeto-Burman Languages namely Bodo, Rabha, Garo number is not grammaticalised in Toto i.e., subject-verb agreement is absent as far as number is concerned.

(xiii) In Toto, there is no grammatical gender. The gender distinction in Toto is natural i.e., all the male comes under the masculine and all the female comes under the feminine. All inanimate things fall under the neuter gender.

(xiv) There are no gender distinctions of any kind in Toto pronouns however the singular-non-singular distinctions are found in pronouns in Toto.

(xv) Numeral system in Toto is of decimal type. Vigesimal system is also noticed in the numeral system of the language. Majority of the numeral roots in the language are mono-morphemic. Bi-morphemic numerals in the language are numeral root plus suffixes for instance, *i-co* 'one', *ŋa-co* 'five', *tu-co* 'six' etc.

(xvi) As many other Tibeto-Burman languages, case relations in Toto are expressed by means of postpositions. Case relation in Toto is expressed by postposing the case markers to the nouns or pronouns.

(xvii) Toto has a minimal number of simple or underived adjectives which do not show any morphological distinction for attributively and predicatively use. Most of the adjectives are derived from the stative verbs by adding derivational suffix *-ma*. It is one the common phenomena to form adjectives in most of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Southeast Asia (Benedict 1972, Matisoff, 2003)

(xviii) Verbs in Toto can be defined as roots which can take morphemes for aspect, mood, causative, negative and so on. Verbs are not marked for number and gender in Toto.

(xix) Verbs in Toto are inflected for tense, aspect and mood and other verbal affixes as well. Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, auxiliaries in Toto follow the main verb. Morphosyntactically, Toto tense can be categorized into: (i) present (ii) past and (iii) future. The present tense in Toto is expressed by the suffix *-mi* which is attached to the verb root. Morphosyntactically, the past tense is expressed by the suffix *-na* and future tense is marked by the suffix *-ro*, There are three aspectual distinctions in Toto language, viz., (i) perfective (ii) progressive (iii) habitual. The adverbs always precede the verbs they modify. Derived adverbs in Toto are derived from nouns or verbs by adding adverbial markers *-pa* to the same. Therefore, the derivation of adverbs from noun or verbs is one of the typological features of Tibeto-Burman languages shared by Toto. The imperative mood is expressed by the suffix *-ko*, the obligative is expressed by morpheme *nero*, capability is *curo*, the conditional mood is by a suffix *-ado*. The Optional mood in Toto is expressed by the morpheme *mokna*.

(xx) In Toto, noun phrase consists of the head noun which is usually followed by one or more modifiers. Generally modifiers may be nominal, numeral, or a quantifier.

(xxi) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, Toto has four major word formation processes viz., (i) affixation (ii) compounding (iii) reduplication and (iv) borrowing.

(xxii) The basic order of the words in unmarked sentences in Toto is Subject, object, Verb (SOV).

(xxiii) A noun phrase in Toto may consist minimally of the noun (or noun substitute, such as a pronoun) and the other words (modifiers) or affixes can be added.

(xxiv) In Toto, verb phrase must have a verb, whereas NPs or adverbs are optionally present in the phrase.

(xxv) Like many other languages in the world, Toto makes use of nominalizing morpheme *-wa* for the derivation of nouns from verbs.

(xxvi) Typologically, Toto has morphological causative. *-pa*, causativization in Toto is formed predominantly by adding a causative suffix *-pa* to the verb stem. Negation in Toto is mainly expressed by means of particles: *ma-* and *uhu*. In Toto, the negator *ma-* is employed to negate both the declarative and interrogative clauses. The nominalised clause is negated by the general negator *moko*.

(xxvii) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, Toto has no overt relative pronoun to form relative clause as in Indo-European languages like English, French, Sanskrit, Hindi etc. So relativization in Toto is made by prefixing the nominalizer *-wa* to the verb of the nominalized clause.

(xxviii) The yes-no question in Toto is formed by adding the question marker *-ga* to the verb.

(xxix) In Toto, the question words: *hasu* ‘who’ *hanga* ‘what’ etc are used to form the wh-question along with the question particle *-ga*.

(xxx) Declarative clauses in Toto are usually the normal, unmarked clause type. Structurally declarative clause can be categorized into two types: (i) verbal predicate and (ii) non-verbal predicate. The verbal predicate in Toto is formed by the verb i.e., the verb is the predicator of the verbal predicate. Non-verbal predicate is formed with either auxiliary *ni*.