

Thesis Title : The Phonological Description of Lahu Nyi Language
Spoken in Chayi Village, Pa-tung Sub-district Maechan
District, Chiengrai Province.

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Abstract

This thesis is the description of the phonological system of Lahu Nyi language, one of the Lahu dialects in Tibeto-Burman linguistic family, Burmese - Lolo branch as spoken in Chayi Village, Pa-Tung Sub-district Maechan District, Chiengrai province.

The phonological description is based on Tagmemic approach and it can be summerized as follows.

The intonation of this language is non-phonemic (in the etical level) and it is therefore presented in chapter 2 in terms of pitch movement in various types of clauses and sentences. In chapter 3, the phonological word is presented and it is also predictable, the weak stress occurs on the first syllsble and the strong stress occurs on the last syllable. In chapter 4, the syllable pattern of this language is defined only in terms of opened syllable and its structure is $C(C)V(V)^T$. In chapter 5, the phoneme; consonants, vowels and tones are presented respectively. There are 28 consonant

phonemes in this language. The alveolar affricates, [ts, ts^h, dz] occur in complementary distribution to [tʃ, tʃ^h, dʒ]. They occur only with the high central vowel /u/. As well as the palatal nasal [ɲ] which occur in complementary distribution to [ŋ]. It occurs only with the high front vowel /i/. The consonant clusters are evident and occur only with rounded high back vowel /u/. The second elements of the consonant cluster are voiced and voiceless labiodental fricative, /f/ and /v/. Each of them is homogenized with its first element in terms of phonation type. There are nine single vowel phonemes and six diphthongs. The diphthongization are both fronting and backing. The length of vowel is not a contrastive unit and it is stipulated by tone. There are seven tonemes in this language. Three of them are glottalized tone.

In the end of this thesis, the appendix with a word list of 1115 words is presented.