CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the summary and conclusions to the thesis. Each chapter is briefly summarized, followed by a synthesis of the different chapters and then finally further research is suggested.

5.1 Summary

Chapter one presented general background knowledge about Bisoid such as including geography, people, previous research, plus also the purpose of the thesis was given, namely to describe and compare Bisoid speech varieties.

Chapter two answered the question "How related are the Bisoid speech varieties lexically?". This chapter compared fifteen Bisoid speech varieties using lexicostatistics following Mann (2004). The highest lexical similarity of all fifteen speech varieties is between Laopin and Laomian with 90%. On the basis of these results four speech varieties were chosen to represent each of the four clusters discovered through the lexical comparison. These were Bantang, Bisu, Cauho and Tsukong. These four varieties were then analyzed and described in more detail in chapters three and four.

Chapter three presented a phonological description for Bantang, Bisu, Cauho, and Tsukong. The following table presents a summary of the phonological systems of each speech.

	Consonants	Consonant Clusters	Vowels	Diphthongs	tones
Bantang	25	-	9	6	3
Bisu	22	5	9	5	4
Cauho	26	-	9	5	4
Tsukong	24	1	9	3	3

Table 189. Distribution of Phonological Features

From this table we can see that Cauho has highest number of consonants. Bisu has highest occurrence of consonant clusters. All four speech varieties have the same number of vowels. Bantang has highest number of diphthongs. All four speech varieties haves the same occurrence of tones, which are level tones. Only Bisu and Cauho show the existence of the contour tones.

Chapter four presented phonological comparisons between Bantang, Bisu, Cauho, and Tsukong based on the phonological descriptions of chapter. In phonological description section, the most consistent syllable structures are CV, CVC, CVV, and CVVC. The consonants having a high frequency of the consistent occurrence are the plosives /pʰ/, /p/, /b/, /tʰ/, /t/, /d/, /cʰ/, /c/, /kʰ/, /k/, and /ʔ/, the nasals /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/, the fricatives /s/, /ʃ/, and /h/, and the approximants /w/, /j/, and /l/. The plosive /g/ and the nasal /ɲ/ do not occur only in Bisu. Bisu has a highest occurrence of consonant clusters. All four speech varieties have the same nine vowels. Bantang has a highest occurrence of diphthongs. The most common occurrences of tones in four speech varieties are 35 (high tone), 33 (mid tone), and 31(low tone). In comparative description section, the plosives /t/, and /kʰ/ and the nasals such as /m/, and /n/ presents a high frequency of the consistent occurrences. The front vowels /æ/ and /a/ have a high frequency of consistent occurrences across all varieties.

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5.2 Synthesis

This thesis considers three areas of comparison between four selected Bisoid speech varieties. These are lexical comparison, phonological description, and correspondence sets. The lexical comparison shows that the varieties are fairly similar, with Bisu and Tsukong being the most similar, followed by Cauho and Bantang. Bantang is the most lexically different from the other speech varieties.

In terms of phonological complexity, Cauho has the largest consonant inventory, followed by Bantang, Tsukong and then Bisu. Cauho has the most phonological complexity with nasals while Bantang has the most phonological complexity amongst fricatives. Bisu has the largest initial consonant cluster inventory. All four varieties have the same number of plain vowels. Bantang has the most diphthongs, followed by Bisu and Cauho and then Tsukong. Both Bisu and Cauho have more tones than Bantang and Tsukong. The following table summarizes the basic findings of the lexical, phonological and correspondence comparisons:

	Lexically similar	Phonology					Correspondences		
		C	V	VC	dip	T	C	V	T
Bantang	lowest	25	9	nasal	6	3	conservative	conservative	conservative
Bisu	---	22	9	nasal, stop	5	4	conservative	conservative	conservative
Cauho	lower	26	9	nasal, stop	5	4	neutral	conservative	innovative
Tsukong	highest	23	9	nasal	3	3	innovative	innovative	innovative

Table 190. The Summary of the Different Aspects Analysis

From this table, it can be seen that there is not a strong general relationship between all of the different aspects analyzed in this thesis. The comparative description shows Tsukong to be the most innovative, yet lexically it is the most conservative with the highest lexical similarity to another speech variety (Bisu).

Cauho is the most conservative in terms of codas, yet the most innovative with respect to the consonant inventory. Correlations between lexical similarity and other

features such as phonology and systematic correspondences are a function of the methodology used in lexical counting.

In conclusion, the four speech varieties compared are quite similar. Bisu and Tsukong are very similar lexically, with Cauho and Bantang a little different. There are similarities in the phonological inventories, with Bantang and Cauho having the most consonants. The number of vowels in each language is the same. All four varieties have nasal codas but Cauho also has stops final rhymes.

5.3 Further Study

Further study on Bisoid speech varieties is essential for a clearer understanding of the history of the various Bisoid varieties. A major area of further study would be a reconstruction of Proto-Bisoid. However for a reconstruction, the wordlists used would need to be augmented with a larger selection of nouns and verbs as well as grammatical particles.

While this study has only looked at only four Bisoid speech varieties, there are many more varieties that need phonological analysis and description (at least the remaining eleven varieties used in chapter two).

Further comparison needs to be done between the various Bisoid varieties spoken in the countries of Southeast Asia. For example, a phonological comparison of Bisoid speech varieties in each country, such as a comparison of Bisu and Mpi phonology in Thailand, a comparison of Laomian, Laopin, and Tsukong phonology in China Another related area of research would be to compare Bisoid speech varieties in one country to another country such as the Bisu in Thailand and Pyen in Myanmar, or a phonological comparison of Coong in Vietnam and Pyen in Myanmar.

Another area, not directly related to phonology is discourse analysis. There has been no discourse study done of any Bisoid variety. But not only discourse, but also

grammar has been poorly studied, especially a cross-variety comparison. Each variety has different grammar structure, which some add prefixes to derive a noun. In contrast, some add suffixes to derive a noun.