

CHAPTER 7

SUMMARY

7.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the findings are summarized and suggestions for further research are described.

7.1 Summary of findings

Geba is a little researched Karenic Language. The research of this thesis intends to describe the basic grammatical structures of Geba including word classes, phrases, and clause types.

In the word class section, different types of major word classes, minor word classes, and morphological process were presented. Nouns were shown as common nouns, which are followed by number and classifiers; proper nouns, which do not normally occur with classifiers; mass nouns, which can be counted by measure classifiers; and abstract nouns, which can not be measured by either classifiers or measure containers.

Verbs in Geba can be divided into main verbs and auxiliary verbs which occur with the main verb to function as helping verbs. Postverbal auxiliaries appear regularly after the verbs. Directional verbs occur as helping verbs to the main verb to show the direction of the actor. Copulas in Geba are defined as those verbs which link two nonverbal phrases. Adjectives were shown to be similar to verbs in negation and modification by post auxiliaries. But adjectives are distinct from verbs in ə -prefixation, the use of the relativizer *dó* with modifiers, and the comparative and the superlative constructions. Adverbs typically follow the verb and modify the verb, adjective or another adverb. Geba also has prepositions and discontinuous markers. Prepositions precede the noun to express the general location and the locator noun points out a specific place.

In minor word classes, several pronouns are found including inclusive and exclusive pronouns for first person plural. Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns

follow the main verb to form reflexive or reciprocal clauses. Demonstratives in Geba are used to point out a particular thing and they normally follow the head noun, but sometimes appear before the head noun, and are linked by a copula. Conjunctions link two words, phrases or clauses and the question words sometimes occur as discontinuous forms. Particles which function as aspect markers, negators, and illocutionary force markers were discussed.

Phrases in Geba are divided into noun phrases, classifier phrases, prepositional phrases, and verb phrases. Noun phrases can occur as head nouns preceded by an optional possessive noun phrase and followed by optional deictic and adjectives. The quantifier phrase or classifier phrase are optional. In appositional noun phrases, the specific noun phrase follows the general noun phrase. Co-ordinate noun phrases consist of two similar head constituents joined by a conjunction. Classifiers accompany nouns to mark a specific class of nouns and form classifier phrases. The verb phrase consists of the main verb preceded by an optional auxiliary and followed by an optional directional, another optional auxiliary, and optional adverbs. Simple sentences, verbal clauses, non-verbal clauses, clause constituents, and illocutionary forces were also presented.

In clause constituents, the subject is almost always obligatory in Geba. However, different grammatical relations can be the topic in different sentence structures. The benefactive constituent can follow or precede the indirect object constituent, but the conditions for changing the position of verb phrases need more investigation. Time constituents usually appear at the beginning of the sentence, whereas location constituents appear as adjuncts, usually at the beginning of the sentence. Instrument constituents occur in transitive and ditransitive clauses but are very rare in intransitive and other kinds of clauses. The role of *dó* and other prepositional phrases need more research.

Different types of illocutionary force, such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative, are also found in Geba. Three different types of interrogative sentence, yes-no questions, information questions, and alternative questions, occur. The imperative is typically used to express a command and has some variations. Negation is in the form of discontinuous morphemes. In complex

sentences, nominalized, relativized, adverbial, complement, serial verb, repeated pronoun, causative, and coordinate clauses, were briefly reviewed.

7.2 Further investigation

As the Karenic languages belong to Tibeto- Burman branch they still have some characteristics of Sino-Tibetan language. However, their SVO word order makes them somewhat unique. This thesis focused on the basic grammar structure of Geba and it only introduced and described the basic structure of grammar in this language. Therefore, there are more things in each section for further research. In the word classes section, pronoun changes of tones and vowel quality need more research. Classifiers also need more data and research. Adjectives as a distinct class from verbs, adverbs, and case markings all need further investigation. As particles are widely used in this language, there are still more particles, especially *nù*, to research. For the phrase section, all the different types of phrases need further research to ascertain the limits of each phrase type. For simple and complex sentences, the most interesting area to focus on is subject-verb intransitivity and their alternation into verb subject sentences. Not only grammar, but phonology also needs further research as this language has borrowed words from Sgaw and also Burmese. It also needs further research on the vowels, especially for breathy and creaky features. More tone analysis with pitch and intonation should be included for further analysis.