

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements .....	ii
Abstract .....	iv
บทคัดย่อ .....	vi
List of tables.....	xiii
List of figures .....	xv
Chapter 1 Introduction.....	1
1.1 A general introduction .....	1
1.2 Burmese people and language .....	2
1.3 Lisu people and language .....	2
1.4 The history of Naga and its distribution in Burma (Myanmar) .....	4
1.4.1 Background of Leinong Naga .....	6
1.3.2 Language classification of Leinong Naga in Tibeto-Burman family .....	7
1.5 Thesis background and goal of the study.....	9
1.5.1 Methodology.....	10
1.5.2 Scope and limitation of the research.....	11
1.6 Literature review.....	12
1.6.1 Overview of previous research on Burmese .....	12
1.6.2 Overview of previous research on Lisu .....	15
1.6.3 Overview of previous research on Naga.....	18
1.6.4 Theoretical framework and concepts of Aspect and Imperfectivity .....	19

Chapter 2 Burmese.....	27
2.1 Introduction .....	27
2.2 Burmese phonology .....	27
2.3 A brief overview of Burmese basic grammar .....	28
2.3.1 Burmese noun phrase.....	29
2.3.2 Burmese clause word order.....	32
2.3.3 Case system of Burmese .....	34
2.4 Introduction of particles .....	35
2.4.1 <i>te<sup>22</sup></i> ‘realis’.....	36
2.4.2 <i>ne<sup>22</sup></i> ‘continuous’ .....	37
2.4.3 <i>toun<sup>44</sup></i> ‘durative’ .....	38
2.4.4 The combination of two particles, <i>ne<sup>22</sup></i> - <i>toun<sup>44</sup></i> .....	41
2.5 Different event types with the three aspectual particles; <i>te<sup>22</sup></i> , <i>ne<sup>22</sup></i> , <i>toun<sup>44</sup></i> , and <i>ne<sup>22</sup></i> - <i>toun<sup>44</sup></i> .....	41
2.5.1 <i>la<sup>42</sup></i> ‘be beautiful’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	41
2.5.2 <i>?aja? se<sup>22</sup></i> ‘tall’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	42
2.5.3 <i>pje<sup>44</sup></i> ‘run’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	44
2.5.4 <i>sau?</i> ‘build’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	45
2.5.5 <i>mwe<sup>44</sup></i> ‘give-birth’ and its imperfective behavior .....	48
2.5.6 <i>k<sup>h</sup>wε<sup>44</sup></i> ‘break’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	50
2.5.7 <i>kwe<sup>44</sup></i> ‘be broken’ and its imperfective behavior .....	53
2.6 Conclusions .....	54

Chapter 3 Lisu.....	57
3.1 Introduction .....	57
3.2 Phonology sketch of Lisu.....	57
3.2.1 Lisu consonants, vowels, and tones.....	57
3.3 Overview of Lisu basic grammar .....	59
3.3.1 Lisu noun phrase.....	59
3.3.2 Demonstratives .....	63
3.3.3 Lisu clause word order.....	64
3.3.4 Lisu case system.....	65
3.4 Introduction of Lisu particles.....	66
3.4.1 Particle <i>a</i> <sup>44</sup> .....	67
3.4.2 The particle <i>ne</i> <sup>35</sup> ‘continuous’.....	68
3.4.3 The durative particle <i>si</i> <sup>21</sup> .....	69
3.5 Different event types with the three aspectual particles : <i>a</i> <sup>44</sup> , <i>ne</i> <sup>35</sup> , <i>si</i> <sup>21</sup> , and <i>ne</i> <sup>35</sup> - <i>si</i> <sup>21</sup> .....	71
3.5.1 <i>mo</i> <sup>55</sup> ‘tall’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	71
3.5.2 <i>tuu</i> <sup>35</sup> ‘run’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	73
3.5.3 <i>Ja</i> <sup>35</sup> ‘build’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	75
3.5.4 <i>hy</i> <sup>33</sup> ‘give birth’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	77
3.5.5 <i>bui</i> <sup>21</sup> ‘break’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	79
3.5.6 <i>bui</i> <sup>21</sup> ‘be broken’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	81
3.6 Conclusions .....	82

Chapter 4 Leinong Naga.....	85
4.1 Introduction .....	85
4.2 Leinong Naga phonology .....	85
4.2.1 Leinong Naga consonants, vowels, and tones.....	85
4.3 A brief overview of Leinong basic grammar .....	87
4.3.1 Leinong Naga noun phrase structure.....	87
4.3.2 Leinong Naga clause word order.....	93
4.3.3 Case system of Leinong Naga .....	94
4.4 Introduction of Leinong Naga particles.....	98
4.4.1 <i>an</i> <sup>44</sup> ‘realis’ .....	98
4.4.2 <i>niu</i> <sup>22</sup> ‘continuous’ .....	100
4.4.3 Another continuous particle, <i>lui</i> <sup>33</sup> .....	102
4.5 Descriptions of imperfectivity; different event types with the three aspectual particles: <i>an</i> <sup>44</sup> ‘real’, <i>niu</i> <sup>22</sup> ‘continuous’, and <i>lui</i> <sup>33</sup> ‘continuous’ .....	105
4.5.1 <i>log</i> <sup>44</sup> <i>mi</i> <sup>44</sup> ‘be beautiful’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	105
4.5.2 <i>ə</i> <sup>33</sup> <i>vɔŋ</i> <sup>44</sup> <i>lai</i> <sup>33</sup> ‘tall’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	107
4.5.3 <i>dan</i> <sup>22</sup> ‘run’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	108
4.5.4 <i>da</i> <sup>44</sup> ‘built’ and its imperfectivity behavior’ .....	109
4.5.5 <i>pa?</i> <sup>42</sup> ‘give-birth’ and its imperfectivity behavior .....	111
4.5.6 <i>lau?</i> <sup>42</sup> <i>pi</i> <sup>22</sup> ‘break’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	112
4.5.7 <i>pi</i> <sup>22</sup> ‘be broken’ and its imperfectivity behavior.....	115
4.6 Conclusion.....	116

Chapter 5 Comparisons and summaries of findings.....	120
5.1 Introduction .....	120
5.2 Similarities and differences of the three languages.....	120
5.3 Conclusion.....	123
5.4 Suggestion for further study .....	124
Bibliography .....	125
Appendix 1 .....	130

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Detailed information of LRP.....	11
Table 2 Characteristic of event types .....	25
Table 3 Consonants in Burmese .....	28
Table 4 Vowels and tones in Burmese (Green 2005: 2).....	28
Table 5 Behaviors of different event types with aspectual particles in Burmese.....	55
Table 6 Summary of behavior of different event types with aspectual particles in Burmese.....	56
Table 7 Lisu consonants (adapted from Bradley 2003: 223) .....	58
Table 8 Lisu vowels (Bradley 2003: 224) .....	58
Table 9 Lisu tones (Bradley 2003: 223) .....	58
Table 10 Imperfective behavior of different event types with aspectual particles in Lisu.....	83
Table 11 Summary of the imperfective behavior of different event types with aspectual particles in Lisu.....	84
Table 12 Consonants in Leinong Naga .....	86
Table 13 Vowels in Leinong Naga.....	86
Table 14 Tones in Leinong Naga.....	86
Table 15 General summary of genitive marking in Leinong Naga.....	90
Table 16 General summary of Leinong Naga case marking.....	96

Table 17 Illustration of Leinong Naga case marking occurrences in two-participant sentences .....	96
Table 18 Illustration of Leinong Naga case marking occurrences in three or four participant sentences .....	97
Table 19 Imperfective behaviors of different event types with aspectual particles in Leinong Naga.....	118
Table 20 General summary of imperfective behavior of different event types with aspectual particles in Leinong Naga.....	119
Table 21 General summary of imperfective behavior of the three Tibeto-Burman languages.....	121

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Classification of Lisu in the Tibeto-Burman language family.....	4
Figure 2 The distribution of Naga in Myanmar (adapted from Wayesha 2007).....	6
Figure 3 Linguistic map of Lahe Township.....	7
Figure 4 Classification of Naga by Thurgood (2003).....	8
Figure 5 Classification of Leinong Naga within Naga language family in Myanmar (adapted from Tin Yi 2004). .....	9
Figure 6 Classification of Leinong Naga within Tibeto-Burman language family (adapted from Bradley 1997: 21).....	9
Figure 7 Aspectual category by Comrie (1976: 25).....	22
Figure 8 Eventuality categories (adapted from Adams 1999).....	24
Figure 9 Expansion of <i>a</i> <sup>44</sup> 'realis' to states and events .....	68
Figure 10 Expansion of <i>an</i> <sup>44</sup> 'realis' to states and events .....	99
Figure 11 Expansion of <i>lui</i> <sup>33</sup> to events and states .....	103