

## Chapter 7

### Conclusion

#### 7.1 Introduction

This chapter is the conclusion of the thesis and it summarizes each chapter that has presented in previous. Suggestions for the further study on the Kayan Lahta are included in this chapter.

#### 7.2 Summary

Chapter 1 provided information about the thesis and gave a briefly summer of each chapter. It introduced the Lahta people, the language that they are using, their education, religion, and beliefs. It also provided information about where they live, how they dress, what they do for their living and how many people there are. Finally the limitations, scope, and benefit of the research were discussed.

Chapter two described Lahta phonology. The consonant and vowel inventory, the tones and the syllable structure of the language were discussed. The consonant section was divided into plosives, nasals, fricatives, and approximants. In the vowel section monophthongs and diphthongs were covered. Major syllable structure and minor syllable structures were discussed under the syllable structure. Finally, the distribution of phones that include initial consonant-tone distribution, monophthong vowel-tone distribution, nasal rhymes, diphthong vowel-tone distribution and consonant vowel sequences were described.

The phonology analysis concluded that there are 24 consonants and 14 vowels (10 monophthongs and 4 diphthongs) in Kayan Lahta. It is a tonal language and there are 4 tones in Kayan Lahta.

Chapter three started the grammatical analysis of the Kayan Lahta language. This chapter described the word classes of the language. Both major word classes and minor word classes were discussed in this chapter. In the major word classes section, nouns, verbs, adjective and adverb were discussed. Nouns were sub-divided into proper nouns, common nouns and compound nouns. Subordinate compounds, attributed compounds, coordinate compounds and idiomatic compounds were

included under the compound noun section. The minor word classes consisted of pronouns, classifiers, demonstratives, numbers, quantifiers, conjunctions and localizers.

Chapter four described noun phrases, classifier phrases, adpositionals and relative clauses. Under the noun phrase section, head nouns, possessives, adjectives, demonstratives and quantifiers were presented.

In the classifier phrase section, the classifiers were shown to mostly occur with numerals, quantifiers, or with demonstratives. Sometimes, the classifiers directly follow the noun. Adpositional and relative clause modification was also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter five was about the simple clauses of the Lahta. The linear order of elements in the clause was represented in this chapter. Two types of clauses: non-verbal and verbal clauses were presented in this chapter. The copula clause was subdivided into attributive clauses, equative clauses, location clauses, existential clauses, clausal possession and quantification predication. The verbal clause section included intransitive clauses, transitive clauses, motion clauses and ditransitive clauses. Specific forms for encoding agent, patient, location, manner, recipient, instrument and time were presented in this chapter under the section of semantic roles and relationships.

In Chapter six, two clause types: major clause types and complex clause types in the Kayan Lahta were discussed. In the major clause types section, declarative, imperative and content question were presented. Then the question section was subdivided into interrogative and polar questions. Verbal aspect, ability, negation, comparative and superlative, causative, reciprocals and reflexives were also presented. The complex types discussed included coordinates, relative clauses, adverbial clauses and subordinate clauses. Finally serial verb constructions were presented.

### **7.3 Further research**

As the thesis is the brief grammar description of Kayan Lahta, more research is needed to go deeper. A number of questions need to be answered.

For the phonology chapter, it is necessary to learn more about the tones as the data collection was not focus on the tones. Breathy phonation is not considered in this thesis. More data is required to know whether the Kayan Lahta language has a

breathy phonation or not. Some words like 'θiɿ', 'jaɿ' are probably loan words from Burmese. They need to be investigated too.

As Kenneth Neil Manson states that 'A grammar of a language is never finished,' Kayan Lahta language needs to be studied further. Especially, verbal particles such as modals and aspect markers are needed to be studied more. Unfortunately, the meaning of some particles cannot be described as they occur only one or two times in the data. More data needs to be collected to improve the analysis.

Adpositional phrases are also needed to be studied more. Complex sentences including coordinate, subordinate and relative clauses need to be explained more in detail.

There are three different groups in Kayan. These four different groups speak different dialects, yet except for Kayan Lahta, they are mutual intelligibility. According to a recent survey Lahta has a minimal 25% lexical difference to other Kayan dialects. As Lahta is lexically different from other Kayan, there is a question how the grammar of Lahta is different. To answer that question, it needs to be studied further in comparison with other Kayan grammars.