

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

Lahu has two primary dialects: Black and Yellow. Bakeo is one dialect of Yellow Lahu or Lahu Shi. There have been some minimal analyses of Bakeo, but this study adds the following analyses and summaries:

Every Lahu Bakeo syllable is made up of an obligatory consonant followed by an obligatory vowel nucleus and tone. Its structure is presented as CVT. Stress in Lahu Bakeo is predictable. Stress can be divided into four types.

Type 1: If a word is monosyllabic, the primary stress occurs on that syllable such as, /'jɔ²¹/ 'sheep'.

Type 2: If a word consists of more than one syllable, the primary stress occurs on the highest tone syllable, which can be either syllable, such as, /'fa⁴³ʔ.tʃa²¹ʔ/ 'rat'.

Type 3: If a word consists of more than one syllable and there are two syllables with equally high tones, then the one with a glottal final carries the primary stress, if such a syllable occurs, such as, /to³.nu⁴³.to³.ʃa⁴³ʔ/ 'cattle'.

Type 4: If a word has more than one syllable of equal tone height and both syllables are open or closed by a glottal stop, the primary stress occurs on the second occurrence of the tone, such as, /pi³.tʃhæ⁴³ʔ.næ⁴³ʔ/ 'fly'.

The phonology of Lahu Bakeo consists of twenty seven initial consonant phonemes, /p^h, p, b, t^h, t, d, k^h, k, g, q^h, q, ʔ, tʃ^h, tʃ, dʒ, f, v, ʃ, ʒ, ɣ, h, m, n, ɲ, ŋ, j, and l/. The vowel system consists of nine vowel phonemes, /i, e, æ, ɪ, ə, a, u, o and ɔ/.

There are seven phonologically distinct tones in Lahu Bakeo.

Tone 1 is the half-high falling long tone, marked /43/.

Tone 2 is the half-low falling long tone, marked /21/.

Tone 3 is the half-low rising long tone, marked /24/.

Tone 4 is the low level long tone, marked /1/.

Tone 5 is the mid level long tone, marked /3/.

Tone 6 is the half-high falling short tone, marked /43ʔ/.

Tone 7 is the half-low falling short tone, marked /21ʔ/.

There are 4 falling, one rising and 2 level tones. Tones 6 and 7 differ from other tones. Tones 6 and 7 have a final glottal-stop /ʔ/. They occur in short vowel syllables, the other five tones, on the other hand, do not have a final glottal-stop. They occur in long vowel syllables.

5.2 Discussion

There are no consonant clusters according to the present analysis. The complex segments in Bakeo, which are similar to those such as /ŋv/ in Red Lahu, are analyzed as single segments (affricates) in this analysis. This is because, there are not any ambiguous clusters that are non homorganic affricates or not coarticulated. Most of

these homorganic affricates and coarticulated are allophones of other segments. This analysis keeps the syllable types as few as possible. So, the number of emic affricates does not justify creating another syllable type.

There is one consonant which is not found in other dialects of Lahu, but is found in the Bakeo dialect. It is a voiceless bilabial fricative [ɸ]. This consonant occurs only before a high unrounded front vowel /i/, and the voiceless labio-dental fricative /f/ never occurs in this position. Therefore, it is analyzed as an allophone of /f/.

Bradley presents a palatal nasal [ɲ] as an allophone of /n/. He suggests that this allophone occurs only before /i/. On the other hand, in the data presented here there is contrast between /n/ and /ɲ/. Therefore, this consonant is not an allophone, but a separate phoneme.

The hierarchical factors which effect the occurrence of stress are as follows:

syllabic position

glottal stop

tone height

A glottal stop /ʔ/ is considered as part of tone rather than a final consonant. Only /ʔ/ occurs as a stop syllable finally, but occurs only with two tones, /43ʔ/ and /21ʔ/. If it is a final stop it would likely be more widely distributed with all tones.

A half-low rising short pitch pattern [24ʔ] does actually drop at the end as can be seen in the CECIL graph. This is because a syllable final incomplete glottal stop allows for some air to leak past the glottis, giving a falling pitch (Wannemacher 1996:117).

Voiced initials tend to correspond with lower pitch and voiceless initials tend to correspond with higher pitch at the beginning of a syllable. This is likely due to the interaction of airflow on the differing vocal fold aperture, which affects vocal fold vibration and therefore pitch height.

The possible reasons that the tones free vary between tone and tone with glottal are: First, from stress type three, we know stress and glottal are related in some way, therefore, it's possible that the speaker adds some glottal quality when he stresses a syllable. Second, it may also be possible that the tone historically had a glottal final and it is now losing it.

5.3 Suggestions for Further Study

I would like to encourage further studies on the following:

1. Since Bradley (1979) said that the Bakeo dialect is between Black Lahu and Yellow Lahu, I think the comparative study on the phonology of Black Lahu, Yellow Lahu and Bakeo dialect can be carried out.
2. Since this study is concentrated only with the phonology, I think it would be worth while to study the grammar of this dialect, especially the final particles.
3. A study of morphophonemics in this dialect or other dialects of Lahu would be very interesting.