CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

6.0 Conclusion

This study presents the structure of Lahu Shi clauses. The research first examined the noun phrases and the verb phrases in Lahu Shi, finding that the basic structure of the Lahu Shi noun phrase involves a head noun either preceded or followed by modifiers. The modifiers may be possessive, adjective, verb, noun, determiner, number and a noun classifier, and noun particle. Eight types of noun phrases are described, including personal pronouns, possessive pronoun, deictic demonstrative phrase, classifier phrase, compound noun, co-ordinate phrase, postpositional phrase, and modified noun phrase. The personal pronoun consists of the first person, the second person, and the third person. All of them have both singular and plural forms. The personal pronouns in Lahu Shi have the same form whether they are subject, possessive, or object. The possessive noun phrase of Lahu Shi is composed of a noun plus possessive marker "ve" or a pronoun plus possessive marker "ved" followed by a head noun. For the deictic demonstrative phrase, there are two demonstratives found in the texts. They are "che ve" which is used to point out someone or something which is near the speaker, and "u ve" which is used to point out someone or something which is far from the speaker or they may be used as articles to specify the head noun.

The classifier phrase construction is composed of number followed by a classifier. The classifiers are varied depending on the head noun, and the head nouns always precede them. Lahu Shi compound nouns are formed from two or more different words. The elements combine freely, and they are also independent of one another. Lahu Shi language also has co-ordinate noun phrases. The Lahu Shi co-ordinate noun

phrase consists of two or more noun head elements conjoined by the conjunctive "lehq" meaning "and", and the disjunctive "la" meaning "or".

The last two types of Lahu Shi noun phrases to be summarized are postpositional noun phrase and modifier noun phrases. There are two types of postpositionals found in the texts. They are the phrase in which contains the word "khuh" meaning "in" at the end, and the phrase which contains the word "lo" refers to "locative place" at the end. Lahu Shi modifier noun phrase is composed of modifiers and a head noun. The modifiers may be possessive, verb, adjective, number plus classifier, determiner, and noun particle.

Lahu Shi verb phrases are described as action verbs and auxiliary verbs based on their functions. The action type includes intransitive, transitive, and bitransitive verbs. The intransitive verb requires no direct object whereas the transitive does. The bitransitive verb needs a direct and an indirect object. The direct object follows the indirect object. If the direct object precedes the direct object, it acquires a slight additional emphasis. The verb phrase in Lahu Shi may be a simple head verb (the verb phrase contains a single verb) or a concatenated head verb (the verb phrase contains two or more head verbs).

There are three auxiliary verbs found in the texts, including "gha", "chehd", and "vehr". The verb "gha" shows modality involving possibility and necessity, or it may be a main verb. The verb "chehd" is an imperfect aspect. It does not show an end point. The verb " vehr" is a perfective aspect showing an end point.

This thesis analyzes the structure of Lahu Shi clauses. Lahu Shi clause structure is composed of noun phrases followed by a verb phrase. It is a SOV language type that is a subject comes first followed by an object ending with a verb. Lahu Shi has a clause-chaining characteristic that employs sequences of medial clauses called a non-final clause, completed by a final clause. Both of them also have particles marked at

the end of the clause. A non-final particle is marked at the end of a non-final clause whereas a final particle is marked at the end of a final clause.

There are some other clause types explained in this thesis. The first is an intransitive clause. It is a clause in which the verb does not have a direct object. The second is a transitive clause. It is a clause in which the verb has a direct object. The third is a ditransitive clause. It requires both direct object and indirect object. The fourth is a stative clause. Lahu Shi statives clauses may describe a subject. The construction may be either a subject followed by a verb or a subject followed by an object ended with a verb. Lahu Shi stative clauses may also identify a subject, expressed in two ways, one by the normal clause structure (SOV), the other by a verbless construction ("che ve" means "this", "u ve" means "that", noun or noun phrase plus noun or noun phrase). The fifth is a locative clause. It is a clause that contains a place element using "lo" and "khuh" to indicate place. The last is a quotative clause. The clause has not only the clause preceding a quote, but also the clause following a quote.

Negative clauses in Lahu Shi are formed by adding the adverb "ma". There are three forms of "ma" depending on the degree of negation. The position of "ma" depends on the meaning to be conveyed.

Lahu Shi has both yes/no questions and information questions. The yes/no question is marked by the particle "la". The information question is marked by the particle "le" together with a question word.

A relative clause is a clause that is embedded in the sentence. In Lahu Shi, a relative clause may be embedded in either the subject element or the object element. It can be a "left relative clause" or a "right relative clause". The "left relative clause" is a clause in which a relative clause precedes the head noun. The "right relative clause" is a clause in which a relative clause follows the head noun.

6.1 Further study

Since this analysis is based on the three texts namely "The cat and dog", "Male gives birth", and "Shrew story", more data is needed to verity the conclusions. There are only some clause types found in the texts. It would be better if more clause types together with more modifications of the clause could be found based on further elicitation. The verb and noun phrases also need more researching.

This thesis has not been analyzed the particles which play a very important role in the language. They express many different meanings, which further affect the analysis of any clause types.