This chapter tries to highlight very briefly some salient features of grammar of this language dealing with word order and grammatical categories (gender, number, person, tense and voice). Besides these, others are affixes (prefix, infix and suffix), form and function and reduplication. Other very interesting features of this language are also discussed which enables one to have a glimpse of this language.

1. **Word Order:**

Meiteilon is a verb final language and has the word order SOV. The preferable position of the subject is initial, but the word order has a considerable amount of flexibility. The verb has to be essentially in the final position.

1. /ai-na tomba-da lairik ama pi-y/ i-nom Tomba-acc. book one/a give-asp.(simp)  
   sub Io Do V  
   'I give a book to Tomba'

This order is very common but we may also have alternative word orders like:
a. S Do Io V
b. Do S Io V
c. Io S Do V

Adjective of colours in this language, may precede and follow the noun, for example:

2. /mahak əsanba məcu pam -mi/
   he green colour like -asp.
   'He likes green colour'

3. /mahak məcu əsanba pam -mi/
   'He likes green colour'

Adjective of quality can precede and follow the noun like adjective of colour, as in sentence 4 and 5.

4. /awanba nupa ədu iroi -ri/
   tall man that swim -asp.
   'The tall man is swimming'

5. /nupa awanba ədu iroi -ri/
   man tall that swim -asp.(prog)
   'The tall man is swimming'

Numeral adjective only follows the noun, as in sentence 6.

6. /mahak -na hainəu man cai/
   he -non mango five eat
   'He eats five mangoes'
On the contrary, the ordinal adjective only precedes the noun.

7. /mahak-ki anisuba moca ədu luhoŋ-khre/
   he gen second (his) daughter the married-asp.
   'His second daughter had got married'

Demonstrative adjectives like numerals only follow the noun, as in sentences 4, 5 and 7, i.e. /ədu/ 'that' or ('the' always follows the noun (in sentence 4, /ədu/ follows the noun /nupa/ 'man'), in sentence 7 also, /ədu/ follows the noun /moca nupa/ '(his) daughter' but in sentence 5 /ədu/ follows immediately the adjective /əwənəbə/ 'tall' not the noun immediately). Adverb precedes adjective and verb they modify, as in sentence 8 and 9 respectively.

8. /mahak-na yamma əzəba furit ama lai/
   he -non very nice shirt one buy
   'He buys a very nice shirt'

9. /mahak tap-na cət -li/
   he slowly go -asp (prog.)
   'He goes slowly'

10. /mahak yam-na tapna cət-li/
    he very slowly go -asp.
    'He goes very slowly'

But in the case of (Indefinite) quantifiers, like /khəra/ 'some', /pumnamək/ or /loina/ 'all, /məyam/ 'all', etc. these follow the noun. For example:
11. /ləisabi [məyəm kʰəɾə pəməmək] ləi hek -li/
   -girl flower pluck-asp.
   "Many girls are plucking flowers'"

12. /məhak-na ləisabi [məyəm kʰəɾə pəməmək] -ta ləi
   he -nom girl -to flower
   yel -li/
   distribute -asp.
   "He is distributing flowers to [many some all] girls'"

/-da/-/-ta/ suffixed to the indefinite quantifiers, in sentence 12, is an accusative marker. This language has postposition as opposed to preposition of non-verb-final languages (Greenberg, 1963 Universal 21). Consider:

13. a. /məhak cəuki -da fəm-li/
   he chair -on sit-asp.
   "He is sitting on the chair'"

   b. /məhak pukhri-qa na fa -ri/
   he pond -in fish catch -asp.
   "He is catching fish in the pond'"

   c. /məhak tomb -ga skul cət -khre/  
   he Tomba -with school go -asp.(perf.)
   "He has gone to school with Tomba'"

The genitive as well as possessive always precede the governing noun while in languages with dominant VSO
order the genitive, as Greenberg puts it, almost always follows the governing noun (Greenberg, 1963; Universal 2).

Consider:

14. a. /əi nəraŋ nonyai -gi yum -da ləi/
I yesterday Nongyi-gen house-in stay
'I stayed yesterday in Nongyai's house'

b. /nongal- gi məca nupi əma ləi/
Nongal-gen his daughter one has
'Nongal has a daughter'

The auxiliary verb always follows the main verb without any exception, in Meiteilon, as opposed to the tendency in language with dominant verb-initial order where the auxiliary precedes the verb (Greenberg, 1963, Universal 16). Illustration:

15.a./məhak cak  cai-y/
he rice eat-asp. (Simple)

'He eats rice'

b. /məhak cak ca -ri/
et -asp. (Progressive)

c. /məhak cak ca - khre
    eat -asp. (Perfect)

'He has eaten rice'

d. /məhak cak ca -gɔni/ (-gət ni)
et -asp. (Unrealized)

'He will eat rice'

e. /məhak cak ca -ni/
et-aux.

'He will eat rice'
The bound morpheme /-ni/ in sentence 15 (e) is an auxiliary and suffixed to the main verb also. This /-ni/ has the underlying meaning of futurity.

**Articles:**

Meiteilon has no articles. The numeral /əma/ 'one' supplies the place of an indefinite article, while definiteness is denoted by means of demonstrative pronoun /ədu/ or /mədu/ 'that' and /əsi/ or /məsi/ 'this.

Meiteilon has also no grammatical gender, number and person.

2.2 **Gender:**

16. a. /ləisabi iroi-ri/
   girl swim-asp.
   'The girl is swimming'

b. /pakhaŋ iroi-ri/
   boy swim-asp.
   'The boy is swimming'

The verb /iroi-ri/ 'swim+progressive' remains the same for both the different natural genders - male and female - /pakhaŋ/ 'boy' in sentence 16 (b) and /ləisabi/ 'girl' in sentence 16 (a) respectively.

2.3 **Number:**

17. a. /ənaŋ skul cət-li/
    child school go-asp.
    The child goes to school
The verb /c t-li/ 'go+progressive aspect remains unchanged in both the sentence 16 (a) and (b) singular and plural respectively.

2.4 Person:

18. ca-
    'I'
    aikhoi-
    'We'
    nən-
    'you' (sg)
    nəkkoii-
    'You' (pl)
    məhak-
    'He'
    məkhoi-
    'they'

The /ca-ri/ 'eat+progressive' remains same in all persons.

2.5 Tense:

Tense is not a universal grammatical category. In Tibeto-Burman languages tense is not distinctive as it is in other languages like English, Sanskrit and Hindi. Such indistinctive use of tense is found in Meiteilon too. Action related to time is expressed by adverb of time,
such as /ŋəsi/ 'today', /nəran/ 'yesterday', /nəhan/ 'day before yesterday', /ŋəsai/ 'that moment', etc. Consider:

19.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nəran</th>
<th>ŋəsai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nəhan</td>
<td>əi cinema ədu yen -y/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'Yesterday
Day before yesterday I saw that picture'

Verbs form remains unchanged even when the action takes place in past or present. Time distinction is not expressed by the verb form. The verb /yen-y/ 'see+simple aspect occurs along with /ŋəran/ 'yesterday', /nəhan/ 'day before yesterday', etc. and the same verb form also occurs with /ŋəsi/ 'today', etc.

But some adverbial time elements referring to the future time such as /nəyen/ 'tomorrow' to the indefinite time of future or 'next moment' (and action related to unrealized moments or action-programmed in the future time) will grammatically occur with a particular bound morpheme /-gəni/ or /-ni/ which must be added to the verb ( /-gə-/)1 one called an unrealized aspect marker: /-ni/ is mentioned above). There is a syntactic constraint that the unrealized

---

1. The unrealized aspect marker /-gə/ will go together with a bound morpheme /-ni/ which is an auxiliary verb
aspect marker /-gə-ni/ or /-ni/ cannot occur with the adverbial time elements of past viz., /n ran/ 'yesterday', /n han/ 'day before yesterday', etc. Consider:

20. [həyen] əi cinema ədu yəŋ - gən\ni\n
I cinema that see-asp.mk.

[Tomorrow
Day after tomorrow] I shall see that cinema.

b. /ŋasi əi cinema ədu yəŋ - gən\ni\n
today I cinema that see-asp.mk.

'Today I shall see that cinema'

*c. [ŋəran]

ŋəhan əi cinema ədu yəŋ - gən\ni\n
ŋəsai

* [Yesterday
Day before yesterday] I shall see that cinema.

That time

Combination of Morphology and Syntax:

In Tibeto-Burman languages, the same word can often be used as a noun or as an adjective or as a verb. Muller remarks that Tibeto-Burman languages do not possess a real verb. Verbs in Meiteilon are determined through a set of suffixes. On this ground it is agreed that in Meiteilon the distinction between morphology and syntax is not always clear; sometimes even word can be a sentence; it can express complete idea or expression not only in Imperative sentences
but in interrogative and declarative sentences also.

Consider:

A. **Imperative:**

21. a. /cət -lo/
   go -comd.
   'Go' (Go away)
   b. /thək-u/
   drink-comd.
   'Drink it'
   c. /thək -nu/
   drink -neg.comd.mk.
   'Don't drink it'
   d. /pa-ra -gə -nu/
   readconti-asp.neg.com.
   'Don't continue your reading'

B. **Interrogative:**

22. a. /cət -lə -bra/
   go -conti-inf.Q.mk.
   'Are you going'
   b. /pa -roi -dra/
   read -neg -Q.mk
   'Will you not read it'
   c. /tomba -ra/
   Tomba -Q.mk + verb 'be'
   'Are you Tomba'

C. **Declarative:**

23. a. /ca -re/
   eat -perf.asp.
'I have taken'
He has taken

b. /pa -ri/
read -prog.asp.
'I am reading'
He is reading

c. /cat -loi/
go -neg.mk.
'Won't go'
'(sub) will not go'

24. a. /aI -ni/
I -be
'I am' or
'It is I'

b. /aI -gi -ni/
I -gen -be
'It is mine'

c. /lairik -ni/
book -be
'It is a book'

The verbal suffixes indicate aspect and modality, but tense is not indicated by the suffixes. Verbs are not inflected for person and case. It is a characteristic of Meiteilon that affixes - prefix, infix and suffix - are very significant. After all, Meiteilon is an agglutinative language.
2.7 **Voice:**

Voice in Meiteilon is not distinctive.

Consider:

25. a. /əi-na tomba-da lairik emo pi/
   I-nom Tomba -accou book one give
   'I give a book to Tomba'

   b. /tomba-da ai-na lairik emo pi/
      Tomba-accou I-nom book one give
      'I give a book to Tomba'

   c. /lairik emo ai-na tomba-da pi/
      book one I-nom Tomba-acc give
      'I give a book to Tomba'

26. a. /ai-na tomba-bu ca'i -na fui/
   I-nom Tomba -accu stick -inst beat
   'I beat Tomba with a stick'

   b. /tomba-bu ai-na ca'i-na fui/
      'I beat Tomba with a stick'

2.8 **Case:**

From the aforesaid sentences 24 and 25, it can be said that Meiteilon is a nominative-accusative language: the subject and object are not characterised by the linear word order position in a construction but characterised by the case marker that is, nominative and accusative case markers. The case markers are:
2.9 **Three types of Constructions:**

On the nature of relationship between subject and predicate in syntactic construction there may be three groups of constructions:

(a) a very general construction having subject and predicate, say sentence 24 and 25;

(b) a construction having no subject as in sentence 26, and

(c) a construction having no subject and object as in sentence 27.

27. a. /mihat-le/
    man kill -perf.asp.
    'A man has been killed'

b. /sel lak-khre/
   money snatch -perf.asp.
   'Money has been snatched'

c. /tha u-re/
   moon see -perf.asp.
   'The moon has been seen'
   (The moon is seen)
d. /huranba fa -re/  
thief caught -perf.asp.  
'The thief has been caught'  
(The thief is caught)

(These sentences 27 (a-d) have no subject in the surface structure but in deep structure each sentence has subject, i.e. 'some one' or 'some').

28. a. /cat -le/  
go -prog.  
'(I am) going'

b. /cat -loi -da/  
go -neg.mk. -pleonastic marker

(I) [shall] not go'

c. /cat -l -ge/  
go -prog.-Verbal suffix  
'I am going'

The above-mentioned sentences are all simple sentences (sentences 24, 25, etc.) having only one main verb. Now we will consider sentences having connectors or conjunctions.

2.10 Connectors or Conjunctions:

Sentences in Meiteilon can be joined together with the help of connectors or conjunctions; there can be three groups.
I. Connectors or conjunctions affix are /-gə/ 'with', /-gə... gə/ 'with ... with (and), /-su/ or /-sə ... su/ 'also', /-ne -- ne/'together ... together' /-gum/ 'as if', etc. Examples are given below:

29. a. /məhak tomba -gə skul -cat- khre/ he Tomba -with school go -asp. 'He has gone to school with Tomba'

b. /tomba -gə caoba -gə iroi -ri/ tomba -with Chouba -with swim -asp. 'Tomba and Chouba are swimming'

30. a. /tomba -su iroi -ri/ Tomba -also swim -asp. 'Tomba is also swimming'

b. /tomba -su caoba -su iroi -ri/ 'Tomba and Chouba are also swimming.'

II. Connector or conjunction affix with lexical item is /gə loinəna/ 'together with'

31. /tomba, caoba -gə loinəna iroi -ri/ Tomba Chouba -with together swim -asp. 'Tomba is swimming with Chouba'

III. Connectors or conjunctions expressed by lexical items are /əmasuŋ/ 'and', /ədudagi/ 'thin', /ədugiməthənda/ 'thereafter', /mərəməduna/ 'therefore', /məremdi/ 'because', /ədubu/ or /təuiquigumb suŋ/ 'but', /ədum
Consider the examples:

32. a. /tomba emasun caoba iroi-ri/
   'Tomba and Chaoba are swimming'

b. /tomba iroi-ri aduga caoba -di lairik
   Tomba swim-asp. but Chaoba-part. book

   pa- ri/
   read-asp.

   'Tomba is swimming but Chaoba is reading

   c. /tomba natræga caoba kæithel cat - ni/
   Tomba or Chaoba market go-asp.

   'Tomba or Chaoba will go to market'

2.11 Affixes:

One of the most distinctive characteristic features of this language is affixes. Meiteilon is rich in affixes and has all the three kinds of affixes:

1. Prefix
2. Infix, and
3. Suffix.

They are being discussed one by one.

2.11.1 Prefix:

Prefixes in Meiteilon are not as many in number as there are suffixes. Very common prefixes are /æ-/. 
/ma-/ /khut-/ /i- / and /nə- / /i- / /nə- / and /mə-/ which are very commonly used in kinship terms as well as in mode of address.

/i-/ expresses the meaning 'my' - blood relationship.
/nə-/ expresses the meaning 'your' - blood relationship.
/mə-/ expresses the meaning 'his' - blood relationship.

For example:

a. /i- + /cəl/  →  /i-cəl/ 'my sister
   /nə- + /cəl/  →  /nə-cəl/ 'your sister'
   /mə / + /cəl/  →  /mə-cəl/ 'his sister'

b. /i-/ + /bai/  →  /i-bai/ 'my brother-in-law
   /nə- + /bai/  →  /nə-bai/ 'your brother-in-law
   /mə- + /bai/  →  /mə-bai/ 'his brother-in-law'

c. /i-/ + /pa/  →  /i-pa/ 'my father
   /nə- + /pa/  →  /nə-pa/ 'your father'
   /mə- + /pa/  →  /mə-pa/ 'his father'

d. /i-/ + /ma/  →  /i-ma/ 'my mother'
   /nə- + /ma/  →  /nə-ma/ 'your mother'
   /mə- + /ma/  →  /mə-ma/ 'his mother'

/i-/, /nə- / and /mə-/ are also used for body parts and inalienable possessions.

a. /i- + /kok/  →  /i-kok/ 'my head'
   /nə- + /kok/  →  /nə-kok/ 'your head'
   /mə- + /kok/  →  /mə-kok/ 'his head'

b. /i-/ + /khut/  →  /i-khut/ 'my hand'
   /nə/ + /khut/  →  /nə-khut/ 'your hand'
   /mə- + /khut/  →  /mə-khut/ 'his hand'
c. /i-/ + /saːm/ → /i-saːm/ 'my hair'
   /na-/ + /saːm/ → /na-saːm/ 'your hair'
   /ma-/ + /saːm/ → /ma-saːm/ 'his hair'

/i-/, /n-/ and /m-/ are also used to indicate possession or ownership of property.

a. /i-/ + /yum/ → /i-yum/ 'my house'
   /na-/ + /yum/ → /na-yum/ 'your house'
   /ma-/ + /yum/ → /ma-yum/ 'his house'

b. /i-/ + /ran/ → /i-ran/ 'my property'
   /na-/ + /ran/ → /na-ran/ 'your property'
   /ma-/ + /ran/ → /ma-ran/ 'his property'

/ma-/ and /khut-/ also function as adverb of manner.

/ma-/ /ma-/ + /ca/ → /ma-ca/ 'the manner of (his) eating'
   /ma-/ + /caːt/ → /ma-caːt/ 'the manner of (his) gait'
   /ma-/ + /tum/ → /ma-tum/ 'the manner of (his) sleeping'
   /ma-/ + /pi/ → /ma-pi/ 'the manner of (his) giving'

/khut-/ /khut-/ + /ca/ → /khut-ca/ 'the manner of (his) eating'
   /khut-/ + /caːt/ → /khut-caːt/ 'the manner of (his) going'
   /khut-/ + /yeŋ/ → /khut-yen/ 'the manner of (his) looking'
   /khut-/ + /fu/ → /khut-fu/ 'the manner of (his) beating'
Prefix /æ-/

Noun can be changed into adjective (attributive) by adding this prefix /æ-/. Consider:

/æ-/+/muba/ → /œmuba/ 'black'
/æ-/+/naŋba/ → /œnaŋba/ 'red'
/æ-/+/səŋba/ → /œsəŋba/ 'green'
/æ-/+/siba/ → /œsiba/ 'dead'

2.11.2 Infixes

Infixes in this language are not as many in number as suffixes are. Commonly used infixes are the negative marker /-tə-//-də-/ (for detail, see Chapter IV, Negation section) and request marker /-bi-//-pi-/ (see Chapter VI). Consider:


'I drink liquor'

Neg. /æ1 yu thək -te/ I liquor drink-neg.-asp.mk.

'I don't drink liquor'

Req. /yυ thək -pi -yu/ liquor drink -req-Imp.mk.

'Please drink liquor'

Other infixes are:

[/-rək-//-lək-/] 'indicating action completed in past time + direction'
34. /əi cak ca-rək - y/  
   I meal eat -asp.

   'I have had eaten my meal'

   (the action of 'eating' was performed 'there' 
   away from the place of utterance and the speaker 
   is coming towards the place of utterance after 
   the completion of 'eating': the place of utter- 
   ance is 'here'.)

   [/-ləm-/~/-rəm-/] 'indicating action completed in past 
   time + definitizer'

35. /məhak cak ca-rəm-mi/  
   he meal eat -asp.

   'He had taken his meal'

   /-hən-/~/-həl-/ 'causative marker'

   /cət-hən-bə/  
   go  'to cause to go'

   /thəh-kən-bə/  
   drink  'to cause to drink'

   /sət-hən-bə/  
   put  'to cause to put on'

2.11.3 **Suffixes:**

In Meiteilon, suffixes are numerous and they are 
backbone of this agglutinative language. There are many 
kinds of suffixes, as given below:

1. Care suffixes
2. Aspect suffixes
3. Negative suffixes
4. Interrogative suffixes
5. Imperative suffixes
6. Derivative suffixes
7. Pleonastic suffixes.
These are some of the very common suffixes in this language. They are discussed one by one.

2.11.3.1 Case suffixes:

(a) Nominative suffix /-na/~/-nə/

36. /məhak-na/ Meiteilon tambi/
   he -nom teach

'He teaches Meiteilon'

(b) Accusative suffix /-bu/~/-pu/

37. /tomba-bu/ Chaoba-na fui/
   tomba-accu -nom beat

'Chaoba beats Tomba'

(c) Locative suffix (-da/~/-ta/)

38. /nəran aikhoi Moirang-da lai/
   yesterday we Moirang-loc. stay

'Yesterday we stayed at Moirang'

(d) Ablative suffix /-dəgi/ ~/təgi/

39. /ai-na lairik aşi tomba-dəgi/ ləu-y/
   I-nom book class Tomba-abla. take

'I take this book from Tomba'

(e) Instrumental suffix /-na/

40. /məhak-na kəi adu nonməi-na kap-y/
   he -nom. tiger class gun-Inst. shoot

'He shoots the tiger with a gun'

(f) Associative suffix /-gə/~/-kə/

41. /əl mehak-kə/ Delhi cət-li/
   I he -asso. go

'I go to Delhi with him'
(g) Genitive suffix (-gi/∼/-ki/)

42. /məhak əi-gi lairik-ni/
   this I-gen. book -be
   'This is my book'

2.11.3.2 Aspect suffixes:

(a) Simple aspect /-y/

43. /məhak lairik ədu pa-y/
   he book class read-asp.
   'He reads the book'

(b) Progressive aspect /-li/ /-ri/

44. /məhak lairik ədu pa-ri/
   'He is reading the book'

(c) Perfect aspect /-re/∼/-le/

45. /məhak lairik ədu pa-re/
   'He has read the book'

(d) Unrealized aspect /-gə-/-kə-

46. /məhak lairik ədu pa -gə -ni/
   'He will read the book'

2.11.3.3 Negative suffixes:

In Meiteilon negation is expressed by the negative suffix markers, such as /-tə-/-də-/-loɪ/∼/-roid/, /-nu/ and /-gum/∼/-kum-. (For detailed discussion, see Chapter IV, Negation).
47. a. /əi yu thək - te/  
I liquor drink-neg.mk.+asp.  
'I do not drink liquor'

b. /əi yu thək -loi/  
-neg.mk.+asp.  
'I will not drink liquor'

c. /nəŋ yu thək-nu/  
-neg.mk.+imp.mk.  
'Don't drink liquor'

2.11.3.4 Interrogative suffixes:

Yes/No question, in Meiteilon, is framed by the suffixation of yes/no question markers like /-ra/-/-la/, /-dra/-/-tra/ as in the following sentences. (For a detailed discussion, see Chapter V, Interrogatives).

48. a. /məsi lil -la/  
this snake -Q.mk.+be  
'Is this a snake'

b. /nəŋ yu thək- p -ra/ (-pra)  
you liquor drink-Q.mk.  
'Do you drink liquor'

c. /nəŋ yu thək-tra/  
-neg.+Q.mk.  
'Don't you drink liquor'
2.11.3.5 Imperative suffixes:

Imperative constructions are formed by the suffixation of imperative markers, such as /-o/, /-u/, /-lu/-ru/, /-lo/-ro/, /-kho/, etc. (For detailed discussion see Chapter VI on Imperatives).

49. a. /cak -ca-[-0]/
   meal -eat-Immp.mk.
   'Take your meal'

   b. /cak ca-ru/
   '(Go and) take your meal'

Request construction is formed by the infixation of request marker /-bi/-pi/ between the root and the imperative marker. Consider:

50. /ca thēk-pi-yu/
   'Please drink liquor'

2.11.3.6 Derivative suffixes:

Just for the convenience, derivative suffixes can be sub-categorized into:

(a) Reciprocal suffix /-na/

51. a. /mākhōi ni khēη-να-γ/ [να]/
   they both know-
   'They know each other'
b. /əkkoi ani nun̂̃i-mə-y/ [n̂̃i]/
   we both love-
   'We love each other'

(b) Togetherness /-minə/

52. a. /əkkoi ani ca -minə-y/ [n̂̃i]/
   we both eat-
   'We eat together'

b. /məkhoi məyam skul ca-t-minə-y/ [n̂̃i]/
   they all school go-
   'They all go to school together'

(c) Causation:

Causation is denoted by the addition of causative marker /-hən/ /-həl/ to the bound root. Consider:

/go + hən + bə/ /go inf.mk. /ca-t-hən-bə/ 'to cause to go'
/bat + han + bə/ /bat han + ba/ 'to cause to beat'
/beat + han + bə/ /beat + han + ba/ 'to cause to give'
/give + han + bə/ /give + han + ba/ 'to cause to put on'
/put on + han + bə/ /put on + han + ba/ 'to cause to hold'

(d) Reflexive:

Reflexive (verb) is formed by the addition of
/-o/ /-j/ to the verb. Consider:
53. a. /məkhoi məsel fu -nə -jə -yə'ʃə]/
   they selves beat-reci.-refl.asp.
   'They beat themself'

b. /əl sum-nə kən-jə -yə'ʃə]/
   I so/as think-
   'I think in that way myself'

In Meiteilon, the lexical root itself does not stand for particular grammatical category: it is specified by suffixes which when added to the root assigns it to the particular grammatical category.

(e) Formation of Adverb:

\[ \text{Root} + \text{na} \rightarrow \text{Adverb} \]

/ˈtəp/ + /na/ \rightarrow /ˈtəp-na/ 'slowly', 'gently'

/ˈkəp/ + /na/ \rightarrow /ˈkəp-na/ 'crying(lly)'

/nok / + /na/ \rightarrow /nok-na/ 'laughingly'

/saw / + /na/ \rightarrow /saw-na/ 'angrily'

/sin / + /na/ \rightarrow /sin-na/ 'wisely'

(f) Formation of Adjective:

\[ \text{ə} + \text{Root} + \text{pə} \rightarrow \text{Adjective} \]

/ə + ˈtəp / + pə/ \rightarrow /ətəp-pə/ 'slow' or 'gentle'...N

/ə + ˈkəp / + pə / \rightarrow /əkəp-pə/ 'crying...N'

/ə+ nok + pə / \rightarrow /ənok-pə/ 'laughing...N'
2.11.3.7 **Pleonastic suffixes:**

Meiteilon has some pleonastic markers which decorate the utterance and make the utterance more natural and lively. Suffixation of the pleonastic markers in the utterance is a general feature of Meiteilon. The very common pleonastic markers are /-ko/, /-ta/, /-to/-/-do/, /-na/, /-ne/, /-pa/-/-ba/ and /-se/. Consider:

54. /səŋgəmə du thɔk-u-\n   milk class drink-\n   Imp. na\n   do\n   ne\n
'Drink the milk'

Other pleonastic markers are /-neko/, /-d na/, /-nese/.

Consider:

55. /hidək əsi ca-si\n   medicine class eat-\n   dəna\n   nese\n   neko

'Let us take this medicine' (excluding the speaker)

2.12 **Multi-dimensional categories of suffix:**

A very distinctive characteristic feature of this language is that affixes (suffixes) have multi-dimensional categories which incorporate different syntactic and semantic structures. For our convenience, suffixes are

/ə + siŋ + ba/ \n'wise'

/əsiŋ-ba/ 'wise...N'
categorized into four groups, which are discussed below:

1. /-loi/-/roi/ and /-nul/
   
   /-loi/-/roi/ indicates two meanings, first, a negative marker, second, meaning of futurity. (For detail, see ). Consider:

   56. /θikhoi yu thɔk loi/
   
      we liquor drink- neg.mk.
   
      'We will not drink liquor' unrealized asp. (future)

   /-nul/ also incorporates two semantic levels. (For detail, see ). Consider:

   57. /yu thɔk -nu/
   
      liquor drink- neg.mk.
   
      'Don't drink liquor' imp.mk.

2. /-la/-/ra/

   /-la/-/ra/ is a yes/no question marker. Syntactically, when /-la/-/ra/ is suffixed to noun and pronoun, it has two meanings.

   58. a. /mɔsi lil-la/
   
      this snake- Q.mk.
   
      'Is this a snake' Verb 'Be'

3. /-ru/-/lu/

   /-ru/-/lu/ has the underlying meaning of 'go' while /-ro/-/lo/ has the underlying meaning of 'come'.

   ...
Consider:

59. a. /cak ca -ru/ meal eat- Imp.mk. underlying 'go'

'(Go and) take your meal'

b. /cak ca -ro/ meal eat- Imp.mk. Underlying 'come'

'(Come and) take your meal'

Besides all these suffixes, there are some other suffixes which are performing predicative functions and give two or more meanings. The suffixes are /-ni/, /-khi/.

Consider:

(a) /-ni/

60. a. /әi kәithel cәt-ni/ I market go- immediate future definitizer Auxiliary

'I shall/will go to market'

b. /mәhak hәyen issәi sәk-ni/ he tomorrow song sing- immediate future definitizer Auxiliary

(b) /-khi/

61. /mәhak library сәt-khi/ he go- action completed definitizer

'He went to the library'
2.13 Form and Function:

A form may have more than one meaning; the meaning of the particular form is decided by the function of the item in this language. Consider:

1. /fəu/  (N) 'paddy'  
   (V) 'spread in the sun'

62. /fəu fəu/
   paddy spread
   'Spread the paddy in the sun'

2. /ləi/  (N) 'flower'
   (V) 'buy'

63. /məhak-na ce -gi ləi əma ləi/
   he -nom paper-gen flower one buy
   'He buys a paper flower'

3. /cəi/  (N) 'stick'
   (V) 'to scold someone'

64. a. /məhak-na tomba-da cəi əma pi/
   he -nom Tomba-dat. stick one give
   'He gives one stick to Tomba'

   b. /məhak-na tomba-da cəi/
   he -nom Tomba-to scold
   'He scolds Tomba'

4. /hui/  (N) 'dog'
   (V) 'steal'

65. /məhak-na hui əma ɲəran hui/
   he -nom dog one yesterday steal
   'He stole a dog yesterday'
Reduplication in this language is very commonly used. Reduplication of adjective, adverb and wh-question words is quite common, but that of noun is not very common.

1. Adjective

Reduplication of adjective indicates plurality of the noun. Consider:

68a. /əi fəza -fəza-bo lai pam -i/  
I beautiful-beautiful flower like-asp.  
'I like beautiful flowers'

b. /məhak acəu-acəuba na lai/  
he big-big fish buy  
'He buys big fishes'
II Adverb

69. a. /məhək təpna təpna cət-li/
   he slowly slowly go -asp.
   'He is walking very slowly'

   b. /məhək isəi sək-na sək-na təbək fəu-y/
   he song singing singing work do
   'He did the work while singing'

III Wh-question words

Reduplication of Wh-question words, like the reduplication of adjective, affects the meaning, that is, it indicates plurality. Consider:

70. a. /nəŋ kərī kərī lairik pam-mi/
   you which which book want
   'Which books do you want'
   (Which are the books you want?)

   b. /nərəŋ kəna kəna lak -y/
   yesterday who who come -
   'Who came yesterday'
   (How many came yesterday?)

   c. /məkəhəi kədai kədai-da ləi/
   they where where stay
   'At what places do they stay'

(For a detailed discussion of reduplication of Wh-question words in Meiteilon, see Chapter IV-Interrogatives).

These are some of the salient features of Meiteilon grammar discussed briefly.