CHAPTER - 8

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the main findings of the present study.

With regard to typology, in Adi, the syllable is a crucial phonological unit, and the syllable initial consonants are larger in number than those of syllable finals. Adi has four nasal consonants m, n, η and ň, all of which can occur initially, medially or finally. However, unlike most Northeastern Tibeto-Burman languages, aspirated consonants and the glottal stop are absent.

The Adi vowel system consists of fifteen consonants, nine vowels and six diphthongs. Although there are diphthongs, Adi makes very little use of them.

Chapter 4 dealing with Phonology reveals that assimilation is a common feature of the Adi phonology. Assimilation occurs at the morphemic boundaries and not within it. Syllable boundaries correspond to morpheme boundaries. As the combination of a number of morphemes is permissible in a single word, Adi is considered to be an agglutinating language.

Chapter 5 tries to analyze data related to nominals. A number of nouns take prefix and suffix-like morphemes. The noun phrases can include several smaller constituents, viz, determiners, demonstratives, nouns, pronouns, numerals, modifying adjectives and case markers. However, no single one of these constituents occurs in every noun phrase. But any one of them except a case marker can constitute a noun phrase all by itself. Case markers, when present, are always suffixed to the head nouns.
The noun phrase includes a noun, which can be regarded as the "head" of the noun phrase. Nouns can have a variety of suffixes. A 'noun stem' is the word to which these noun suffixes can be attached. Three kinds of suffixes can be used with the noun stem: plural markers, case markers and gender markers with –human, + animate nouns.

Unlike other Tibeto-Burman languages in the North East (India), Adi is rich in case markers, although it does not make use of the Ergative-Absolutive case system. Another feature Adi possesses, which is not uncommon to other Tibeto-Burman languages is the presence of noun classifiers. Adi has a number of classifiers, which are discussed in chapter five. Other features that are discussed are the Noun phrase construction, the determiners, the postpositions, the numeral system, the nominalizers, quotative, interrogatives and the pronouns.

Adi makes distinction between cardinal and ordinal numbers; the numerals follow the 10+1, 10+2... pattern.

Questions are fairly simple. In an Adi Wh- question, the Wh-word occurs in the same slot as the constituent questioned. Yes/no questions are formed by means of suffixation of a morpheme.

Regarding the pronouns, Adi has three categories- singular, dual and plural.

Adjectives, in Adi, constitute an integral part of the noun phrase. They occupy modifying slots in the noun phrase and can either precede or follow the noun. Adjectives do not take person, number and gender suffixes.
Adjectives in Adi may be predicative or attributive. The difference of forms between the two is achieved by means of affixation.

Adi is rich in adjectives. Depending on the nouns to be qualified, there are different words for the same meaning intended. This is achieved by the partial reduplication of the noun qualified.

In chapter 6, the verbs and adverbs are discussed. Adi is a verb final language, which makes use of postpositions. The verb in Adi is a morpheme capable of taking tense/aspect markers or the imperative markers. The verbs are not marked for person-number-gender. They are constituents that necessarily take a suffix, i.e., the verb stem cannot exist alone in a meaningful utterance without one or more suffixes. Verbs are studied with respect to their construction and combination with other elements in a sentence. They can be particularly complex, as they take negative and interrogative affixes and other various sorts of adverbial and tense affixes. These affixes are however, mostly suffixes. Adi verbs do not show any agreement.

Adi differentiates between the present, past and future. The aspect has three categories- progressive (continuous), iterative and perfective). Four categories of mood include the Imperative, the Prohibitive, the Hortative and the Optative moods. Modals include probability, desiderative, dubitative modals, the complementizer and the causatives.

Another feature Adi is rich in is the Directional verbs. These are morphemes which are suffixed to motion verbs and they specify the manner, direction or other aspects of a verb.
Adverbs constitute an integral part of the verb phrase. Adverbs in Adi may be simple, derived or compounded. Among the adverbs discussed are adverbs of manner, of place, of time, and of purpose. The adverbial clause is formed by means of suffixing an adverbializer to the main verb.

The morphological processes employed are affixation, modification and reduplication. Affixation includes prefixation and suffixation. Modification includes subtraction and suppletion. Finally, reduplication includes partial and complete reduplication.

This research is neither an exhaustive survey of the literature of the Adi language, nor an exhaustive description of the morphology of the language. It however, is an attempt to answer some of the questions arising from the study of the Adi language with regard to its morphology. There is a great scope for studying further, aspects of the morphology of the Adi language, which has not been touched upon in this dissertation. Scholars are encouraged to make a careful critical study of it and take, the shortcomings thereof, as a challenge for a more thorough and detailed study in the future.