Inpui is one of the minor languages of Manipur. The language is spoken in Tamenglong District of Manipur and also in the adjoining state of Nagaland. Tamenglong District of Manipur is bounded by the Indian state of Nagaland in the north, Churachandpur District in the south, Senapati district in the east and by the state of Assam in the west. There are a total of thirteen Inpui villages in Tamenglong District while some Inpui villages are also spread in the Imphal valley and Senapati District of Manipur. In Nagaland Inpui settlements are located in Juluki and Signal Basti of Dimapur. Grierson (1903) classified Inpui (Empeo) under the Naga-Bodo subgroup, but later classifications such as Bradely (1997) calls the language as Puiron and clubbed it under Zeliangrong sub-group of southern Naga languages. Today, Inpui is officially recognized as one of the scheduled tribes under the Indian constitution. The population of Inpui according to census of India 2001 is 10,000. Like many other tribes of Manipur, Inpui society is a patriarchal society where only the sons of the family are entitled to property right. In recent years the need for good education for their children has been the prior demand for parents. Today, many Inpui parents are sending their children to Imphal and to other educational centers such as Shillong and Delhi to provide them with good education.

There are no linguistics literature available in Inpui that can be used as a source of reference. Hence, the present study is the first of its kind aim at describing the
language. As a result of Christianization which came about in the year 1961, a vigorous step to translate Bible has been initiated by the church leaders with the aid of International Bible Society of India. Few Christian hymn books have been written through the effort of the church leaders. The first hymn book called *Kathang Swaknu Laa* written by N.K. Kadilin was published in the year 1955. Other hymn books include *Christian Lazaam* published by the Baptist Youth Fellowship of Pungmon Baptist Church in the year 1956, *Church Laa* by B. Renjin published in 1977. In 1987, N.K. Achun, translated ‘*Our Daily Bread*’ into Inpui language. In 2002, Rev. Kh. Kuthoi and Kh. Aton published two books namely ‘*Pastoral Manual*’ and ‘*Baptist Creed*’ respectively. The only available dictionary in Inpui is ‘*English-Inpui Mini Dictionary*’ published by the Inpui students Union, Delhi.

The present work is divided into five chapters. The first chapter provides a detailed account of the sociolinguistic profile of Inpui with special reference to the people, the language, the origin and history of the Inpui, the geographical location and the position of Inpui within the Tibeto-Burman family. In addition, the chapter also discusses the social life, property rights, custom and tradition such as birth, marriage, death, economic life and festivals. The available literature in Inpui is also discussed under the present chapter.

The second chapter discusses the segmental and supra-segmental phonology of Inpui and other morphophonemic operations that result from, when morphemes/syllables are concatenated due to the morphological rules of Inpui.
The phonemic inventory of Inpui is supported with the help of contrasting pairs. There are twenty consonants of which ten are stops /p, b, pʰ, t, tʰ, d, c, k, kʰ, g/, three fricatives /s, z, h/, three nasals /m, n, h/ one lateral /l/, one trill /r/ and two semi-vowels /w, y/. The stop consonants fall under three series; voiceless unaspirated, voiceless aspirated and voiced unaspirated. The stops occur in five places of articulations: bilabial, alveolar, palatal and velar positions. All the twenty consonants can occur in initial and medial positions. But, only the voiceless unaspirated stops /p, t, k/ and the nasals /m, n, h/ can occur in final position. The voiceless unaspirated stops and nasals show allophonic variation i.e. they are released in initial position and unreleased in final position. The language allows up to two consonants in syllable initial position. The language does not have final cluster. Stops /p, pʰ, b, t, tʰ, d, k, kʰ/ and fricatives /s, z/ can occur as the first member in complex onsets. The second member of the complex onset is always a liquid or a semivowel /r, l, w/. At the most, a sequence of two consonants can occur in adjacent syllable boundaries inter-vocally. Inpui has six vowels, viz. /i, e, ə, a, o, u/ of which /i/ and /e/ are front unrounded vowels; /ə/ and /a/ are central unrounded vowels; and /o/ and /u/ are back rounded vowels. The vowel /i/ and /u/ are high vowels; the vowels /e, ə, o/ are mid vowels; and the vowel /a/ is a low vowel. All the six vowels can occur in all the positions. There are seven diphthongs in Inpui of which five diphthongs glide towards /i/ and the remaining glide towards /o/ and /u/. All the seven diphthongs can occur medially and finally. However, the diphthong /ai, ui, ei/ can occur in the initial position also. The syllabic structure of Inpui consists of an obligatory nucleus, an onset and a coda. This chapter also discusses the syllable structure of Inpui in terms of closed and
open syllables, checked and smooth syllables, and sesquisyllabic syllables. Inpui
have five syllables types, viz. VC, CV, CVC, CCV and CCVC. In addition to
monosyllabic syllables, Inpui words can be composed of bisyllabic, trisyllabic,
tetrasyllabic, pentasyllabic, hexasyllabic and heptasyllabic. There are three lexical
tones in Inpui, viz. high, mid and low.

Chapter three discusses at length the morphology of Inpui. This chapter discusses
the morphology of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and other minor grammatical
categories. Nouns may be divided into: derived and non-derived nouns. Derived
nouns are further divided into two: derivational and inflectional depending upon
the nature of nouns. Nouns may be derived by means of prefixation or suffixation.
The process of prefixation includes pronominal prefixes: ɾ- ‘first person’, ɾn-‘second person’ and ɾb- ‘third person’ that are attached to kinship terms, body part
and other inalienable nouns to form possessive nouns. Nouns derived by means of
suffixation include gender and number. Case markers attached to the noun or noun
phrase fall under inflectional morphology. Animate human nouns are marked as
masculine or feminine by the masculine and feminine markers -pa and -nu. While
animate non-human nouns are marked as masculine and feminine by -kʰoŋ and
-pui respectively. There are two numbers in Inpui. The plural marker -rwɔn is
used for animate human and non-human nouns while the plural marker -nun is
used for all inanimate nouns. There are eight case markers in Inpui. They are the
nominative case marker -nə, the accusative marker -diŋ, the dative case marker
-loŋ, the genitive marker -om, the instrumental case marker -nə, the locative
marker -bi/-lə, the ablative marker -binə and the associative marker -le. Nouns are
determined on the basis of certain properties. For example nouns can occur only with demonstratives, possessive, gender, adjectives, quantifiers, number and case. There are five types of nouns, viz. common nouns, proper nouns, locative nouns, natural nouns, and compound nouns. Nouns can be reduplicated in Inpui. The data collected show only complete noun reduplication.

Like nouns, verbs in Inpui may be either monosyllabic or bisyllabic. This chapter also discusses different types of Inpui verbs. This includes verb class, tense, aspect and mood. Inpui verbs can be broadly divided into simple or complex verbs. Simple verbs in Inpui may be either monosyllabic or disyllabic. Complex verbs are formed by the derivational process of compounding or reduplication. Inpui compound verbs are largely exocentric in nature, i.e. the meaning of the resulting compound has no relationship with the meaning of the constituent units. Intransitive verb can be further divided into verbs of propensity, verbs denoting physical sensation, verb of sense, verbs of dimension and verbs of motion. Transitive verb on the other hand, may be divided into: verbs of affect, placement verbs, psycho verbs and dynamic verbs. Inpui also has ditransitive verbs which take three arguments, e.g. pinu ‘give’, pʰatu ‘feed’, etc. copular verbs in Inpui may be equational or existential in nature. Equational copula is expressed by the suffix -we while existential copular is expressed by -ɭm. Inpui has two types of tense: between future and non-future. Tense is not prominent in the language and the distinction between future and non-future is mostly indicated by time adverbials. Aspects in Inpui may be divided into three types: perfective aspect (-roy,-troy,-ɭm); habitual aspects (-tʰɭy); progressive aspect (-ɭmaɪ) and future
aspect (-ləŋzəp). Moods in Inpui may be divided into five types: declarative mood, imperative mood, hortative mood, optative mood and interrogative mood.

Adjectives in Inpui are a sub-class of verb. Adjectives take all the inflexions that a verb takes. Adjectives in the language are derived by prefixing the attributive marker kə- to the verb root. Adjective has been discussed semantically, syntactically and morphologically under this chapter. Based on semantic grounds, adjectives can be divided into size, colour, auditory quality, shape, taste and tactile. Syntactically adjectives tend to appear as predicates in copular clauses or as modifier in the noun phrase. The comparative and superlative adjectives are formed by suffixing the comparative marker -dom and superlative marker -kətək respectively.

Adverbs in Inpui are derived from the corresponding verbs by suffixing the adverbial marker -gə. Adverbs in Inpui may be divided into: adverbs of manner, temporal adverbs, truth value adverbs, intensifying adverb and adverb of number.

Minor grammatical categories discuss under the present chapter includes pronouns, numerals and connectives. Inpui have three personal pronoun; əy ‘I’, nəy ‘you’ and man ‘he/she’. The suffix -om when added to personal pronouns results in the formation of possessive pronouns. Indefinite pronouns are expressed by the lexical item pəəkətəle ‘none’, kətəle ‘nothing’, tuindəmn ‘someone’ and pəə-əmklə ‘something’. Demonstrative pronouns are formed by the determiners həyə ‘this (proximate)’ and həgə ‘that (distal)’. Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns
are formed by suffixing -raytoza ‘reflexive’ and -cam ‘reciprocal’ to the base pronoun. Inpui numeral can be divided into cardinal numeral, ordinal numeral, multiplicative numeral, aggregative numeral, approximative numeral and fractional. Quantifier in the language is expressed by kəsem ‘some’, kəswəy ‘many’ and bijnkək ‘everyone/all’.

Chapter four discusses the word order typology of Inpui. Under the word order typology the position of adjective, relative clause, demonstrative and ordinal, etc. in relation to their governing nouns are highlighted with illustrative examples. Inpui has four types of phrase, viz. noun phrase (which may minimally consist of noun and a determiner), verb phrase (which may consist of a verb and an NP), adjective phrase (which may consist of an adjective and a noun), adverb phrase (which consist of a verb) and an adverb. Inpui has two types of clause structure viz. main clause and dependent clause. The dependent clause includes of noun clause, adjective clause and adverb clause. Adverb clause modifies a verb, adjective or other adverb in a sentence. Adverb clause in Inpui is divided into two types, viz. causal clause and conditional clause. Causativization in the language is expressed by means of pi- that is prefixed to the verb root to derived causative construction. Causatives in Inpui can take up to four arguments. Inpui exhibits both internal and external relative clause. The chapter also discusses six types of sentences namely declarative sentence, optative sentence, imperative sentence supplicative sentence, interrogative sentence and negative sentence. There are two negatives in Inpui -mək and -la. The suffix -mək is cognate with the Proto Tibeto-Burman negative marker *ma. This suffix is used to negate declarative,
imperative, interrogative and proposal sentences. The suffix -la on the other hand, is used to negate affirmative sentences in future tense. The suffix -kɔʌcle is used to emphasize the negativity of the sentence negated by -mɔk or -la. The chapter also discusses the separate formation of morphological negation in Inpui. The first type of morphological negation is formed by adding the nominalizer -nu to the negative marker -mɔk. And the other type is formed by adding the adverb marker -go to the negative marker -mɔk. Inpui uses both prefixes and suffixes as part of its morphology. There are three pronominal prefixes in Inpui, viz. ρ-, nρ- and bρ-; one causative prefix pi- and one attributive marker kρ-. Asides, these prefixes, Inpui has a large number suffixes that are employed for grammatical operation in the language. These grammatical operations include number, gender, case, tense, aspect, mood, adverbs, connectives, and numerals, etc.

Chapter five summarizes the findings presented in the present study. The study also provides a commendable number of wordlist in the form of appendix to familiarize the reader with the phonological and morphological structure of Inpui.