Chapter Seven
Conclusions

The present study makes certain findings regarding the morphological behaviour of Sambalpuri language. We present below a summary of such findings:

7.1 On Prefixes:

In our study, we observed the behaviour of 44 prefixes out of which only 6 are exclusively class-maintaining, only 5 are exclusively class-changing and the rest 33, the major bulk, are both class-maintaining and class-changing. The 5 which are of exclusively class-changing variety (aa, baa, bi, nir and sa) attach only to noun bases, and not any other class, to make them adjectives. The 6 class-maintaining prefixes (gar, har, hed, phi, chaad and pač) attach, except in case of gar, to the bases which are nouns (non-derived or deverbal). Only gar attaches to an adjective: both the prefix and the stem have the feature [+PERSIAN]. The rest of the 33 prefixes belonging to both class-changing and class-maintaining varieties allow feature percolation from the left as well as from the right, depending on the bases they are attached to. So in Sambalpuri, the Left Hand Head (LHH) Rule works in 38 cases of prefixation as against only five in English (a-, be-, en-, im- and re-) – Thakur (1997). They are: a, aa, aad, aap, aath, ab, adh, an, baa, baara,
7.2 On Suffixes:

The two types of suffixes are the traditional Taqdhīt and Kruḍant. Suffixes of latter type attach to the verbal bases, whereas the former type to non-verbal bases. We studied the behaviour of 99 suffixes, out of which exclusively Taqdhīt type is 63 and exclusively Kruḍant type is 23, and only 13 are found common to both.

The list of Taqdhīt suffixes is: aa, aadhī, aadī, aagal, aak, aal, aalu, aami, aan, aani, aar, aari, aas, aaṯ, ak, baaj, baalaa, bhar, çaa, ci, ciaa, daani, ġaar, ġekhiaa, di, di, e, ei, el, eli, eši, faal, gar, gi, giri, haraa, he, hi, i, iaa, ik, il, ir, iri, jaakar, khaa, khaanaa, khor, kiaa, ku, kuṭaa, laa, li, maa, may, mi, mu, niḍa, pičhaa, raa, ri, ru, saa, saaraa, sarṭaa, si, ti, tu, tiiaa, ti, thi, u, uaa, uaal, ul, uli, and ur.

The list of Kruḍant suffixes is: aa, aak, aali, aan, aani, aati, ak, an, baa, baar, ei, en, haa, haak, i, iiaa, ihaa, il, laa, naa, ni, niḍa, nu, ol, raa, ri, ru, šaa, šel, ti, u, uaa, uaal, unaa, uni, and uṭi.
Of the 99 suffixes mentioned above, only 3, *aa*, *aak* and *lau*, are commonly used in all the three word formation processes, viz. Adjectivalization, Adverbialization and Nominalization; only 2, *bhar* and *kiaa* are used for both Adjectivalization and Adverbialization; and only 7, *aar, ak, či, daar, i, iau, niäa* and *ri*, are used for both Adjectivalization and Nominalization.

An important aspect of Sambalpuri suffixation is that only the RHH rule is applicable to them even in the class-maintaining variety as the features of the suffixes percolate to the output node.

7.3 On Compounding:

As far as the process of compounding in Sambalpuri is concerned, we have recorded thirty-three varieties of compounding depending on the varieties of input combinations and their outputs. Such compounding outputs are listed below with their possible stem-combinations:

(i) Adjective/Adverb: (Adj.+Adj.; N+N; N+V)


(v) Noun: (Adj.+Adj.; Adj.+N; N+Adj.; N+N; V+N; V+V)
(vi) Verb: (Adj.+V; N+N; N+V; V+V)

It may be seen that Adjectives and Nouns changing places is a common feature in many languages. Even Noun behaving like Verb or Verb behaving like Noun is also a common feature. In Sambalpuri, however, Adjectives can also be used as Adverbs. This behaviour of an adjective as an adverb either in single use or in compounding form might be one of the idiosyncratic features of this language.

As seen from the above-mentioned compounding list, in as many as nine out of the 33 acceptable compounding processes none of the category feature of the constituent stems in the compound percolate to the output node. The category feature of the compound output seems to be triggered by other syntactic components in the sentence outside the compound.

Another interesting feature that is discovered is that in the process of Sambalpuri prefixation and compounding the Left Hand Head (LHH) Rule works along with the Right Hand Head (RHH) Rule. Though the LHH Rule is very much frequent in the process of prefixation, it does not seem to be favoured in the process of Sambalpuri compounding. We found only three examples of such LHH percolation given one each in § 5.1 (Fig. 5.1 (4)), § 5.2 (Fig. 5.2 (8)) and
§ 5.3 (Fig. 5.3 (8)). We also found that at least in two cases, § 5.1 (Fig. 5.1 (13) and (14)), the process of suffixation was involved outside the compound and yet they remained as compounds.

7.4 On Reduplication:

In matters of Reduplication in Sambalpuri, the vowel element in the reduplicated construction often remains unchanged. The 'complete' type of reduplication (Abbi 1992) is highly productive in the language. The frequency of occurrence of Reduplication process seems to be much higher than it is in English.

7.5 On Conversion:

Another important feature that surfaced in our study is that morphological conversion is not a favoured process in Sambalpuri though it is much favoured and highly productive in English.

7.6 Conclusion:

The findings enumerated above point out some of the distinctive features of Sambalpuri language. It is left to future researchers to make a contrastive study of this language with other Indian languages, particularly with Oriya, to explore other distinctive features which make it a separate language.