CONCLUSION
Manipuri is one of the advanced Tibeto-Burman languages found in India and mainly spoken in Manipur, a north eastern state of India.

In this thesis, dialects of Manipuri (Meeteilon) have been described on the basis of different perspectives and approaches. It is also given in the introduction part about the classification of dialects of Manipuri. The findings and summary of the thesis in chapterwise are given in the following.

In this thesis, the first chapter is Introduction and discusses about Manipuri language and its dialects with the classification of dialects of Manipuri. Dialects of Manipuri can broadly be classified into two i.e., Standard and Non-standard. Under the standard, Imphal dialect is placed as a standard one and Non-standard dialect is further classified as Loi and Non-loi and so on. Further, the geographical area, population of the six dialects and its neighbouring villages are mentioned. The social status or the main occupation of these dialects are also highlighted. In addition, phonological system of the six dialects i.e. Imphal, Kumbi, Thanga, Wangoo, Chairel and Heirok are analysed with their occurrences.

In chapter 2, the phonological changes are described exhaustively. The changes are mainly on vowel changes, consonant changes and tonal changes. Under the vowel changes, the changes from the front vowel to back vowel, front vowel to central vowel, high to low vowel and vowel to semi vowel are also given. Regarding the consonant changes, it is further divided into two categories,
one is identical correspondences and second is non-identical changes. Under the
sub heading of identical correspondences, p:p, t:t, k:k etc. are discussed with
examples. On the other hand, in the non-identical changes, voiced to voiced,
voiceless to voiced, voiceless to voiceless and other changes are also analysed.
Under the tonal changes, the tonal changes from one dialect to another are
discussed but not in details due to lack of technical supports. It is further analysed
concisely that the high tone of Imphal, Thanga and Wangoo changes to rising-
falling in the remaining dialects and low tone changes to falling-rising tone in
some lexical items.

In the chapter 3, morphophonemic changes in affixes and compounds
among the six dialects have been discussed. This morphophonemic change is
further sub divided into two, i. morphophonemic changes in affixes and ii.
morphophonemic changes in compounds. Under the sub heading of
morphophonemic changes in affixes,- morphophonemic changes in pronominal
prefixes and morphophonemic changes in suffixes have been analysed
exhaustively. There are three pronominal prefixes in Manipuri. They are i-‘1pp’,
ŋə-‘2pp’ and ma-‘3pp’. These pronominal prefixes have no changes among the
six dialects. One point to be noted is that Manipuri has less number of prefixes
than suffixes. In connection with suffixes, case suffixes, aspectual suffixes,
copulative marker, negative suffixes, imperative suffixes, benefactive marker,
habitual suffixes and so many more are also discussed with their allomorphs.

Manipuri has so many compound words in its vocabulary. Many changes
can be observed in the formation of compound words among the six dialects of
Manipuri i.e. Imphal, Kumbi, Thanga, Wangoo, Chairel and Heirok. Further, in this sub-category, morphophonemic changes in the roots due to the following suffixes are also mentioned with their environments. Different types of compound formed by different combinations are also discussed one after another. Deletion of sounds and insertion or addition of sounds are also analysed as a process of morphophonemic changes in both affixes and compounds.

Chapter 4 is concerned with the lexical changes and semantic variations among the six dialects. Lexical changes are divided into two – identical lexical correspondences and non-identical lexical changes. Under the sub-heading of identical lexical correspondences, it is also analysed as identical lexical correspondences in the monosyllabic words, disyllabic word as well as multisyllabic words. The non-identical lexical changes is further analysed as i) Partial difference among the words, ii) Complete difference among the words iii) Difference in the compound words and iv) Irregular changes among the words. Lexical changes is followed by semantic variations. There is a big difference in the meaning of words in the six dialects. For instance, \( p^{b} \text{um} \) means a kind of white insect which is found in the paddy granary in Imphal and Heirok dialects. However, in Kumbi dialect \( p^{b} \text{um} \) means small pieces of husks remained in the basket or on the threshing mat. So, it is necessary to analyse those variations found in the six dialects of Manipuri.

In chapter 5, mostly, the morphosyntactic variations found in the six dialects have been discussed. Those variations are in the use of pronominal markers, i.e., i- ‘1pp’, nα- ‘2pp’ and mα- ‘3pp’, variations in the use of suffixes,
deletion of morphemes, addition of morphemes, variation in the use of words. For instance, in Wangoo dialect, *mətai* ‘side’ is used in sentence as *mətai* tʰok-kʰə-ro ‘go outside’ whereas in the remaining dialects *məpan* tʰok-kʰə-ro ‘go outside’ is used instead. The word *mətai* is replaced by *məpan* in the context. Selection of word may be different but the meaning given by two words are similar in this context. In addition to this, variation in the use of Wh-question forms are also described with suitable examples.

In chapter 6, it is about the reconstruction of the protoform of the Manipuri language. Reconstruction of Manipuri Language is not an easy task. It is because there is a big change within the language. So many influences are also found from different languages. However, it is one of the inevitable parts of a comparative study of language. It helps in the identification of protoforms of a language. In this chapter, reconstruction of phonemes, suffixes and lexical items are analysed concisely. This helps to identify proto phoneme, proto suffixes and proto words of this language, Manipuri.

In Chapter 7, the brief summary of the thesis is given followed by bibliography.

These are the works that the researcher focused on this thesis. However, there is a lack of some fields which are not covered in this thesis. For example, the tonal system is necessary to be analysed in a great care and in a proper manner in order to give the clear-cut picture of tone of Manipuri from the dialect point of view.
In all the dialects of Manipuri, a major research work is necessary regarding the morphosyntactic variations as well as lexical and semantic variations. Language is changed from one point to another as a nature of living language. Influences are also there in the Manipuri language from different directions. It is also pointed out that at a time the standard dialect i.e. Imphal influences other dialects. But, nowadays the influences are bidirectional i.e. standard dialect to other dialects and vice versa. This feature i.e., bidirectional changes, enhances the vocabulary of Manipuri language. In standard dialect, there is loss of some lexical items which are very much related to Manipuri society due to the impact of globalisation. On the other hand, such lexical items are still retained in some dialects of Manipuri. So, it is one of the important aspects to analyse dialects of Manipuri exhaustively to find out those lexical items which are not used frequently in standard dialect and other dialects. It is also inevitable work to make documentation of these dialects because in the study of Manipuri grammar, to ignore or neglect dialects of this language is untrustworthy. Manipuri language can be viewed in two points of time. First, before Hinduism (before 18th century), and secondly, after Hinduism (after 18th century) or simply, archaic Manipuri and modern Manipuri. If research is done more deeply in all the dialects not only the standard dialect, there will be a real structure of Manipuri (Meeteilon). Study of dialects will also help to identify the loan words. Sometimes this research simplifies the coinage of new words without any hard efforts. For example, kørnel/kørni, it is a kind of instrument used to clean the grasses. However, it is also noted that this word kørnel/kørni is
borrowed from Bengali. To replace this name by native words, a hard work need to be done. However, it is easy because a word taijot is used in Heirok dialect instead of this word kørnel/kørni. This word is pure Manipuri word, tai means ‘joint’ and jot means ‘iron’ and formed the compound word taijot. Likewise, there are so many lexical items which are necessary to be replaced by native words. Such works will also develop the lexicon of Manipuri.

Furthermore, it is necessary to go deeper in the study of dialects not only the comparative study but also other aspects of linguistic analysis that may be in the field of sociolinguistics, morphosyntax, tone, historical linguistics, cultural related fields etc. All the dialects have their own specificness in many aspects. Therefore, it is part and parcel to extract all those specificness of language. In doing so, it will help to draw a clear cut picture of Manipuri language in a proper view. Nowadays, due to good communication, transportation and contact among dialects, borrowing of languages takes place in every dialect. One dialect uses another dialect’s words or speech forms. Due to this borrowing, every dialect of Manipuri uses more than one dialect forms. After all, standard dialect influences to the other dialects. This is one reason to loss the specificness of one dialect from time to time. In order to protect the original form of each dialects, it is right time to study the dialects to make records and documents of all the dialects of Manipuri in a proper way. Hence, the study of dialects is inevitable part for the development of Manipuri language. This thesis highlights some findings of dialectal research and it will give some crucial landmark to the researchers who have been interested in research on dialects.