horizontal and vertical flow of communication. Hence, one needs to adopt a flexible pluralistic approach in planning the language.

The world we live in is reduced into a global village now. With the globalization and advancement in the field of science and technology, mobility is faster than ever before. We live in a world of contact situation. We are in contact not only with our immediate neighbors but also with those living in distant lands. The advancement in mass media and other technologies enable us to do so. There are contact-induced changes in the language, which resulted into language variation. Kom is not immune to these impacts. Therefore, it is quite understandable that Kom, with its speakers scattering in different geographical locations is bound to show some forms of variation, which we have identified it as a regional varieties. Hence, it should not be a surprise to any speakers of Kom to encounter a deviant form of speech from his fellow speakers.

CHAPTER 6
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

The study has been carried out to describe the Kom speech with special emphasis on variation. The study is classified into six Chapters with findings, unresolved issues and suggestions for further research work. This chapter is devoted to look into the foregone chapters before the summation of the research.

The study starts out with a presentation of the Historical and Socio-Cultural aspects of the Kom enthnelinguistic community. Keeping in mind the limited work available in Kom,
effort has been made to give a total glimpse of the people and their socio-cultural and histori
cal background in the introductory section of the work.

The first section deals with the Kom and the tribes who constitute the Kom-rem group of people. This section also mentioned about the Komrem people who believed that they originated from a cave.

Etymological explanation of the term ‘Kom’ is given in the second section from the historical and literary perspectives. One of the views is that Kom-Rem is ‘people who wore turban’ and the other view is that they ‘came out of the cavity of the earth.’

The third section deals with the origin and exodus of the Kom. Two views are given about their origins in this section: the first view resembles the biblical theory of creation, while the second view is that of the cave origination theory, which other tribal communities of the North-East India also share.

The main analysis of the thesis starts with the third chapter, which describe the sound system of the standard Kom, which they perceived to be the common core of all the varieties of Kom. The language has 34 phonemes of which 24 are consonants and 10 are vowels, consonant cluster is found in this language. The possible second member of the cluster are /t/ /l/ and /r/. Four voiceless consonants are also found in the language. However, their status could not be determined because of their inconsistency of their occurrence. This is one of the issues raised for further research to determine the nature of these sounds. The study also noted 10 vowels in this language. The presence of 5 diphthongs is also found. Phonological processes of assimilation and dissimilation is also attempted.
The fourth chapter deals with the variation present in the language. The study examined the six varieties of Kom, that is, Mongtung, Moirang, Sinamkom, Sagang, Mantak and the Tonsen varieties based on their geographical location. The first focus is on the phonological variation of these six varieties. The finding includes the absence of voiceless sounds in 3 varieties of Kom namely, Sagang, Mantak and Tonsen varieties. The voiceless sounds are voiceless bilabial nasal /m̥/, voiceless alveolar nasal /n̥/, voiceless velar nasal /ŋ̥/, voiceless alveolar flap /ɾ̥/ and voiceless alveolar lateral /ɭ̥/.

The presence of /j/ is found in Tonsen variety. /j/ is not present in other variety including the standard Kom. The absence of /k/ in final position of the syllable is found in Tonsen variety. This is specific to Tonsen variety as in all the other varieties including standard Kom allow the occurrence of /k/ in final position. In place of /k/, realization of /ɭ/ is observed. The presence of /x/ in Montung variety is observed. None of the varieties including the standard Kom have /x/ instead /kʰ/ is present in all the varieties.

/l/ and /ɾ/ as free variation is observed in Sagang variety. It is not the case in any of the other varieties including the standard Kom. /l/ and /ɾ/ in Sagang is in free variation. In other varieties, /l/ and /ɾ/ are not in free variation. This permits occurrence of /l/ in final position of the syllable in Sagang variety.

There is no consonant cluster in three varieties of Kom namely Sagang, Mantak and Tonsen. Whereas, in the other three varieties of Kom the consonant clusters occurs.

The second focus is on the lexical variation of the varieties of Kom. The analysis shows that there are regionally specific lexical items present in the language. Lexical variation is one of the factors that show variation in the language.
The other section deals with the syntactic variation of the six varieties. Kom is an SOV (Subject + Object + Verb) language. It is ergative absolutive. The variation is seen in agreement system. Except Mantak variety, all the five varieties exhibit the same agreement system. In Mantak, agreement follows the subject while in other varieties agreement follows the object. In the WH question, the question marker is fixed with the WH question, whereas in other varieties question marker is not fixed, it can occur with WH or it can occur with the agreement. In this section, a study is done on the semantic properties of nouns and verbs. It is found that semantic variation is found in the verb ‘to run’. In the five varieties there is only one verb describing the action, whereas in Tonsen variety there are two verbs used to describe the action. Interestingly it is also found that the two verbs /antJon/ and /p\(b\)a/ are complete synonyms. Tonsen variety is one of the rarest varieties which has completely synonymous verb. As it is said that completely synonymous verb are rarely found. The verb /tlan/ in the five varieties has a counterpart in Tonsen variety as /kan/. However, it is found that /tlan/ and /kan/ are not synonymous as the latter lack the semantic properties of its counterpart. A semantic property of a verb ‘to eat’ is also analysed in this section. Interestingly it is found that all the five varieties use the same verb ‘sak’ (eat/to eat) for both rice and curry. However, in Tonsen variety separate verb ‘to eat’ is used for rice and curry. Separate Verbs ‘eat/to eat’ for vegetable curry and meat curry is also found. In the verb ‘to smoke’ four different verbs are found among the six varieties of Kom. Two varieties use the same verb /\(i\)n/ for ‘to smoke’ and ‘to drink’. Tonsen variety is the only variety, which has separate verb for ‘eating’, ‘drinking’ and ‘smoking’.

A study on the basic colour on the six variety shows that separate colour terms are found used in the non-basic colour ‘yellow’. The study also shows that overlapping of basic
colour ‘green’ and non-basic colour ‘yellow’ in Moirang variety. Non-basic colour ‘yellow’ perceived differently by the speech varieties is also evident. A study on the noun ‘spider’ indicates that different cultural variety perceived different thing according to the environment. Variation in the perception of the insect spider is found among the varieties.

Chapter 5 deals with the Language Contact situation. The study in this chapter is sociolinguistic in nature. Bilingualism, Code-switching, Borrowing is discussed in this section and Standardisation of Kom is discussed in the final section of the chapter. The phenomenon that happens due to language contact is also discussed. It is found that Kom speakers are highly bilingual. Code-switching and Code-mixing is also found to be common. Discussion on the borrowing shows that extensive borrowing takes place. The borrowed lexical items range from function and content words. It is also found that Indo-Aryan vocabularies are borrowed by this language via Manipuri. The borrowed words found in Kom are mostly from Manipuri. The study shows that borrowing takes place due to need-filling motives. However, it also found that some borrowed words are borrowed even when there is indigenous vocabulary. Borrowing enriches the Kom vocabulary and at the same time, it eliminates the indigenous vocabularies. There is no uniformity in borrowing among the varieties of Kom. One variety has more borrowed words than the other variety. This different ranges of borrowing among the varieties resulted into language variation in Kom. Borrowed words are mostly found among the younger generation. Most of them have a passive knowledge of their indigenous terms. Hence, it may be assumed that negative transfer happens in this language at the same time. It is also felt that excessive borrowing will lead to language death. The final portion of this chapter discussed about the standardization process in Kom. The study shows that Kom is yet to attain fully standardised. The need for standardisation is felt due to the presence of regional varieties in Kom. It is also mainly felt necessary in view of potential danger posed by external pressure in the form of language
borrowing. Some measures are also suggested for standardization that includes coining of words, expansion of vocabulary and establishment of arbiters such as Dictionary and Grammar.

Kom, as stated earlier, is one of the smallest but complex linguistic communities. Their intricate social set up is reflected in their intricate usage of the language or vice versa. Ever since they settled in Manipur, they spread in small groups, occupying different geographical areas and came under the influence of neighbouring languages, and resulted into the diversification in their speech. In fact, every village has its own local variety, distinct at least in some ways from that of the neighbouring Kom villages.

Kom, being unexplored and known very little to the outside world, the present study attempted to describe the sound system of the language, especially focusing on the invariant structure or the common core of different varieties. Accordingly, focus is on the variations within the language focussing on the regional varieties. Effort is also made to establish the causes or factors that explain the variation, which is sociolinguistic in nature. Since there is a felt need for the development of language and codification of standard form, the present study also explores some of the issues that are still to be settled as far as standardization is concerned.

**Unresolved Issues**

The status of voice and voiceless bilabial nasal /m/ /m̥/; voiced and voiceless alveolar nasal/n/ /n̥/; voiced and voiceless velar nasal /ŋ/ /ŋ̥/ voiced, voiceless alveolar flap /ɾ/ /ɾ̥/; voiced and voiceless alveolar lateral /l/ /l̥/ cannot be ascertained, as there are no credible minimal pairs to treat them as separate phonemes. The inconsistencies in their occurrences make it difficult to assign them as an allophone of either of the phonemes. In the
present study, only the voiced sounds are considered as separate phonemes. However, there is a possibility of the voiceless sounds to be the devoiced form of the voiced or as separate phonemes for which further study is required to draw a conclusion of those particular sounds.

The present work does not attempt to resolve all the issues but raises issues for future researchers. It is a humble attempt to present an insight of the language. It is also partly designed to serve as a language and socio-cultural documentation. And perhaps but most importantly, it is designed as an introductory work for the future researchers to follow up for in-depth study so that proper standardization of Kom may be achieved, pedagogic materials may be produced, Kom language may be developed and it will aid in preserving and maintaining the language for the betterment of the future generation.