CHAPTER 7
CONCLUSION

This chapter provides a summary of the conclusion in this thesis. Each chapter is briefly summarised.

Chapter 1 introduced the people and different linguistic classifications by different linguists. As it is known Thadou is a Tibeto-Burman language of the Kuki-Chin group spoken in the state of Manipur. There are good number of speakers scattered in the adjoining hills of Nagaland, Cachar hill of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura as well as along border areas of Burma and Bangladesh. The name Thadou itself is a matter of controversy in the present time, as many believed that it to be one of the principle names of their clans and could not be used to embrace them all. The name Kuki is rather preferred because of the historical ties with which they were associated.

Chapter 2 involves about the literature review both grammar and existing literatures both by native scholars and by outsiders. Not many grammatical studies have been done in Thadou. The grammatical study of Thadou; by Grierson, (1904), Shree Krishan (1980), M.S.Thirumalai (1972) and T.C. Hodson, (1906), described the grammar of Thadou in the light of taxonomic descriptive linguistics.

Chapter 3 deals with the phonology of Thadou. Thadou has 21 consonants and 7 vowels with three contrasting tones and a stress. The consonants are
voiceless, voiceless-aspirated and voiced in manner and are produced on
labial, dental, alveolar, palatal, velar and glottal points of articulation.
Consonants occur in syllable initial and syllable final positions only with
certain restrictions. Example, voiced (except nasals), aspirated stops,
fricatives and affricates do not occur syllable finally. Glottal stop does not
occur in initial position. All the vowels except the central mid vowel /ə/ can
occur in all positions.

There are three tones in Thadou, namely high tone, mid tone and low tone:
As far as their distribution is concerned Thadou have all three tones in all
syllable types.

Diphthongs: Thadou 12 diphthongs namely /ai,ui,e,i,ei,ie,au,eu,iu,oi,ɔi ou,
and ɔu/. All the diphthongs in open syllables glide towards the high position.
Thadou diphthongs occur more with open syllable than closed syllable. This
is due the reason that Thadou prefer open syllable than closed syllable.

Consonant Clusters
Thadou does not allow consonant clusters within syllabic boundary, but
consonant clusters across syllabic boundary with a maximum of two
consonants are common. Word-medially, sequences of the two consonants
types given below are possible in Thadou.
(a) stop+stop (b) stop+nasal (c) stop+fricative (d) stop+lateral (e) nasal
+stop (f) nasal+fricative (g) nasal+nasal (h) nasal+lateral (i) lateral+stop
(j) lateral+fricative: (k) lateral+nasal (l) glottal stop+plosive (m) glottal stop+
fricative (n) glottal stop+nasal.

**Vowel Sequences:** Underlyingly vowel sequences are not permitted in
Thadou. Vowel sequences result from the deletion of glottal stop in the
speech form of Thadou.

**Syllable.** Vowels are more prominent than consonants in Thadou. This lack
of prominence is taken as a boundary marker between different syllables. In
cases of 'word-medial sequences of consonants' in a word with /-CC-/ as an
interlude, the division comes after the first consonant. Thadou has all types
of syllables, some syllable lacks onsets: syllable that begins with vowels.
Thadou syllable onset comprises only one consonant. As such, the Thadou
syllable structure can be generalized as /C°-1-V-C°-1/ (where V= any vowel,
and C= any consonant).

Chapter 4 focuses on the distinctive features of Thadou based on the major
class features proposed by Chomsky and Halle: (1968). All together 14
distinctive feature are posited to capture the sound pattern of Thadou. Since
the distinctive feature of Chomsky and Halle could not capture all the sounds
of Thadou one additional features aspirated is also posited.

Chapter 5 examined the different phonological processes in Thadou. The
following are the phonological processes, viz., deletion, addition,
assimilation, palatalisation, fronting, lengthening, shortening, vowel raising and
free variation found in Thadou. Thadou is rich in morphophonemic alternations. The phonological rules are stated in informal way, more formal discussion of the phonological processes will be presented in the subsequent study.

Chapter 6 deals with the typological sketch of Thadou phonology in the domain of phonology and also examines how far Thadou conforms to the typology of Tibeto-Burman languages. Among the vowel universals proposed by John Crothers, only Universal no. 1, 2, 3, and 11 conform to phonology of Thadou.

Again among the universals of tone proposed by Ian Maddieson (1978), universal no.1 and universal no 3 conform the tone system of Thadou.

Inspite, all effort to include all aspects of phonology, there are many more areas which cannot be covered under the present study. It can be further examined by other researchers in future.