CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

In the preceding chapters we have seen the possible constituents which may or may not occur in an NP as pre-modifiers and post modifiers. From what has been discussed it may be concluded that the constituents occurring in pre-modification position are lexical in nature whereas those in post modification are mostly clausal. A full NP in Khasi consist of many constituents. The constituents are placed at Appendix I in table form for easy reference.

But it should be reminded that not all the constituents may occur in an NP since as already indicated some of them are in complementary distribution with some other constituents while at least one constituent (the Subject Enclitic after the head word) may be considered optional when the head word is modified by other post modifiers.

If we look at the full Noun Phrase in Khasi we can say that one of the major findings is that a full NP
may actually contain other NPs particularly in the Genitive clause and Prepositional Phrase. The NPs in the Genitive clause and Prepositional Phrase are unmodified by any other constituent. The modification is only by its appropriate genitive marker and preposition as in the following sentences:

(303) NGM + H + Gen

u  khun  lajong

son  own

(Own son)

(304) NGH + H Gen + NGM + H

Ka  ing  jong  u  John

the house of  John

(John's house)

(305) Gen + NGM + H + Gen + NGM +

jong  u  syiem  jong  ka Hima Sohra

of  the king  of  Sohra kingdom

(305) is reducible to (306) below
Other findings worth mentioning are the following:

1. That u/ka/i/ki occurring in different positions in a sentence have different functions as follows:

   (a) When they occur immediately before noun words e.g. u maw (a stone) their function is as Number Gender Markers.

   (b) When they occur after a noun word they simply repeat the number and gender of the noun which serves as subject in the sentence. That is why they are called Subject Enclitics. R.K. Jayaraman called them subject operators, but the term is perhaps not very explicit.
(c) When they occur in subject position and immediately before a verb and also immediately after prepositions, their function is as Third Person Personal Pronouns.

2. That in Khasi there are no adjectives as a separate class of word. The function of adjectives is carried out by adjectivals which are formed by the subordinator ba followed by a verb. Adjectivals in Khasi are always in clausal relation occurring after the head word.

3. That the traditional system of marking u ba, ka ba, i ba, ki ba relative pronouns is based on a system which is a result of translating the English that, who and which. On close analysis, however, it is found that ba is the only morpheme that is the equivalent of that, who and which and that the preceding u/ka/i/ki are subject enclitics. They are not part of ba.

The above findings along with those others incorporated in the body of the dissertation, it is believed, have thrown some light towards understanding