

Chapter 9

Conclusion

9.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the analysis presented in the previous chapters. It also provides recommendations for further studies.

9.2 Summary of analysis and recommendations

Chapter 1 presented general information about the Wa language and the Wa people. It presented how the research was conducted. It included the information about the data and informants. Limitations, scope and benefits of the study were given. It also discussed linguistic materials written about Wa and other related languages. Major research on Wa was done by Watkins. His analysis focuses on phonetics and phonology of Wa. Schiller studied the word order changes in Wa.

Chapter 2 provided an overview of the Wa language including phonology and basic grammar. Wa phonology and morphological processes were briefly presented. It outlined the word order in verbal and non-verbal clauses. It also described the constructions for equative clauses, attributive clauses, existential clauses, locative clauses and possessive clauses.

Chapter 2 showed that the copula *mɔh* is used for equative and attributive clauses while the different copulas—*koe*, *ʔot*, *nɛ* are used for other non-verbal clauses. The function of copulas *koe* and *ʔot* is also needed to be investigated. The optional use of possessive particle *tʃɛ* in possessive clauses is suggested for further study.

Chapter 3 presented Wa word classes which include noun, verb, adjective, adverb, demonstratives, numerals, classifiers, quantifiers, auxiliaries (or TAM), prepositions and interrogative pronouns.

One of the interesting features in Chapter 3 was that some of the adverbs in other languages are verbs in Wa. Therefore, it is recommended to do further study on distinguishing verbs and adverbs. Another interesting feature is that Wa has verbal demonstratives *nin* and *nan* which is not common in other languages. But the word

tit functioning as a demonstrative needs to be explained. It is also suggested to examine the particles in Wa, especially *ke?ne* and *hy*. *ke?ne* occurs after a word, a phrase and a clause. It seems that the particle *ke?ne* is used to mark the topic. The particle *ke?ne* is glossed as 'uhm' and marked as 'interjection'. But, its functions need to be studied in detail. The particle *pot* which is not discussed in this thesis is also suggested for further study. The meaning of two TAM markers *kʰɔ* and *tʃɔ* need to be investigated.

Chapter 4 presented the internal structure of Wa noun phrases. It discussed the structures for different types of noun phrases. It also discussed the positions and functions of noun modifiers – demonstratives, adjectives, classifier phrases, relative clauses, prepositional phrases, and pronouns. Possessive noun phrases and coordinate noun phrases were discussed too.

One interesting finding in Chapter 4 was that some of the constituents can be moved out of their NP. This is another area for further research on limitations of constituents that can be moved out.

Chapter 5 focused on verbal and clausal operators. There was discussion of negation, agreement, ability, permission, directional, tense, aspect, modality, polite particles and adverbs. Finally, it discussed various types of serial verb constructions.

Interesting findings in Chapter 5 include the behavior of the particle *tom*. It does not allow VS constructions and its functions need to be explained in further study. The optionality of *ti?* in serial verb construction would be an interesting topic for further research. Two ability particles – *tʃʰi?* and *pon* can be sometimes used interchangeably, but sometimes not. Their limitations need to be discussed in detail in further study. It is also recommended to do further research on the negative quantifier *kɔ?*.

Chapter 6 discussed voice and valence changing processes in Wa including valence-increasing and valence-decreasing processes. It discussed several ways of constructing passives in the language. It described reflexives and reciprocal relationship in Wa. It also discussed how causatives are formed.

Further research from chapter 6 includes the particles that contain reflexive meaning such as *taj*, *tʃao* and *ti?*. Their meanings and usages need to be explained more in detail.

Chapter 7 presented three different types of sentences such as declarative sentences, interrogative sentences and imperative sentences. The interrogative constructions for 'Yes-No' questions, tag questions, 'Or-Not' questions and content questions were also discussed. Finally, the process of extraposition was discussed.

One recommendation for chapter 7 is to do detailed research on sentences that end with a preposition. This pattern is common in Wa. The noun phrase following the preposition is not explicitly expressed at the clause final position.

Chapter 8 described complex clauses that have more than one clause. It focused on coordinate clauses, complement clauses, adverbial clauses and relative clauses. It discussed the constituent order in different types of sentences.

The VSO alternation discussed in chapter 8 needs more research. One recommendation is to do statistical contrast of VSO and SVO in main clauses and find out which pattern is more common than the other. The word order variation within the complement clauses depending upon the matrix verbs needs to be clarified by further research.

This thesis is an initial work on the grammar of Wa, but not a complete description of a Wa grammar. Therefore, many features need to be investigated in detail.