

Table of Contents

	Title	Page No.
	Abstract	i
	Declaration	ii
	Certificate	iii
	Acknowledgements	iv-v
	Table of Contents	vi
	List of tables	vii
	List of figures	viii
	List of abbreviations	ix-x
Chapter 1		1-28
	Introduction	
1.0	The Biате Language and Community	1
1.1	Population and Demographic distribution	1
1.2	Linguistic Affiliation	1
1.2.1	Linguistic Situation of Biате in the Dima Hasao District	4
1.3	The Biате Community	4
1.3.1	Biате Clans	4
1.3.2	Food Habits	5
1.3.3	Dress and Ornaments	5
1.3.4	Marriage System in Biате	6
1.4	Overview of Biате Language	7
1.4.1	Phonological Overview	10
1.4.2	Morphological Overview	10
1.4.2.1	Root words	10
1.4.2.2	Free roots	11
1.4.2.3	Bound roots	11
1.4.2.4	Nominalization	12
1.4.2.5	Number	12
1.4.2.6	Pronouns	13
1.4.2.6.1	Subject Pronoun	13

1.4.2.6.2	Object Pronouns	13
1.4.2.6.3	Demonstrative Pronouns	14
1.4.2.6.4	Interrogative Pronouns	15
1.4.2.7	Adjectives	16
1.4.2.8	Verbs	18
1.4.2.8.1	Basic Verbs	18
1.4.2.8.2	Derived Verbs	19
1.4.2.8.3	Compound Verbs	20
1.4.2.9	Adverbs	21
1.4.2.9.1	Types of Adverbs	21
1.5	Review of Biate Literature	22
1.6	Methodology	24
1.7	Chapter Divide	24
	References	26
Chapter 2		29-55
	Finite Clause Structure in Biate	
2.0	Introduction	29
2.1	Biata Verbal Morphology	29
2.1.1	Tense – Aspect – Mood (TAM) features	30
2.1.2	Future Tense	30
2.1.3	Non-future Tense	31
2.1.4	Aspect	31
2.1.5	Mood	32
2.2	Agreement in Biata	33
2.2.1	Agreement in Positive sentences	33
2.2.2	Agreement markers in negative sentences:	35
2.2.2.1	Agreement markers in non-future negative sentences	35
2.2.2.2	Agreement markers in future negative sentences	36
2.3	Transitivity	37
2.3.1	Intransitive	38
2.3.2	Mono-transitive	39
2.3.3	Ditransitive	40

2.4	Case in Biate	42
2.4.1	Case in Core Arguments	42
2.4.2	Split-Ergativity in Biate	46
2.4.2	Oblique case in Biate:	47
2.5	Semantic roles	49
2.5.1	Syntactic roles	51
2.6.	Conclusion	53
	References	54
Chapter 3		56-80
Minimalist Program		
3.0	Introduction	56
3.1	Feature Checking Theory	57
3.1.1	Architecture of Derivation Model	57
3.1.2	Theta theory	58
3.1.3.	Theta Grid	59
3.2	Case Theory	60
3.2.1	Case Theory in GB	61
3.2.2	Case Assignment	62
3.2.3	Case filter	63
3.3	Morphological case and Abstract Case	63
3.3.1	Structural Case and Non-Structural case:	65
3.3.2	Exceptional case marking:	66
3.4	Case in Minimalism	67
3.4.1	Agr Approach	68
3.4.2	Case Checking in the Probe, Goal (Chomsky 2000, 2001)	71
3.4.3	Inherent Case Hypothesis	72
3.4.4	Agr-less Approach	75
3.5	Conclusion	76
	References	77
Chapter 4		81-100
Minimalist Account of Biate Clause Types		

4.0	Introduction	81
4.1	Architecture of Biate Clause Structure	81
4.2	Double VP Shell Hypothesis	85
	4.2.1. Position of Object Argument	88
4.3	Case in Biate	92
	4.3.1 Nominative Case	92
	4.3.2 Accusative case	93
	4.3.3 Ergative case	93
4.4	Conclusions	98
	References	99

Chapter 5

Agreement in Biate

5.0	Introduction	101-119
5.1	Ergative as inherent case	101
	5.1.1 A Minimalist perspective of Ergative case	104
5.2	Di-transitive Clause	107
5.3	Agreement in Biate	112
	5.3.1. Agreement in Positive Sentences	112
	5.3.2 Agreement in Negative Sentences	113
5.4	Conclusion	117
	References	118

Chapter 6 120-122

Conclusions and future scope of work

Conclusions

Future scope of work

References 123-132

List of Publications