

# Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	1
1.1: General Introduction	1
1.2: General Background and Review of Literature	2
1.2.1: Tone	2
1.2.2: Intonation studies in languages	4
1.2.3: Intonation in Tone languages	7
1.3: Languages under Study: Sylheti and Chokri	10
1.3.1: Sylheti	10
1.3.1.1: Tonal Phonology of Sylheti	11
1.3.2: Chokri	12
1.3.1.1: Tonal Phonology of Chokri	13
1.4: (Research) Objectives of the Dissertation	14
1.5: Layout of the Dissertation	15
References	18
Chapter 2: Prosodic Structure in Sylheti and Chokri	27
2.1: Introduction	27
2.2: Experimental Methodology	31
2.2.1: Materials	31
2.2.2: Speakers	31
2.2.3: Data Recording Procedures and Pre-processing	32
2.2.4: Quantification and Statistical Analysis	33
2.3: Results and Analysis: Prosodic Structure in Sylheti	33
2.3.1: Structure of Prosodic Domains in Sylheti	33

2.3.2: Prosodic Words	33
2.3.3: Accentual Phrase	34
2.3.4: Interaction of AP phrasal tones and Lexical tones	39
2.3.5: intermediate phrase (ip)and Intonational phrase (IP)	41
2.4: Intonational Prosodic Units in Chokri: Results and Analysis	44
2.4.1: Prosodic Word	44
2.4.2: intermediate phrase (ip)and Intonational phrase (IP)	46
2.5: Discussion and Conclusion	52
References	55
Chapter 3: Downtrends	60
3.1: General Overview of Downtrend Phenomena	60
3.2: Experimental Design and Procedure	64
3.2.1: Participants and Datasets	64
3.2.2: Data Recording and Annotation	65
3.2.3: Statistical and Mathematical modelling	65
3.3: Results and Analysis	66
3.3.1: Downtrend in Sylheti	66
3.3.2: Sylheti Final Lowering	68
3.3.3: Phonological nature of Downstep of f <sub>0</sub> peaks in Sylheti	69
3.3.4: Declination in Chokri: visual interpretation and statistical analysis	73
3.3.4.1: Mathematical modelling of Chokri declination	78
3.3.5: Downstep in Chokri	82
3.4: Discussion	84
References	87

Chapter 4: Intonational Marking of Sentence Type	93
4.1: General Background	93
4.2: Experimental Procedure	95
4.2.1: Participants and Stimuli	95
4.2.2: Procedures	96
4.2.3: Quantification and Statistical Analysis	96
4.3: Results and Analysis: Intonation and Sentence Type in Sylheti	96
4.3.1: Declaratives Vs. Polar Questions	97
4.3.2: Wh Questions	102
4.3.3: Alternative Questions	105
4.3.4: Imperatives	106
4.3.5: Lists	107
4.3.6: Compound Sentences	108
4.3.7: Complex Sentences	109
4.4: Intonation and Sentence Types in Chokri: Results	109
4.4.1: Declaratives and yes/no questions	109
4.4.2: Wh Questions	116
4.4.3: Alternative Questions	118
4.4.4: Imperatives	120
4.4.5: Lists	121
4.5: Discussion and Conclusion	122
References	125
Chapter 5: Focus Marking Prosody in Tonal Language:	
Evidences from Sylheti and Chokri	129
5.1: Introduction	129
5.1.1: General Background	129

5.2: Experimental Methodology	131
5.2.1: Materials and Procedure	132
5.2.2: Data Annotation and Acoustic Measure	133
5.2.3: Statistical Analysis	133
5.3: Prosodic Focus in Sylheti: Results and Analysis	134
5.3.1: Focus and Fundamental Frequency	134
5.3.2: Focus and Duration	138
5.3.3: Focus and Intensity	141
5.4: Prosodic Focus in Chokri: Results and Analysis	143
5.4.1: Focus and Fundamental Frequency	143
5.4.2: Focus and Duration	152
5.4.3: Focus and Intensity	156
5.5: Discussion and Conclusion	157
References	161
Chapter 6: Conclusion	166
6.1: Introduction	166
6.2: Prosodic Structure and Intonation	166
6.3: Downtrends	167
6.4: Intonational Marking of Sentence Types	167
6.5: Prosodic Encoding of Focus	168
6.6: Implications	168
6.6.1: Levels of transcription and symbolic labels for Sylheti_ToBI	169
6.6.2: Levels of transcription and symbolic labels for Chokri_ToBI	171
6.7: Limitations and Future Research	172
References	173

Appendix I	174
Appendix II	187
Appendix III	199