

## CHAPTER 28

### LINGUISTICS

#### Doctoral Theses

01. ACHOM (Padmabati)  
**Syntax of Modality in Meeteilon.**  
Supervisor : Dr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya  
Th25284

*Abstract*  
(Not Verified)

This thesis mainly investigates how modality is expressed in Meeteilon, a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Manipur, situated in the Northeast of India. In Chapter 1, the concept of MODALITY is introduced which includes both mood and modality. It is shown that MODALITY may be expressed in various ways such as auxiliary verbs, adverbs, and other inflections added to the verbs or auxiliary verbs. In Meeteilon, mood can be further categorised into indicative, imperative, and subjunctive/optative, while, modality is categorised into epistemic, deontic, volitional and abilitative. Chapter 2, various modal interpretations of the three modal roots in Meeteilon are considered in detail. It is shown that when these roots combine with the future or the deictic morpheme, modal interpretations change. Based on the Exoskeletal Model (Åfarli, 2007 and Grimstad, Lohndal&Åfarli, 2014), a certain case of ambiguity of the modal root *ta-* is considered and resolved. In Chapter 3, I have discussed in detail how the deictic suffixes *-khai-* and *-lu-/ru-* reveal the internal nature of the action or event as achievement and accomplishment respectively and also how the deictic suffix *-ram/lam-* helps in realising the outer aspect, and therefore must be taken into account in terms of its contribution to aspectuality. I have also further discussed the scope of negation in the latter part of the chapter. In Chapter 4, the morpheme *-ram/lam-* is listed as having two functions, one primary and another secondary. The primary function of the morpheme *-ram/lam-* is to allow the triggering of another event and placing them in sequence. While the secondary function of *-ram/lam-* allows an extension of the duration of the first event to an extent overlapping with the second event.

#### *Contents*

1. Introduction 2. The morphosyntactic manifestation of modality in meeteilon 3. Aspects, negation and modality in meeteilon 4. The morpheme *-rɔm-/lɔm-* in meeteilon 5. Conclusion. References.

02. BAJAJ (Mansi)  
**Different Aspects of Punjabi Phonology.**  
Supervisors : Prof. RavinderGargesh and Dr. ChanderSkekhar Singh  
Th25286

*Abstract*  
(Not Verified)

Punjabi belongs to the group of Indo-Aryan languages and is spoken in many states of India and Pakistan. This thesis reviews the literature pertaining to the phonological problems in Punjabi language and then applies a syllable based non-linear generative approach to solving phonological

problems in Punjabi language. The present work has studied various phonological problems, problems such as placement of accent, tones resulting from loss of aspiration, intonation, schwa deletion, nasal consonant formation and nasalization of vowels, glide insertion, alternation of high front glide /y/ with the back palatal voiced /j/, and occurrence of gemination. The present work takes the Prakrit forms as the underlying forms and posits nasal archisegment in the underlying form for solving the problem of nasal consonant assimilation. The present work also replaces the terms 'high' and 'low' tones with 'rising' and 'falling' tones as pitch tracings resolve the same. By doing so, the current work has made a three way bridge of bringing experimental phonology, theoretical phonology and phonological-morphological interface together in order to understand and explain the problems in phonology.

### *Contents*

1. Introduction 2. Syllable and syllable structure in Punjabi 3. Methodology 4. Aspects of Punjabi phonology I 5. Aspects of Punjabi phonology II 6. Aspects of Punjabi phonology III 7. Conclusion. Bibliography. Appendices.

03. BISWAS (Sarada Bandana)

#### **Tectogrammatical Annotation of Bangla Force Categories.**

Supervisors : Prof. Tista Bagchi and Dr. Shobha Satyanath

Th 25287

### *Abstract (Not Verified)*

The objective of this study is to provide a Tectogrammatical account of Bangla Force Categories. Illocutionary force is essential to understanding the pragmatics of a language. A Tectogrammatical Annotation will serve to quantify and analyze the concept of force. Tectogrammatical treebanks are typically annotated at three layers: morphological, analytical, and tectogrammatical layers. TGTS concerns itself with all aspects of meaning. Thus sentence modality finds a place in a Tectogrammatical representation. This thesis argues that having an attribute for modality, while required, is not sufficient. An attribute for force is needed. The reason is that sentence modality and force do not have exact correspondence in terms of the semantics and pragmatics. Modality and illocutionary force both relate to the speaker's intention or assessment concerning the propositional content of the utterance, but the latter concerns itself with the relation between the speaker and the hearer, whereas the former does not. This thesis introduces an attribute called *force* which encodes the illocutionary force behind an utterance. In addition, this thesis attempts to develop a tectogrammatical treebank for Bangla; this, in turn can facilitate machine translations between Bangla and a typologically non-similar language. This thesis also proposes a sub-category of the Expressive force, called the Conditional force which tries to account for the way force is encoded in conditional sentences. Finally, this thesis has also attempted to encode illocutionary force in terms of a mapping with intonation contours. Intonation and illocutionary force map on each other all too often and this thesis gives a formal representation to this mapping using the dot-type theory and SARGs. **Keywords:** *Tectogrammatical Annotation, Illocutionary Force, Machine translation, Dependency Grammar, Intonation, Dot-type theory.*

### *Contents*

1. Introduction An overview of the tectogrammatical framework 3. Illocutionary force- A formal approach using tectogrammatical annotation 4. Force- TFA and intonation 5. Conclusions. Bibliography. Appendix.

04. SRIVASTAVA (Shubham Kumar)  
**On the Semantics of Infinitives : A Case Study in Hindi.**  
Supervisors : Prof. Tista Bagchi and Dr. Shobha Satyanath  
Th25285

*Abstract*  
(Not Verified)

Finiteness is not a novel concept in linguistics. Within morpho-syntax, finite clauses are seen as opaque to certain syntactic processes. They have been equated to tensed clauses. This is an observation rooted in Chomsky's (1973) 'Tensed-S' condition which does not allow the application of a syntactic rule across a structure that contains a tensed sentence. Wenger (2011) puts the entire morpho-syntactic notion of finiteness in the form of an equation, where finiteness has been shown to be related to primarily tense, then to subject-verb agreement, and lastly, to the subject being case marked as *nominative*. Morpho-syntactic correlates of finiteness have faced a lot of criticism as they cannot be applied across the board. A recent approach has been to look for a semantic explanation of the notion. The semantic approach identifies finiteness with the capacity to license an independent predication. Semanticists have explored the relation between finiteness and grammatical mood. Mood, as defined in Khumutova (2014), is the subjective appraisal of the situation's reality – unreality. A prototypical independent predication is positive and declarative. Other moods, while finite, may fail to display the morpho-syntactic properties associated with this prototype. Mood is, thus, an integral part of the study of finiteness. Along with mood, the relation of finiteness to the illocutionary force and veridicality is explored in this thesis. This thesis looks at the relation between finiteness, grammatical mood, and illocutionary force to establish finiteness as a gradient, as opposed to it being a discrete binary distinction. The degree of finiteness is directly proportional to the degree of tethering to reality of the illocutionary force behind a clause, and the speaker's commitment towards the truth of the clause. This thesis is aimed at highlighting the shift in the study of finiteness from the area of morpho-syntax to the semantico-pragmatic domain.

*Contents*

1. Introduction Theoretical foundations 3. Finiteness: Is tense the only anchor 4. A Semantic take on finiteness 5. Veridicality: Non-finites as non-veridical 6. Conclusion. Bibliography. Appendix.