

Abstract of Dissertation Presented to the Graduate School
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SOME ASPECTS OF THE TONAL PHONOLOGY OF BODO

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This dissertation is an attempt to answer the basic questions regarding the tonal phonology of Bodo. Chapter I gives a general introduction to the Bodo language, the existing research work in Bodo and summarizes the framework followed in the present work. This chapter also gives a brief explanation of the term 'Tone Language' and tries to exemplify how tonal contrasts occur in tone languages. Since the literature on Bodo (specifically tones) is confusing as contradictory claims are made, we planned to establish the phonetics and phonology of Bodo tones with the help of digitally recorded data. Chapter 2 explains how tone assignment takes place in Bodo non-derived monosyllabic lexical entries. This chapter also looks into the segmental interferences in realization of pitch. It also gives an overview of the method followed for data collection and analysis in this research work. Chapter 3 looks at the tone assignment in Bodo non-derived disyllabic lexical entries. Like the previous chapter this chapter also looks into the segmental effects in the realization of pitch in disyllables. Chapter 4 examines the tone assignment pattern in derived polysyllabic entries. It looks at the alterations that suffixes go through in a derivation. It is also an attempt to identify and explain different morphophonemic patterns observed in Bodo. Chapter 5 gives an overview of the OT (Optimality Theory), and an OT account of the tonal phenomenon including tonal alteration in Bodo.