

# TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -----	9
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS -----	14
LIST OF TABLES AND CHARTS -----	18
<b>PART I: The general introduction, phonology and structural description of the language -----</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
<b>GENERAL INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.0 Overview -----	20
1.1 Aims, Scope and Working Hypothesis -----	21
i. Aims -----	21
ii. Scope -----	22
iii. Working Hypothesis -----	22
1.2 Geographical Situation of Meta? -----	22
1.3 Linguistic Classification of the language -----	23
1.4 Research Methodology -----	27
i. Data Elicitation -----	27
ii. Data Analysis -----	28
1.5 Theoretical Framework -----	28
i. Why the Principles and Parameters, and Minimalist Program Theories? -----	28
ii. Levels of Representation -----	29
1.6 Sub-theories of Principles and Parameters Theory (PPT) -----	30
1.6.1 X-bar theory -----	31

1.6.2 Binding theory -----	35
1.6.3 Case theory -----	37
1.6.4 Theta ( $\theta$ ) theory -----	39
1.6.5 Bounding theory -----	41
1.6.6 Control theory -----	42
1.6.7 Government theory -----	44
1.7 An overview of Minimalist Program -----	46
1.8 Outline of the work -----	49

## CHAPTER 2

### THE LANGUAGE

2.0 Introduction -----	50
2.1 Phonology -----	51
2.1.1 Sound System -----	51
2.1.2 Consonants -----	53
2.1.3 Vowels -----	56
2.1.4 Tonemes -----	57
i. Contour tones -----	58
2.1.5 Syllable Structure -----	59
2.1.5.1 Word structure -----	59
2.1.5.2 Syllables -----	59
2.2 Noun morphology -----	61
2.3 Nominal Prefixes -----	62
2.3.1 Noun Class 1 -----	63
2.3.2 Noun Class 2 -----	65
2.3.3 Noun Class 3 -----	65
2.3.4 Noun Class 6N -----	66
2.3.5 Noun Class 6A -----	66
2.3.6 Noun Class 7 -----	67
2.3.7 Noun Class 8 -----	68
2.3.8 Noun Class 9 -----	68

2.3.9 Noun Class 10 -----	70
2.3.10 Noun Class 13 -----	70
2.3.11 Noun Class 19 -----	71
2.4 Genders -----	71
2.4.1 Paired (double) Class Genders -----	71
2.4.1.1 Gender 1/2 -----	72
2.4.1.2 Gender 3/6A -----	73
2.4.1.3 Gender 3/13 -----	73
2.4.1.4 Gender 7/8 -----	73
2.4.1.5 Gender 9/10 -----	74
2.4.1.6 Gender 19/13 -----	74
2.4.2 Single Class Genders -----	75
2.4.2.1 Gender 3 -----	75
2.4.2.2 Gender 6A or 7 -----	75
2.4.2.3 Gender 6N -----	76
2.4.2.4 Gender 9 -----	76
2.4.2.5 Gender 10 -----	76
2.4.2.6 Gender 13 -----	76
2.4.2.7 Gender 19 -----	77
2.5 Concord Morphemes -----	77
2.5.1 Noun + Numerals -----	77
2.5.2 Noun + Possessive Pronoun -----	79
2.5.3 Noun + Demonstrative Pronoun -----	81
2.5.4 Noun + Adjective -----	83
2.5.5 Noun + Definite article -----	84
2.5.6 Associative Concord -----	85
2.6 Summary -----	86

## CHAPTER 3

### VERB MORPHOLOGY

3.0 Introduction -----	87
3.1 Tense -----	90
3.1.1 Present Tense (P0) -----	91
3.1.2 Today Past Tense (P1) -----	93
3.1.3 Yesterday Past Tense (P2) -----	93
3.1.4 Remote Past Tense (P3) -----	94
3.1.5 Future Tense (FUT) -----	95
3.2 Aspect -----	96
3.2.1 Perfective Aspect -----	97
3.2.1.1 Today Perfective -----	98
3.2.1.2 Experiential Perfective -----	99
3.2.2 Imperfective Aspect (IMPFT P0) -----	100
3.2.2.1 Durative Perfective -----	100
3.2.2.2 Imperfective Durative Aspect -----	102
3.2.2.3 Imperfective Durative Yesterday Aspect -----	103
3.2.2.4 Imperfective Durative Remote Aspect -----	105
3.2.2.5 Imperfective Future Aspect -----	105
3.3 Mood -----	107
3.3.1 Imperative (command) Mood -----	107
3.3.2 Interrogative (question) Mood -----	108
3.4 Representation of 'Tense, Aspect and Mood (TAM)' in Meta?	
using 'Wolff's Hierarchical Model' -----	109
3.5 Summary-----	114

## CHAPTER 4

### WORD ORDER

4.0 Introduction	116
4.1 Declarative Sentence	118
4.2 Imperative Sentence	118
4.3 Interrogative Sentence	119
4.4 Negative Sentence	120

<b>PART II: The application of theoretical principles on the language</b>	121
---	-----

## CHAPTER 5

### 5. THE FOCUS CONSTRUCTION IN META?

5.0 Introduction	123
5.1 The notion "Focus"	123
5.2 Focus Marking in Meta?	127
5.2.1 The status of /ni/ in Meta?	129
5.3 The Derivational operations involved in Meta? Focus Construction	131
5.3.1 The origin and locus of the focus morpheme	131
5.3.2 The derivational process and Head-initial FP	133
5.3.3 Constraints on focus marking in Meta?	142
i. Subjacency	142
ii. Empty Category Principle (ECP)	144
5.4 Focus Constructions in some related languages	149
5.5 Summary	155

## CHAPTER 6

### INTERROGATIVES IN META?

6.0 Introduction	157
6.1 Direct Questions	158
i. Marked-direct questions	158
ii. Intonation marked-direct questions	160
6.2 Content or Wh-questions	161
6.3 Pre-posed Wh-question derivation	168
6.3.1 How does Meta? derive wh-preposed questions?	171
6.3.2 What is the intimate relationship between focalisation and fronted wh-questions?	176
6.4 Multiple wh-questions in Meta?	179
6.5 Summary	183

## CHAPTER 7

### CONCLUSION OF FINDINGS

7.0 Highlights	184
7.1 How do we deliver this package to our intended audience?	187
7.2 Conclusion	188

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG IN DEUTSCHER SPRACHE	190
--------------------------------------	-----

BIBLIOGRAGHY	193
--------------	-----