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A Descriptive Account of the Morphological Processes in Kokborok

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Abstract:

Kokborok, an official language alongside Bengali and English in the Northeast Indian state of Tripura, is the most popularly spoken indigenous language of the state. The language holds a rich yet overlapping morphological processes. This is because of the prevalent linguistic phenomena like certain morphemes such as [nai, k^ha] etc. can be used as both base as well as affix. As a result, a systematic investigation on Kokborok morphology is a crucial area for the overall understanding of this language. In this circumstance the present paper promises to throw light on this not-so-dug area of Kokborok.

Keywords: Kokborok, Morphology, Word formation, Affixation, Morphemes.

1.0 Introduction

Morphology is a branch of linguistics which is concerned with the formation of words. It deals with the systematic analysis of words and its internal constituents. These constituents are roots, stems and affixes. The primary assignment of morphology is to deal with the smallest meaningful linguistic elements called morphemes. It is appropriate at this point to refer to Syal and Jindal, "A systematic study of morphemes or how morphemes join to form words is known as morphology" (2010:77). The morphemes are the parts of words which cannot be further divided. However, some morphemes carry its own meaning and can stand as an independent word. This type of morphemes is called free morphemes. In contrast, some morphemes do not carry independent meaning are called bound morphemes. This type of morphemes forms meaningful words by joining other free or bound morphemes. For example –

(1)	Words	Free morphemes	Bound morphemes
	happiness	happy	-ness
	friendly	friend	-ly
	payment	pay	-ment

'happy', 'friend' and 'pay' in the words 'happiness', 'friendly' and 'payment' have their own meaning and are free morphemes. Whereas '-ness', '-ly' and '-ment' are bound morphemes since they do not carry independent meaning. In the word formation process, bound morphemes are called affix (affixes in plural). There are three varieties of affixes i.e. prefix, suffix and infix. The affixes that are attested before and after the root words are called prefixes and suffixes accordingly. The affixes which are inserted in between two root words called infixes.

Kokborok (henceforth KB) is one of the official languages in the northeast Indian state of Tripura. It is the most popularly spoken indigenous language of the state. The speakers of this language are scattered across the states of Assam, Mizoram and the neighbouring country Bangladesh too. KB holds complicated word formation processes which necessitates analysis from multiple linguistic dimensions to understand. One of the contributing factors to these complications is that a morpheme in this language can stand as both free and bound morpheme. For example – '-k^ha' is a commonly occurring suffix in KB. It is attached as a past tense marker with a root verb as in [nai 'to see' + k^ha = naik^ha 'saw']. However, 'k^ha' itself can stand as an independent verb root as it carries its own meaning 'to tie' and can be attached with other suffixes such as '-k^ha', '-ḍi', '-ja' etc. For example- [k^ha 'to tie' + k^ha = k^hak^ha 'tied'], [k^ha + ḍi = k^haḍi 'tie Imp'], [k^ha + ja = k^haja 'will not tie'].

The present study promises to bring about an in-depth analysis of the morphology in KB. It will help the native KB as well as non-KB speakers to understand the complex morphological grammar of the language. To an extent, it will also be helpful for the understanding of larger linguistic structure i.e. syntax of the language. The majority of the data collected for the analysis in this paper are of primary data due to lack of existing work in the area. The primary data are collected through observation method since the researcher himself is a native KB speaker. They are further authenticated through cross-checking with other native KB speakers.

The paper is designed as the following. The Section-1 introduces Kokborok which is the concern language of this paper. The section also offers an overview of the intertwining morphological processes of this language and the significance of understanding morphology to become familiarised with the overall linguistic behaviour of KB. Section-2 deals with the inflectional affixation in the language under study. It is divided into two broad sub-sections. 2.1 is concerned with inflectional prefixes and 2.2 is with the inflectional suffixes. The latter is further divided into nouns, verbs and adjectival suffixes. The Section-3 gives an account of the derivational affixes in KB. Similar to the previous section, this section too is bifurcated as derivational prefixes and suffixes subsequently. The next section offers discussion on word formation processes without affixation in KB. The section is further classified into three subsections. The Section- 4.1 deals with blending, 4.2 with compounding and 4.3 with the reduplication processes. The subsection titled Reduplication is further classified as total reduplication and partial reduplication. The section-5 sums up the paper.

2.0 Inflectional affixes in KB

The affixes which do not change the grammatical category of the root word are called inflectional affixes. By using this type of affixes "content words are modified for specific grammatical functions" (Molsom:80). We shall begin the discussion with inflectional prefixes in KB.

2.1 Inflectional prefix

The solitary inflectional prefix in KB is 't̥a-'. This prefix is attested as the negative marker to an imperative verb. However, it cannot be added to a root verb.¹

(2)	Prefix	Base	Outcome
	t̥a-	t̥h̥aŋɖɪ 'go Imp'	t̥ḁt̥h̥aŋɖɪ 'do not go' (Imp Neg)
	t̥a-	caɖɪ 'eat Imp'	t̥ḁcaɖɪ 'do not eat' (Imp Neg)
	t̥a-	naɪɖɪ 'see Imp'	t̥ḁnaɪɖɪ 'do not see' (Imp Neg)
	t̥a-	ɾɪɖɪ 'give Imp'	t̥ḁɾɪɖɪ 'do not give' (Imp Neg)

2.2 Inflectional suffixes

Like the prefix (2.1) inflectional suffixes too maintain grammatical class of the root words. In KB inflection takes place in noun, pronoun, verb and adjective. Let us first look at the noun inflections in KB.

2.2.1 Noun inflectional suffixes

In KB noun inflection takes place for number, gender and case. Inflectional suffixes for nouns and pronouns in KB are '-rəg', '-səŋ', '-zük', '-nɪ', '-nə', '-bar' and '-ə'. From these '-rəg', and '-səŋ' are used as plural marker, '-nɪ', '-nə', '-bar' and '-ə' are case marker and '-zük' is used as the marker of feminine gender. Let us begin the discussion with noun inflections for number.

2.2.1.1 Noun Inflection for Number

(3) i. Use of suffix '-rəg' as a plural marker

Base	Suffix	Outcome
bə 'he/she'	-rəg	bərəg 'they'
məsək 'cow'	-rəg	məsəkrəg 'cows'
pən 'goat'	-rəg	pənərəg 'goats'
bɪzəp 'book'	-rəg	bɪzərəg 'books'

ii. Use of suffix '-səŋ' as a plural marker

(4)	Base	Suffix	Outcome
	ama 'my mother'	-səŋ	amasəŋ 'my mother and others'
	bajap 'friend'	-səŋ	bjapsəŋ 'friend and others'
	baɪ 'elder sister'	-səŋ	baɪsəŋ 'elder sister and others'
	bɪməl (PN)	-səŋ	bɪmələsəŋ 'Bimol and others'

In KB '-rəg' and '-səŋ' are used as plural marker. However, the two suffixes are semantically different. Suffix '-səŋ' is used in the cases of kinship and proper noun only, while '-rəg' is used elsewhere.

¹ 't̥a-' can only be used in multiple affixation process.

2.2.1.2 Noun Inflection for gender [-zük]

In KB suffix ‘-zük’ is the solitary gender marker. It is added after the rightmost position of a common noun to identify its feminine counterpart. Consider the examples bellow (cf. 5).

(5)	Base	Suffix	Outcome
	pon ‘goat’	-zük	ponzük ‘nanny’
	ṭək ‘chicken’	-zük	ṭəkzük ‘hen’
	wak ‘pig’	-zük	wakzük ‘sow’

The researcher has not found any masculine marker in KB²: in some cases a common noun is considered as the masculine version of it. For instance- the common nouns [büküra ‘father-in-law] and [bōwai ‘elder brother-in-law] represent masculine gender, but we get [büküra + (-zük) = bükürazük ‘mother-in-law’] and [bōwai + (-zük) = bōwazük ‘elder sister-in-law].

2.2.1.3 Noun Inflection for Case

i. Use of ‘-ni’ as genitive case marker

(6)	Base	Suffix	Outcome
	ha ‘soil’	-ni	hanı ‘of soil’
	bōp ^h aŋ ‘tree’	-ni	bōp ^h aŋni ‘of tree’
	bō ‘he/she’	-ni	bōni ³ ‘his/her’
	aŋ ‘I’	-ni	aŋni ⁴ ‘mine’
	cüŋ ‘we’	-ni	cüŋni ⁵ ‘ours’

ii. Use of ‘-no’ as dative case marker

(7)	Base	Suffix	Outcome
	bō ‘he/she’	-no	bōno ‘to him/her’
	mōsok ‘cow’	-no	mōsokno ‘to cow’
	ama ‘my mother’	-no	amano ‘to my mother’
	acōi ‘grandmother’	-no	acōino ‘to grandmother’
	cüŋ ‘we’	-no	cüŋno ‘to us’

iii. Use of ‘-bar’ as ablative case marker

(8)	Base	Suffix	Outcome
	aŋ ‘I’	-bar	aŋbar ‘with me’
	nüŋ ‘you’	-bar	nüŋbar ‘with you’
	bīmōl ‘PN’	-bar	bīmōlbar ‘with Bimol’
	ama ‘my mother’	-bar	amabar ‘with my mother’

² ‘la’ and ‘sa’ as in ‘ṭōkla’ and ‘waksa’ are not inflected nouns. These are the outcomes of blending, e.g. [ṭək ‘chicken’ + cūla ‘male’ = ṭōkla ‘cock’] and [wak ‘pig’ + büsa ‘baby’ = waksa ‘piglet’].

³ Base ‘bō’ and suffix ‘-ni’ undergo vowel assimilation. Hence, the outcome becomes ‘bōni’ instead of ‘bōni’.

⁴ Here, the coda of base ‘aŋ’ gets deleted for phonotactic accommodation for the ease of articulation.

⁵ It is the outcome of both coda deletion and vowel assimilation. Another example can be as [nüŋ + (-ni) = nüŋni] not ‘nüŋni’.

iv. Use of ‘-ɔ’ as locative case marker

(9)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	nək ‘home’	-ɔ	nəɔ	‘at home’
	mai ‘mai’	-ɔ	maiɔ	‘in rice’
	mɔɪ ‘curry’	-ɔ	mɔɪɔ	‘in curry’
	haɪ ‘market’	-ɔ	haɪwɔ	‘at market’

Besides its primary function as the locative case marker in KB, suffix ‘-ɔ’ brings about some phonotactic changes for the ease of articulation. These phonotactic accommodations are also applicable in the forthcoming sub-section (2.2.2.1

(i). They are-

- If the base word has a voiceless coda it undergoes voice assimilation.
- If the base word ends with a vowel, semi-vowel /w/ gets inserted in between the rightmost and leftmost position of the base and suffix accordingly.
- If the rightmost position of the base is a diphthong, semi-vowel /j/ gets inserted before the suffix.

2.2.2 Verbal inflectional suffixes

Verb inflections in KB mainly takes place for tense. In this language ‘-ɔ’, ‘-k^ha’, ‘-nar’ are the verb inflectional suffixes for tense. Other suffixes that inflect verbs are ‘-ɗɪ’, ‘-ja’, ‘-t^hün’, ‘-p^horo’. Let us have a look at the verb inflections for tense (2.2.2.1 (i-iv))

2.2.2.1 Verbal Inflection for Tense

i. Use of ‘-ɔ’ as present indefinite marker

(10)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	t ^h an ‘to go’	-ɔ	t ^h anɔ ⁶	‘go PI’
	rücap ‘to sing’	-ɔ	rücabo	‘sing PI’
	man ‘to get’	-ɔ	mano	‘get PI’
	k ^h ɪ ‘to defecate’	-ɔ	k ^h ɪwɔ	‘defecate PI’
	naɪ ‘to see’	-ɔ	naɪɔ	‘see PI’

ii. Use of ‘-k^ha’ as past tense marker

(11)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	t ^h an ‘to go’	-k ^h a	t ^h ank ^h a	‘went’
	ca ‘to eat’	-k ^h a	cak ^h a	‘ate’
	p ^h ai ‘to come’	-k ^h a	p ^h aik ^h a	‘came’
	naɪ ‘to see’	-k ^h a	naik ^h a	‘saw’

⁶ If the rightmost position of the base is the velar nasal /ŋ/, a velar stop /g/ is inserted before the suffix ‘-ɔ’.

iii. Use of '-zak' as past perfect tense marker

(12)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	tʰaŋ	'to go'	-zak	tʰaŋzak 'gone'
	ca	'to eat'	-zak	cazak 'eaten'
	pʰaɪ	'to come'	-zak	pʰaɪzak 'come'
	naɪ	'to watch'	-zak	naɪzak 'watched'

In KB, the suffixes '-kʰa' and '-zak' are often used interchangeably as past tense marker. It is also debatable to tag any one of the two as past perfect tense. This is because the grammar of this language shows no transparent distinction between the past and past participle tense. However, suffix '-zak' is considered past perfect tense marker, as when it is attested to a present form of verb, the outcome becomes eligible to be used as a perfective adjective. For example- [naɪzak 'watched' + tʰɔkɛ 'film'] → [naɪzak tʰɔkɛ 'a watched film'].

iv. Use of '-nai' as future tense marker

(13)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	tʰaŋ	'to go'	-nai	tʰaŋnai 'will go'
	ca	'to eat'	-nai	canai 'will eat'
	pʰaɪ	'to come'	-nai	pʰaɪnai 'will come'
	sa	'to tell'	-nai	sanai 'will tell'

2.2.2.2 Use of '-ɟɪ' as imperative marker

(14)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	tʰaŋ	'to go'	-ɟɪ	tʰaŋɟɪ 'go Imp'
	ca	'to eat'	-ɟɪ	caɟɪ 'eat Imp'
	pʰaɪ	'to come'	-ɟɪ	pʰaɪɟɪ 'come Imp'
	sa	'to tell'	-ɟɪ	saɟɪ 'tell Imp'

2.2.2.3 Use of '-ja' as negative marker

(15)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	tʰaŋ	'to go'	-ja	tʰaŋja 'will not go'
	ca	'to eat'	-ja	caja 'will not eat'
	pʰaɪ	'to come'	-ja	pʰaɪja 'will not come'
	sa	'to tell'	-ja	saja 'will not tell'

2.2.2.4 Use of ‘-t̪h̪üŋ’ as optative marker

(16)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	t̪h̪aŋ ‘to go’	-t̪h̪üŋ	t̪h̪aŋt̪h̪üŋ	‘go Opt.’
	ca ‘to eat’	-t̪h̪üŋ	caŋt̪h̪üŋ	‘eat Opt.’
	p̪h̪aɪ ‘to come’	-t̪h̪üŋ	p̪h̪aɪt̪h̪üŋ	‘come Opt.’
	sa ‘to tell’	-t̪h̪üŋ	saŋt̪h̪üŋ	‘tell Opt.’

2.2.2.5 Use of ‘-p̪h̪oɾo’ as temporal case marker

(17)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	t̪h̪aŋ ‘to go’	-p̪h̪oɾo	t̪h̪aŋp̪h̪oɾo	‘while going’
	ca ‘to eat’	-p̪h̪oɾo	cap̪h̪oɾo	‘while eating’
	p̪h̪aɪ ‘to come’	-p̪h̪oɾo	p̪h̪aɪp̪h̪oɾo	‘while come’
	sa ‘to tell’	-p̪h̪oɾo	sap̪h̪oɾo	‘while telling’

2.2.3 Adjectival inflectional suffix

In KB, adjectival inflections take place to express the superlative degree of underived adjectives. The solitary superlative degree marker of this language is suffix ‘-kug’. It is noteworthy here that comparative degree in KB cannot be formed by inflecting the underived adjectives. The comparative degree in this language are made by adding a separate word i.e. ‘t̪eisa’ which literary means ‘little more’. For example- [t̪eisa ‘little more’ + [kaham ‘good’] → t̪eisa kaham ‘little better’]. Therefore, the formation of comparative degree is ignored in KB morphology. Consider the following data for adjectival inflection in KB (cf. 18).

(18)	Base	Suffix	Outcome	
	kaham ‘good’	-kug	kahamkug	‘best’
	naɪt̪h̪ək ‘beautiful’	-kug	naɪt̪h̪ək ⁷ kug	‘most beautiful’
	kələk ‘long/tall’	-kug	kələk ⁷ kug	‘longest/tallest’
	bara ‘short’	-kug	barakug	‘shortest’

3.0 Derivational affixes in KB

According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, derivation is “the formation of a word by changing the form of the base or by adding affixes to it”. Derivational affixes change the grammatical category of the base. Hence, this process is also called word formation process. Let us begin with the derivational prefixes in KB in the following sub-section.

⁷ KB does not allow any lexical gemination and hence the outcome is ‘naɪt̪h̪ək⁷kug’ instead of ‘naɪt̪h̪əkkug’.

3.1 Derivational prefixes

3.1.1 Verb to Adjective

i. Use of 'ka-'

(19)	Prefix	Base	Outcome
	ka-	ham 'becoming good'	kaham 'good'

ii. Use of 'kə-'

(20)	Prefix	Base	Outcome
	kə-	tʰək 'taste'	kətʰək 'tasty/delicious'
	kə-	lək 'growing long/tall'	kələk 'long/tall'
	kə-	pʰən 'becoming fragile'	kəpʰən 'fragile'

iii. Use of 'ko-'

(21)	Prefix	Base	Outcome
	ko-	cək 'rising high'	kocək 'high'
	ko-	təŋ 'hit'	koətəŋ 'hot'
	ko-	bək 'to sharpen'	kobək 'sharp'
	ko-	war 'becoming wide'	kowar 'wide'

iv. Use of 'kü-'

(22)	Prefix	Base	Outcome
	kü-	baɪ 'to break'	kübaɪ 'broken'
	kü-	süraŋ 'energise'	küsüraŋ 'energetic'
	kü-	rüŋ 'to learn'	kürüŋ 'learned'

It is an undefinable phenomenon in KB morphological analysis to differentiate the prefixes 'ko-' and 'kü-' in regards to their attestation with the free morphemes.

3.2 Derivational Suffixes

Suffixes that are attested with the root words to change the grammatical category of the latter are called derivational suffixes. There are only two derivational suffix noticed in KB viz. '-məŋ'. It is attested to a verb base to derive a noun. Attestation of derivational suffixes in KB has been displayed in the following tables (cf. 23, 24).

3.2.1 Verb to Noun

(23)	Base[V]	Suffix	Outcome[N]
	ca 'to eat'	-mōŋ	camōŋ 'food'
	müsa 'to dance'	-mōŋ	müsamōŋ 'dance'
	rücap 'to sing'	-mōŋ	rücapmōŋ 'song'
	wansok 'to think'	-mōŋ	wansokmōŋ 'thought'

3.2.2 Verb to Adjective

(24)	Base[V]	Suffix	Outcome[Adj]
	nai 'to see'	-tʰək	naɪtʰək 'beautiful'
	kan 'to ear'	-tʰək	kaɪtʰək 'easily wearable'
	man 'to get'	-tʰək	maɪtʰək 'easily available'
	kʰar 'to do'	-tʰək	kʰaɪtʰək 'easy to do'

4.0 Non-affixational Word Formation Processes

Thus far the discussion has been made on the word formation processes through affixation. However, formation of the word is not limited to affixation only. There are many other ways through which the formation of new words take place. From this point onwards the focus will shift into the processes of word formation without affixation.

4.1 Blending

Blending is a common word formation process in which two or more base words are fused to derive a new lexical item. Blended words are also called portmanteau words. The table below presents some of the blended words in KB (25).

(25)	Word ₁	Word ₂	New word
	büsa 'baby/child'	cüla 'male'	büsala 'son, Poss. 3 rd per.'
	wak 'pig'	büsa 'baby'	waksa 'piglet'
	mai 'rice'	mōi 'curry'	mamōi 'rice curry etc.'
	ha 'soil'	bōḍōl 'ball'	haḍōl 'an earthen ball'
	pōn 'goat'	bahan 'meat'	pōhan ⁸ 'mutton'
	tək 'chicken'	bütür 'egg'	təktür 'chicken egg'

4.2 Compounding

Compound words are formed by joining two (or more) base words together. However, unlike in blending the bases are not fused in compounding, rather kept as it is. In KB compound words, a hyphen is preferably used between two bases. Consider the following in this regard (cf. 26).

⁸ Due to prosodic constraint, the coda /n/ of the first syllable [pōn] gets deleted from the new blended word, as it is easier for the native speakers to pronounce {CV.CVC} words than {CVC.CVC} ones.

(26)	Word ₁	Word ₂	New word
	gaṭṭi ‘bath place’	lama ‘road’	gaṭṭi-lama ‘way to bath place’
	waṭṭi ‘rain’	məl ‘season’	waṭṭi-məl ‘rainy season’
	sam ‘weed’	waizük ‘sister-in-law’	sam-waizük ‘shameplant’
	sak ‘body’	küplünj ‘full’	sak-küplünj ‘pregnant’
	ṭʰaicoḱ ‘mango’	kumøn ‘ripe’	ṭʰaicoḱ-kumøn ‘ripe mango’

4.3 Reduplication

According to Haspelmath, Reduplication is quite a common morphological operation, in which “part of the base (segment, syllable, or morpheme) or the complete base is copied and attached to the base (2002:38)”. This definition of Reduplication can be simplified as a word formation process in which new words are derived by repeating a base or a part of it. There are two types of reduplication: (a) total reduplication and (b) partial reduplication. Our discussion shall begin with the total reduplication.

4.3.1 Total reduplication

When a new word is formed through the repetitive use of a base, the process is called total reduplication. The table below (27) presents some instances of total reduplication collected from the native KB speakers.

(27)	Base	Reduplicant	New word	
	ṭürük	ṭürük	ṭürük-ṭürük	‘slowly’
	serek	serek	serek-serek	‘whisper’
	kece	kece	kece-kece	‘noisy’
	sürai	sürai	sürai-sürai	‘clear’

4.3.2 Partial Reduplication

In contrast to the total reduplication, only some part/s of the base is copied in partial reduplication. The reduplicants are either used independently or attached to a new segment, syllable or morpheme. Partial reduplication is further classified into two parts: (a) vowel alteration and (b) rhyming. In the vowel alteration process, all the consonants of the base remain unchanged. However, the internal vowels are replaced in the newly formed word. The following data justify the existence of partial reduplication via vowel alteration in KB (cf. 28).

(28)	Base	Reduplicant	New word	
	gana	gını	gana-gını	‘surrounding area’
	kısa	mısa	kısa-mısa	‘a little bit’
	körbe	körba	körbe-körba	‘criss-cross’

In partial reduplication via rhyming, on the other hand, the template reduplicant copies almost the whole base as it is except the initial consonant. The initial consonant can be replaced any other consonant that rhymes with the base in the new word. Consider the following data (cf. 29).

(29)	Base	Reduplicant	New word	
	hanaŋ	pɪnaŋ	hanaŋ-pɪnaŋ	'harassment'
	kɪsa	mɪsa	kɪsa-mɪsa	'a little bit'
	kɪcɪk	mɪcɪk	kɪcɪk-mɪcɪk	'torn etc.'

5.0 Conclusion

This paper has been furnished with an in-depth analysis of the morphological processes in Kokborok. Considering all facts that are noticed and discussed through the course of the study, we can come to the following conclusions.

KB has a solitary inflectional prefix 'ta-'. It is attested at the left of an imperative verb and converts it into a negative imperative.

In KB, noun inflection takes place for number, gender and case. There are seven suffixes in the language that cause noun inflection i.e. '-rɔŋ', '-sɔŋ', '-bar' and '-ɔ', '-ni', '-nɔ', '-bar' and '-ɔ'. Among them, '-rɔŋ' and '-sɔŋ' are used as plural marker, '-ni', '-nɔ', '-bar' and '-ɔ' are case marker and the suffix '-zük' is used as the maker of feminine gender.

There are eight inflectional suffixes of Verbs in KB. They are- '-ɔ', '-k^ha', '-zak', '-nar', '-ɗɪ', '-ja', '-t^hüŋ', and '-p^horo'. Verbs in this language primarily inflects for tense. The suffix '-ɔ' is used as the indefinite tense marker in KB. The suffix '-nar' is the solitary future tense maker observed in this. '-k^ha' and '-zak' are often used interchangeably as past tense marker. However, the latter is arguably considered as past perfect tense maker, as an inflected verb with this suffixed can be used as a perfective adjective at the phrasal level. In KB the suffixes '-ɗɪ', '-ja', and '-t^hüŋ' are attested with the indefinite form of verbs as imperative, negative and optative marker respectively. '-p^horo' is the only suffix that causes verbal inflection for case. It is used as the temporal case marker.

Adjectives in KB inflects only for superlative degree. '-kug' is the solitary suffix observed in this regard.

In compare to inflections, the quantity of word formation via derivational affixation has been noticed lesser in KB. Derivational prefixes contribute only to transform verbs into adjectives. '-ka', '-kɔ', '-kɔ' and '-kü' are the derivational prefixes in KB.

There are two derivational suffixes found in the language under study viz. '-moŋ' and '-t^hɔk'. Of them, '-moŋ' is attached to the verbs and changes its grammatical category into noun. Whereas, suffix '-moŋ' transforms a base verb into adjective.

Like any other language, word formation in KB takes place through non-affixational processes as well. The prevalent non-affixational word formation processes that have been observed and discussed in this paper include Blending, Compounding and Reduplication. The reduplication process is bifurcated into (a) total and (b) partial reduplication. The partial reduplication is further classified into vowel alteration and rhyme.

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