



Non-affixational Word Formation Processes in Molsom

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Abstract

This paper aims at providing an account of the non-concatenative word formation processes adopted by Molsom language namely compounding and reduplication. In Molsom, the most productive types of compounds are the endocentric compound and exocentric compound. Endocentric compounds in Molsom are further classified into two: left-headed and right headed. Reduplication is also another productive morphological process in Molsom. It can be of two types: complete reduplication and partial reduplication. Molsom has plenty of partial reduplications; and the less productive one, i.e. complete reduplication has also been observed in Molsom. Molsom attests partial reduplication where the reduplicative template copies the entire part of the base from the right edge excepting the initial consonant. A fixed consonant begins the reduplicant which is predominantly a coronal [+cor] one: /t/ or /s/. Instances of reduplicants with /b/ as the initial consonant are also noted. In cases where the base begins with a coronal i.e. /t/ or /s/ the reduplicant prefers to keep the consonant unchanged and changes the immediate vowel after the consonant in a systematic way.

Keywords: Molsom, Compounding, Endocentric Compound, Exocentric Compound, Reduplication, Partial Reduplication, Complete Reduplication

1.1 Introduction

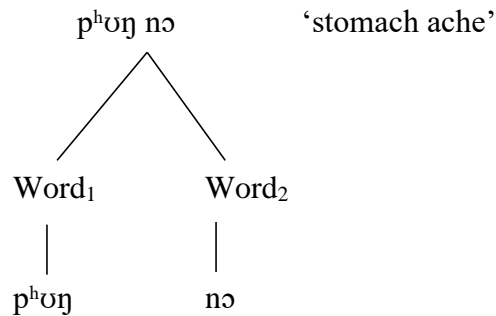
The primary goal of this study is to present the non-affixational means of creating new words in Molsom. The most common ones include -- compounding and reduplication. The following discussion projects a picture of derivation without affixation in Molsom. Compounds are discussed first, then reduplication is presented thereafter.

1.2 Compounding

Compounding in Molsom is a productive process of word formation. It combines two or more open class words such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Compounds consist predominantly of two constituents (cf.1).

1.

Word ₁			Word ₂		Output		
ram	'jungle'	+	biꞤ	'full'	→	ram biꞤ	'wild jungle'
ꞤꞤ	'water'	+	ꞤꞤ	'cold'	→	ꞤꞤ ꞤꞤ	'cold water'
lou	'jhum'	+	con	'cleaning'	→	lou con	'jhum cleaning'
p ^h uꞤ	'stomach'	+	nꞤ	'ache'	→	p ^h uꞤ nꞤ	'stomach ache'



There may also be compound words with more than two morphemes, but no examples are found so far. Hence the issue is kept out of the present discussion.

Compounds in Molsom can be categorized into two types: headed and non-headed. In headed compounds, the lexical category to which a compound belongs is determined by its head. Compounds with head are called endocentric compounds. However, not all compounds in Molsom have a head. Such non-headed compounds are called exocentric compounds. Let us now analyse and illustrate them.

1.2.1 Endocentric Compounds

Endocentric Compounds with its head within itself, consist of two types: left-headed and right-headed. Such compounds have internal make-up of Noun + Adjective, and Noun + Noun. They are very productive.

1.2.1.1 Left-headed Endocentric Compounds

In left-headed endocentric compounds the left-hand member is the head. Head determines the meaning and the lexical category of the compound: e.g., Ꞥ^hi sen 'blood red = red blood'. The internal structure of such type of compound is [N+A]. (2) provides more instances.

2.

Word ₁			Word ₂		Output		
Ꞥa	'fish'	+	cꞤr	'dry'	→	Ꞥa cꞤr	'dry fish'
ꞤꞤ	'fish'	+	Ꞥ ^h Ꞥ	'rotten'	→	ꞤꞤ Ꞥ ^h Ꞥ	'rotten fish'
ꞤꞤ	'water'	+	lꞤm	'hot'	→	ꞤꞤ lꞤm	'hot water'
zꞤn	'night'	+	huꞤ	'good'	→	zꞤn huꞤ	'good night'
ruꞤaꞤ	'dream'	+	t ^h Ꞥ	'good/sweet'	→	ruꞤaꞤ t ^h Ꞥ	'sweet dream'
Ꞥ ^h i	'blood'	+	sen	'red'	→	Ꞥ ^h i sen	'red blood'
paꞤ	'body'	+	wꞤm	'dark/black'	→	paꞤ wꞤm	'black body'

1.2.1.2 Right-headed Endocentric Compounds

In right-headed endocentric compounds the right-hand member is the head. Head determines the meaning and lexical category of the compound e.g., *lou səi* 'rice jhum' = 'jhum rice'. Noun + Noun is the internal structure of such compounds.

3.

Word ₁		Word ₂		Output
<i>m</i> 'house'	+	<i>lampui</i> 'way'	→	<i>m lampui</i> 'house way'
<i>p^hui</i> 'leg'	+	<i>mi^hin</i> 'nail'	→	<i>p^hui mi^hin</i> 'leg nails'
<i>ku^h</i> 'hand'	+	<i>mi^hin</i> 'nail'	→	<i>ku^h mi^hin</i> 'hand nails'
<i>p^hoŋ</i> 'stomach'	+	<i>nə</i> 'ache'	→	<i>p^hoŋ nə</i> 'stomach ache'
<i>son</i> 'thatch'	+	<i>m</i> 'house'	→	<i>son m</i> 'thatch house'
<i>lou</i> 'jhum'	+	<i>səi</i> 'rice'	→	<i>lou səi</i> 'jhum rice'
<i>k^he^h</i> 'paddy field'	+	<i>səi</i> 'rice'	→	<i>k^he^h səi</i> 'paddy rice'
<i>son</i> 'thatch'	+	<i>m</i> 'house'	→	<i>son m</i> 'thatch house'

1.2.2 Exocentric Compounds

Exocentric compounds have no head. The resulting meaning of the combination of two words is unpredictable. For instance, *ni sok* 'sun rise = east' is neither /*sok*/ 'rising' nor /*ni*/ 'sun'. By implication, /*ni sok*/ means 'east'. Exocentric compounds are of Noun + Noun, Noun + Verb, and Adjective + Verb type (cf. 4, 5, 6).

4. Noun + Noun

Word ₁		Word ₂		Output
<i>cəm</i> 'hunger'	+	<i>rəl</i> 'thirst'	→	<i>cəm rəl</i> 'exhaustion'

5. Noun + Verb

Word ₁		Word ₂		Output
<i>ni</i> 'sun'	+	<i>sok</i> 'rise'	→	<i>ni sok</i> 'East'
<i>ni</i> 'sun'	+	<i>tək</i> 'fall'	→	<i>ni tək</i> 'West'
<i>m</i> 'house'	+	<i>təŋ</i> 'reach'	→	<i>m təŋ</i> 'guest'
<i>lam</i> 'way'	+	<i>ɗən</i> 'pick up'	→	<i>lam ɗən</i> 'welcome'
<i>rəl</i> 'ice'	+	<i>kaŋ</i> 'dry'	→	<i>rəl kaŋ</i> 'hail'
<i>zəl</i> 'strength'	+	<i>rət</i> 'win'	→	<i>zəl rət</i> 'strong'
<i>m</i> 'house'	+	<i>k^hər</i> 'close'	→	<i>m k^hər</i> 'door'

6. Adjective + Verb

Word ₁		Word ₂		Output
<i>sol</i> 'tired'	+	<i>bəŋ</i> 'put'	→	<i>sol bəŋ</i> 'rest'

1.3 Reduplication

Another non-affixational morphological process in Molsom is reduplication. In this case, a complete word or part of the word (vowel or syllable) is reduplicated to form a new word. Thus, in Molsom reduplication is of two types: complete and partial.

1.3.1 Complete Reduplication

In total reduplication, the entire base is reduplicated without any change in form and meaning. However, the use of total reduplication is infrequent. Some examples are cited in (7).

7.	Base	Reduplicant	Output	
	cəʊ 'slow'	cəʊ	cəʊ cəʊ	'slow slow'
	bʉk 'little'	bʉk	bʉk bʉk	'little little'
	asəŋ 'secret'	asəŋ	asəŋ asəŋ	'secret secret'
	sɪrɪŋ 'silent'	sɪrɪŋ	sɪrɪŋ sɪrɪŋ	'silent silent'

1.3.2 Partial Reduplication in Molsom

Molsom has plenty of partial reduplications where the reduplicative template copies the entire part of the base from the right edge excepting the initial consonant. Two rules are applied in the formation of partial reduplication in Molsom. They are:

Rule 1: #C → #t̚/#s/#b

Rule 2: V_[High]σ → a

A fixed consonant begins the reduplicant which is predominantly a coronal [+cor] one: /t̚/ or /s/. Instances of reduplicants with /b/ as the initial consonant are also noted. In cases where the base begins with a coronal i.e., /t̚/ or /s/ the reduplicant prefers to keep the consonant unchanged and changes the immediate vowel after the consonant in a systematic way. Semantic value of reduplication is 'pluralization combined with related items.' In Molsom, partial reduplication is more frequent in use than total reduplication. Examples of partial reduplication are provided in (8-11).

8. Rule 1a: #C → #t̚

Base	Reduplicant	New Word	
bər 'fence'	t̚ər	bər t̚ər	'fence etc.'
cəm 'knife'	t̚əm	cəm t̚əm	'knife etc.'
hər 'naughty'	t̚ər	hər t̚ər	'naughty etc.'
mʉzʉ 'mouse'	t̚ʉzʉ	mʉzʉ t̚ʉzʉ	'mouse etc.'
mʉrʉl 'snake'	t̚ʉrʉl	mʉrʉl t̚ʉrʉl	'snake etc.'

9. Rule 1b: #C → #s

Base	Reduplicant	New Word	
kəm 'work'	səm	kəm səm	'work etc.'
lem 'lie'	sem	lem sem	'lie etc.'
mʉlɑʉ 'comedy'	salɑʉ	mʉlɑʉ salɑʉ	'comedy etc.'
naʈ 'ill'	saʈ	naʈ saʈ	'ill etc.'

10. Rule 1c: #C → #b

Base	Reduplicant	New Word	
rʉɪ 'axe'	bʉɪ	rʉɪ bʉɪ	'axe etc.'
kʉɪ 'tiger'	bʉɪ	kʉɪ bʉɪ	'tiger etc.'
cʉr 'thief'	bʉr	cʉr bʉr	'thief etc.'
kel 'goat'	bel	kel bel	'goat etc.'
lʉŋkʉ 'messy'	bʉŋkʉ	lʉŋkʉ bʉŋkʉ	'messy etc.'

11. Rule 2a: $V_{[High]} \rightarrow a$

Base		Reduplicant	New word	
sɪŋ	'knowledge'	səŋ	sɪŋ səŋ	'knowledge etc.'
t̪ɔɪ	'water'	t̪aɪ	t̪ɔɪ t̪aɪ	'water etc.'
t̪ʰɪŋ	'wood'	t̪ʰaŋ	t̪ʰɪŋ t̪ʰaŋ	'wood etc.'

We can classify partial reduplication in Molsom into two groups based on the rule they follow.

a) Rule 1: rhyming process

b) Rule 2: vowel alteration.

In terms of use, cases under Rule 1 are more frequent than those under Rule 2.

1.4 Conclusion

In this paper an attempt has been made to bring out the seminal features of non-affixational word formation processes in Molsom. It is found that Molsom uses non-affixation process for deriving new words from existing bases. So, the most productive non-affixational modes of creating new words in Molsom are compounding and reduplication.

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