

COMMENTS ON KAZYM KHANTY GRAMMAR

Word formation in Kazym Khanty

In Kazym-Khanty, there are two types of word formation: Derivation or composition.

1. Derivation

1.1. Nouns

1.1.1. Denominal suffixes

- *-ije*: Diminutive: *xɔ:tije* ‘little house’, *poxije* ‘little son’ (*xɔ:t* ‘house’, *pox* ‘son’)
- *-le*: Pejorative: *ikile* ‘little man’ (*iki* ‘man’)
- *-ət, -at*: Abstract noun: *xuβat* ‘length’ (*xuβ* ‘long’)
- *-fiβi*: Denotes the size of an object, often with pejorative undertone: *iki-fiβi* ‘dude, old man’ (*iki* ‘man’)

1.1.2. Deverbal suffixes

- *-əp*: Instrument of an action: *kunfəp* ‘comb’ (*kunf-* ‘scratch, comb’)
- *-əpsi, -əpfi*: object or process of an action: *nɔ:təpsi* ‘help’ (*nɔ:t-* ‘help’)

1.2. Adjectives

1.2.1. Denominal suffixes

- *-i*: Propriative: *jɪŋki* ‘wet, moist’, *xuŋi* ‘fishy, full of fish’ (*jɪŋk* ‘water’, *xuŋ* ‘fish’)
- *-əp, -pi*: Propriative: *saməp* ‘hearty, with heart’, *βe:t təjpi* ‘five-fingered’ (*sam* ‘heart’, *təj* ‘finger’)
- *-əŋ*: Propriative: *βərtəŋ* ‘divine’ (*βərt* ‘god, spirit’)
- *-hi*: Caritive: *βe:βhi* ‘powerless’, *semhi* ‘blind’ (*βe:β* ‘power’, *sem* ‘eye’)
- *-fək*: Diminutive, comparative: *ar:fək* ‘more’, *ta:s’əŋfək* ‘richer’ (*ar* ‘much’, *ta:s’əŋ* ‘rich’)

1.2.2. Deverbal suffixes

- *-əm*: Propriative: *pɔ:təm* ‘frozen’, *sɔ:rəm* ‘dry’ (*pɔ:t-* ‘freeze’, *sɔ:r-* ‘dry’)

1.3. Adverbs

1.3.1. Denominal suffixes

- *-a*: Modal, attaches to adjectives: *mɔ:jəŋa* ‘hospitably’ (*mɔ:jəŋ* ‘hospitable’)
- *-a*: Modal, attaches to nouns: *jira* ‘aside’ (*jir* ‘side’)
- *-ən*: *kutən* ‘between’, *me:βətən* ‘alternately, successively’ (*kut* ‘space, distance’, *me:βət* ‘line’)
- *-ta, -ta*: Ablative: *je:ta* ‘from afar, from a distance’ (*je:t* ‘far’)

COMMENTS ON KAZYM KHANTY GRAMMAR

1.4. Verbs

1.4.1. Denominal and deadverbial suffixes

- *-t-*: Intransitive, durative: *potərt-* ‘speak, talk, tell’ (*potər* ‘conversation, speech, narrative’)
- *-əʃt-*: Transitive, durative: *jaməʃt-* ‘improve, cure’ (*jam* ‘good, beautiful’)
- *-tə-*: Intransitive, durative: *βe:ʃpəsətə-* ‘do hunting and fishing, practise a craft’ (*βe:ʃpəs* ‘hunt and fishing’)
- *-mə-*: Intransitive, durative, inchoative: *sə:xərmə-* ‘be hungry, starve’ (*sə:xər* ‘hungry’)
- *-əsʲ-*: Intransitive, durative: *piʃtəsʲ-* ‘unite’ (*piʃ* ‘partner, comrade’)
- *-jiət-*: Intransitive, durative: *jertjiət-* ‘drizzle’ (*jert* ‘rain’)

1.4.2. Deverbal suffixes

There are numerous deverbal verbal suffixes in Kazym-Khanty which change the verbs with regards to aktionsart, aspect, valency or modal meaning. A suffix may have several functions, several suffixes can have one and the same meaning. There may even appear several suffixes after one another.

At this point, there are just a few examples provided.

- *-anʲsʲ-*: Intransitive, reflexive: *kanʃanʲsʲ-* ‘look for sth., investigate’ (*kanʃ-* ‘search’)
- *-emə-*: Momentive, intransitive: *karemə-* ‘turn’ (*kari-* ‘id.’)
- *-əptə-*: Transitive, causative: *ka:təptə-* ‘present, hand over, marry’ (*ka:tət-* ‘catch, capture, reach’)
- *-tʃə-*: Intransitive, transitive, frequentative: *e:βətʃə-* ‘cut’ (*e:βət-* ‘id.’)
- *-tə-*: Inchoative: *xə:tətə-* ‘start to cry’ (*xə:tə-* ‘cry’)

2. Moreover, verbs may also be changed by means of prefixation. Verbal prefixes are not derivational suffixes in the classical way, though. In fact, a verb with a prefix is situated in a grey area between a compound and a syntactical phrase.

Most of the Kazym-Khanty verbal prefixes have developed from adverbs. It is still partly difficult to differentiate them from adverbs today. Originally, verbal prefixes had a directional meaning:

nox-təʃʲ- ‘get up, stand up’ (*nox* ‘up’, *təʃʲ-* ‘stand’)

jeʃʲ-ʃəʃ- ‘go away’ (*jeʃʲ* ‘away’, *ʃəʃ-* ‘go, walk’)

iʃi-ʃəʃtə- ‘collapse, sink down’ (*iʃi* ‘down’, *ʃəʃtə-* ‘sink’)

However, the prefixation of a verb can change its aktionsart or can indicate perfectivity:

jeʃʲi-nʲəxm- ‘start talking’ (*jeʃʲ* ‘away’, Inchoative, *nʲəxm-* ‘talk, say’)

joxi-tə- ‘eat up’ (*joxi* ‘back, inwards’, perfectivity, *tə-* ‘eat’)

lap-pent- ‘lock up’ (*lap* perfectivity, *pent-* ‘close, shut’)

COMMENTS ON KAZYM KHANTY GRAMMAR

Many of the prefixed verb forms are lexicalized, yet in a sentence the verbal prefixes don't necessarily stand directly before the verb they refer to. For example, prefix and verb can be separated by a particle.

3. Composition

There are several types of composition in Kazym-Khanty. First of all, there are so-called pair nouns which generalize the meaning of its components (cf. nouns example 1). In case of declination, both components are declined.

Besides, there are metaphoric words as compounds which components are phonetically homonymic. The semantic meaning of one or even both components is often submerged here (cf. adjectives example 4). Attributive compounds are another type of compound. Here one component specifies the other (cf. nouns example 4).

With regards to the spelling, compounds are handled very differently. Some authors write a hyphen between the components, others write them as two words. There are even examples where the components are written as one word.

3.1. Nouns

- *jɔ:f-kur* 'limbs' (*jɔ:f* 'hand' + *kur* 'foot')
- *sem-jɪŋk* 'tear' (*sem* 'eye' + *jɪŋk* 'water')
- *mɔ:jpər-xɔ:t* 'bear's den' (*mɔ:jpər* 'bear' + *xɔ:t* 'house')
- *aj-keʔ* 'news, novelty' (*aj* 'small, young' + *keʔ* 'rope')
- *pasti βɔ:j* 'wolf' (*pasti* 'quick, sharp' + *βɔ:j* 'animal')
- *ʃaŋk-jɪŋk* 'sweat' (*ʃaŋk* 'hot' + *jɪŋk* 'water')

2.2. Adjectives

- *semʔi-paʔʔi* 'blind and deaf' (*sem* 'eye' + *paʔ* 'ear' CAR)
- *piti seməp* 'black-eyed' (*piti* 'black' + *sem* 'eye' PROP)
- *pasti kurəp* 'fleet-footed' (*pasti* 'quick' + *kur* 'foot' PROP)
- *karri-pari* 'quick, swift'

2.3. Adverbs

- *tata-tota* 'everywhere' (*tata* 'here' + *tota* 'there')
- *βa:n-kutəʔ* 'often' (*βa:n* 'short, near' + *kut* 'space, distance')
- *jeʔʔi-joxi* 'back and forth' (*jeʔʔi* 'forward' + *joxi* 'back')

2.4. Pronouns

COMMENTS ON KAZYM KHANTY GRAMMAR

- *sʲiməsʲ-sʲiməsʲ* 'this and that' (*sʲiməsʲ* 'such')
- *ar-ʃimət* 'one does not know how much' (*ar* 'much' + *ʃimət* 'little')

2.5. Verbs

Both components are conjugated if a verb results by composition.

- *ʃe-ʃanʲsʲ* 'eat, dine' (*ʃe* 'eat' + *ʃanʲsʲ* 'drink')
- *oməs-ʃotʲsʲ* 'rest' (*oməs* 'sit' + *ʃotʲsʲ* 'stand')

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