2. MORPHOPHONEMICS

Morphophonemic changes have been mostly accounted for in the relevant sections for convenience while dealing with the base alternation of the nominals and verbs. General optional and obligatory changes are stated below.

2.1. Optional changes

(1) Assimilation (devoicing)

(a) Base-final -d becomes -t before the past suffix -t, e.g.:

ud-t-or → uttort 'he blew'
ted-t-an → tettan 'I got up'
ud-t-a → utta 'she/it sat'

(b) Base-final -g becomes -k before the past suffix -t, e.g.

deg-t-a → dekta 'it broke'
dig-t-or → diktor 'he came down'
vig-t-in → viktin 'you (sg.) kicked'

(2) Assimilation (labializing)

In fast speech word-final -n is heard as -m when it is followed by the particles: bo or pay as noted in these instances:

datin bo → datim bo 'you (sg.) go/will go'
va:yan pay → va:yan pay 'while coming'

(3) Elision (simplification of cluster)

(a) Base-final -v may be lost when it is followed by the non-past adverbial participle suffix -son in these two cases.

tarv-so(γ) → tarso(γ) 'removing soil (from pit)'
karv-so(γ) → karso(γ) 'burning (as skin)'
(b) **Base-final -h (if preceded by a long vowel) may be lost before the suffix-initial -t.**

- **to:hit-tan** → **to:hit-tan** 'I have shown'
- **ma:hit-tan** → **ma:hit-tan** 'I have put arrow on the shaft'
- **le:hit-ta** → **le:hit-ta** 'she/it untied'

4. **Elision (apocope)**

Word-final vowel may be lost when it is followed by another word beginning with a vowel. Due to the loss of juncture the two words merge.

- **na:va ila** → **na:vila** 'it is not mine'
- **narge ila** → **nargila** 'it is not much'
- **ba:ta ayo** → **ba:ta yo** 'there is nothing'
- **ja:va unj** → **ja:vunj** 'having drunk the gruel'
- **umke eir** → **umkeir** 'all the water'

2.2. **Obligatory changes**

1. **Elision (simplification of cluster)**

(a) **Base-final -k or -g (in case these are preceded by another consonant) are dropped before the suffix-initial -k, e.g.**

- **dong-ke** → **donke** 'if (one) steals/stole'
- **pi:ping-ke** → **pi:pinke** 'if (one) pulls/pulled'
- **karn-ke** → **karnke** 'if (one) calls/called'
- **molork-kin** → **molorkin** 'hare (acc.-dat.)'
- **go:t-kin** → **go:tkin** 'cows (acc.-dat.)'

(b) **Base-final -k is lost, when preceded by rs, in the following two compounds.**

- **ursk+kal** → **urskal** 'menhir'
- **ursk+gu:ta** → **ursgu:ta** 'wooden memorial pillar'

(c) **Base-final -s is elided before the initial consonant of**
the now-past adverbial participle suffix -so(Contents).

us-so(Contents) > uso(Contents)  'pounding'
ws-so(Contents) > wso(Contents)  'over flowing (as milk)'
tu-so(Contents) > tuso(Contents)  'distributing'
kars-so(Contents) > karsso(Contents)  'playing'
porso(Contents) > porso(Contents)  'roasting'

d Base-final -h is lost before the suffix-initial -s, in case -h is preceded by a long vowel, e.g.

th-h-so > tis  'having fed'
do-h-so > dose  'having shown'
re-h-so > res  'having beaten'
uh-so > u:so  'while blowing'

(2) Augment

(a) -y- is inserted in between the final vowel of the oblique base of the personal pronouns and the postposition ag (3.2.5.5.) and the personal suffix -ad (3.2.1.2.1.1.) for splitting the otherwise possible vowel-sequence.

na:ag > nayag  'near me'
na:ag > nayag  'near us (incl.)'
i:ag > niyag  'near you (sg.)'
i:ag > niyag  'near you (pl.)'
na:ad > nayad  'my she/it'
i:ad > ni:yad  'your(sg.) she/it'

(b) -y- is inserted between the hortative base da:- and the emphatic enclitic -e or the vocative -u.

da:e > da:ye  'let us go (emph.)'
da:u > da:yu  'let us go (addressing to someone)'