CHAPTER - 7

MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES

In this chapter the data is analyzed for morphological processes and rules involved. Following Matthews (1991) the Morphological processes employed in Adi language are analyzed as follows:

7.1. **Affixation**: Affixation is the process whereby an affix is attached to a root or stem. Affixation is of four types of which Adi makes use of only two –

7.1.1. **Prefixation**: In prefixation, a bound morpheme is attached to a root or stem.

E.g. In the construction of ordinal numbers, except in the case of the word meaning ‘first’, *len-* is prefixed to the second syllable of the corresponding numbers.

- len-nyi-na  
  
  second

- len-ngum-na  
  
  third

- len-pi-na  
  
  fourth

- len-ngo-na  
  
  fifth

7.1.2. **Suffixation**: In suffixation a bound morpheme is attached to the end of a root or stem. Suffixation is very common in Adi language. Word classes like nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, etc. all take suffixes to denote case, tense and aspect, manner, etc. in the following examples:
E.g.: mibom-ke
Mibom-Gen
‘Mibom’s’
do-to-bong
eat-Pst- PERF
‘have eaten’
kamo-na yo
dark-suf night
‘Dark night’
kampo-pe
beautiful-Manner adverb
‘beautifully’
ara-lo
inside LOC
‘inside’

7.2. Modification: Modification is a morphological process, which produces an alternation within a root or stem. The two kinds of modification that Adi uses are:
7.2.1. Subtraction: It is a morphological process of modification that removes one or more segments from a root or stem.

e.g.: apong

beer

apo  si  (subtraction of ng from apong)

beer  DET

‘This beer’

arang

inside

ekum  ara-lo  (subtraction of ng from arang)

house inside LOC

‘Inside the house’

Subtraction is especially common when there is a compounding of nouns as in the following examples:

yipi  +  akon  =  pikon

forty  one  forty-one

midum  atel  becomes  mitel

person  one  one person
midum becomes minyi
anynyi becomes minyi
person two two persons

After the subtraction of dum, mi- from midum is compounded to the numeral word -kon from akon to mean 'one person. In the examples above both the process of subtraction and compounding takes place.

In the following example song which is a classifier for knives is contracted to so- by subtracting ng, similarly the word iying contracted to -ying, and the two are compounded to get the following result:

eyok + song + iying becomes eyok so-ying
knife CL ten knife CL-ten

7.2.2. Suppletion: It is a morphological process of modification in which one stem is replaced with another resulting in an allomorph of a morpheme, which has no phonological similarity to the other allomorph. In the following examples, the vowel o is replaced by u in the sentences:

E.g: (1) biro
brother

no ngok biru e
you are my brother.
(2) inko
what

nok aminem inku e
what is your name?

(3) o:
son

bi ngok u e
he is my son.

7.3. **Reduplication:** Reduplication is a morphological process in which a root or stem or part of it is repeated.¹

Reduplication is used with adjectives, adverbs, and gender formation, with nouns and also with relative pronouns.

Reduplication in adjectives of Adi is partial, i.e., the last syllables of the nouns are reduplicated to form the corresponding adjectives. Reduplication in adjectives is not compulsory, some adjectives are not reduplicated.

E.g.: eki kingka
dog black
‘black dog’

---

goru  ruka
cow  black
‘Black cow’

am  min  -na
paddy dry  suf
‘Ripe paddy’

eso  sote
mithun big
‘Big mithun’

e’ye’k  yek-ra
pig  big  suf
‘Big pig’

ekum  kumdong
house long
‘Long house’

ekum  kumne
house big
‘Big house’
7.3.1. **Types of reduplication**

Reduplication in adverbs may be complete lexical reduplication, partial or discontinuous word reduplication where a verb comes in between the reduplicated word.

7.3.1.1. **Complete lexical reduplication:**

E.g.: etet etet -pe  
slow slow man.adv  
'slowly.'
7.3.1.2. **Partial Reduplication**

Sometimes a word (either a verb or a noun) is partially reduplicated to form a verb in a sentence.

Eg: (4) bi aksik sik -dung

3s sneeze sneeze PROG

'He/she is sneezing'
Lit.: He/she sneezed a sneeze.'

(5) domir mir -dung

thunder thunder PROG

'It is thundering'
Lit.: 'The thunder is thundering.'

(6) moton-taronet -dung

earthquake quake PROG

Lit.: 'The earthquake is quaking.'

7.3.1.3. **Discontinuous word reduplication:**

E.g: olet tila olet tila

fall again fall again

'(It) falls again and again.'
7.3. Morphophonemic Rules

7.4.1. Accusative Pronouns: In accusative pronoun constructions, elision of the Syncope type is employed. The accusative suffix marker -em is attached to the person pronoun. There is deletion of the vowel, e of the accusative suffix marker for some constructions. For other constructions inversion is applied so that the attached accusative suffix becomes -me.

\[\text{ngo} + \text{em} = \text{ngom} / \text{ngome} \]
\(1s\) ACC
'\((to)\ me'\

\[\text{ngolu} + \text{em} = \text{ngolum} / \text{ngolume} \]
\(1p\) ACC
'\((to)\ us'\

\[\text{no} + \text{em} = \text{nom} / \text{nome} \]
\(2s\) ACC
'\((to)\ you'\

\[\text{nolu} + \text{em} = \text{nolum} / \text{nolume} \]
\(2p\) ACC
'\((to)\ you'\]
bi + em = bim/ bime
3s ACC
‘(to) him/her.’

bulu + em = bulum / bulume
3p ACC
‘(to) them’

7.4.2. Genitive Pronouns: In Genitive pronoun constructions, both insertion and deletion are employed. The genitive suffix -ke is attached to the person pronoun, the initial consonant k of the suffix is doubled for some constructions, and for other constructions the person pronouns retain only the initial consonant k of the genitive suffix.

bi + ke = bikke /bik
3s GEN
‘his/her/hers’

bulu + ke = bulukke / buluk
3p GEN
‘their/their’
ngokke / ngok
1s GEN
‘my/mine’

ngolukke / ngoluk
1p GEN
‘our/ours’

nokke / nok
2s GEN
‘your/yours’

nolukke / noluk
2p GEN
‘your/yours’

This same rule applies to the ablative and instrumental constructions.

asek  lok/lokke
stick  INSTR
‘with stick’
Suffixation is undoubtedly the most common morphological process in Adi. Other word formation processes, including compounding, are not discussed for lack of sufficient data. Only affixation, modification and reduplication are discussed.