

Chapter XIII.Verbal Inflections.

159. The verbs in Kamrupi are inflected for persons, moods and tenses. There is no inflection for number. There are two moods, indicative and imperative. The indicative merely expresses the action, present, past or future. Imperative denotes order, permission, request and wish. The tenses are present, past, future, perfect and past-perfect. The tenses are indicated by the addition of affixes to the root. The affixes differ according to the endings of the roots. A verbal root in Kamrupi may end in a vowel, consonant, consonant cluster or geminates. Out of the seven vowel phonemes in Kamrupi, verb roots ending in - e and - o are not found. The inflections taken by the verb roots have been shown in table No. I and the examples in table No.2.

160. In the indicative mood the roots ending in - i, - u and consonants take the same inflections. The - a ending root before taking the third personal inflectional affix changes the ending to - a u. In a disyllabic root ending in - ā, - ā > - o - before the third personal affix - i. Roots ending in - u drop the - u before the first personal inflectional affix - ũ. The roots de and ne before the third personal affix - i change - e to - e; e.g. dei, nei. These are the only roots ending in - e.

161. In the imperative mood the inflections for the second person (hon) are the same as those in the indicative mood. The roots ending in - i, - u and consonants take the same inflections. - a of the - a ending roots becomes - o - before the second personal inferior inflection - u. A disyllabic root ending in - ā takes the inflection - u in the second person inferior and - ā - > - o -. In the third person the inflection is the same as in the monosyllabic - ā ending root.

162. In the future tense the roots ending in vowels take these inflections :  
 - a, -bi, - bā, - bo . In the case of roots ending in consonants - i - is  
 prefixed to these inflections and when the verbal form is a trisyllabic one or more,  
 then this - i - by the process of epenthesis comes before the consonant and is  
 diphthongised with the vowel of the preceding syllable. This epenthetic process is  
 true in past, perfect and past-perfect tenses also. The roots de and ne become  
 di and ni before they take inflections in future, past, perfect and past-perfect  
 tenses.

163. The process of addition of inflections in the past tense is similar  
 to that of the future depending upon the root ending in a vowel or in a consonant. But  
 in the case of roots ending in vowels, if the verb is an intransitive one, then the  
 third personal inflection will be - l and not - tāk; e.g. xi kalāk 'he said';  
 but xi hal 'he became'. In consonantal endings also sometimes this difference  
 between transitive and intransitive verbs is made; e.g. xi āh - il 'he came';  
 xi uithlāk / xi uthil 'he got up'. - a of the roots ending in - a becomes  
 - o - before a following - i or - u .

164. The significance of perfect form tense may be best understood by  
 the English equivalent 'I have taken', 'I have said' etc.

All the roots take the same inflections in the perfect tense.  
 Roots ending in - i drop it before a following - i - in the inflections. When  
 the root is a disyllabic one ending in - ā , - ā > - e - before a following  
 - i - in the perfect and past perfect tenses.

165. The past perfect verbal forms convey the meaning of English  
 equivalent 'I had taken', 'I had heard' etc. In this tense the inflections

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differ according to the vowel or consonantal endings of the roots. The consonantal ending roots take these affixes : - isil ( - ũ , - i , - ā , - zero). In the roots ending in vowels - i - in the second syllable of the affixes is dropped. The third personal affixes remain the same.

**Table No. 1. (The verbal inflections).**

Tense	Roots ending in :- ā	-a	-e	-i	-u	Consonant	chuster or geminates.
Present (1) Indicative	1st	-ū	-ū	-ū	-ū	-ū	-ū
	2nd (inf)	-h	-h	-āh	-āh	-āh	-āh
	3rd (hon)	-a ← -ā	-zero	-ā	-ā	-ā	-ā
	↓	-i	-i	-e	-e	-e	-e
(11) Imperative	2nd (inf)	-zero	-i ← e	-zero	same	same	
	3rd	-k	-k	-āh			-āk
Future	1st	-a	same	same	same	-in	same
	2nd (inf)	-bi	same	same	same	-ibi	
	3rd (hon)	-bā				-ibā	
	↓	-bo				-ibo	
Past	1st	-lū	same	same	same	-ilū	same
	2nd (inf)	-li -	same	same	same	-ili	
	3rd (hon)	-lā				-ilā	
	↓	-lāk				-ilāk	
Perfect	1st	-isū	same	same	same	same	same
	2nd (inf)	-isāh					
	3rd (hon)	-isa					
	↓	-isi					
Past perfect	1st	-isilū	same	same	same	-isilū	same
	2nd (inf)	-isili				-isili	
	3rd (hon)	-isilā				-isilā	
	↓	-isil				-isil	

N.B. ← indicates substitution or replacement. In the present tense -a replaces -ā



166. Though the verbal inflections in Kaurapi can best be explained from the point of view of phonologically conditioned phenomenon; yet there are a few exceptions, which may be termed in descriptive terminology as morphologically conditioned. For example, the verbal roots *pā*, *sā*, *gā* and *bā* behave differently in the present tense. In the indicative mood in the third person they will take the inflection *- e* and the roots will change to *pāu*, *sāu*, *gāu* and *bāu* before taking the inflection. In the imperative mood in the second person (inf.) they will take *- u*. Examples : *pāue*, *bāue*; *pāu*, *gāu* etc. The verb *ās* 'to be present, to remain' is conjugated only in the present indicative and in the past tense. In the present indicative the root takes these inflections : *- ũ*, *- āh*, *- a*, *- e*. In the past tense the inflections are *- ilũ*, *- ili*, *- ilā*, *- il*.

The root *zā* 'to go' becomes *ge* - before taking the inflections in the past, perfect and past perfect tenses. Examples : *ge - lũ*, *ge - li*, *ge - lā* *ge - l*; *ge - isũ*, *ge - islũ* etc. Children are heard sometimes confusing this change of *zā* and saying *zā - lũ*, *zā - li* etc.

167. In the imperative mood certain roots ending in clusters or geminates like *āzz*, *gazz*, *alm*, *xalp*, *hulk*, *ghakt*, etc. will have no form in the second person inferior. In this place roots like *gurk*, *xurk*, *surk*, etc. will take *- u -* inserted between the clusters; where as the roots like *ākhl*, *ughl*, *thaks*, *khasr*, etc. will insert *- ā -* between the clusters. The roots *kānd*, *sānd*, *khund*, *bāndh* etc. behave like the roots ending in single consonants. The root *pahr* 'to read' in the imperative second person (inf) becomes *parh*. Except the last mentioned class of roots in the above mentioned classed of roots there will be no epenthesis of a following *- i -* in the inflections in future, past, perfect and past perfect tenses.

Infinitives.

168. Verbs are also inflected for infinitive. There are three forms of the infinitive used in different syntactic positions. They are - bā, - bār, - bāk. All of them are added after roots ending in vowels. - bār is added only when it is followed by a noun. - bāk is added when it is followed by the post-position - legi. With roots ending in consonants the - i - is prefixed to these inflections and are conditioned like the previous ones. Examples :

khā - bā 'to eat' cf. khābā zāũ 'I go to eat'.

khā - bār pāni 'water to drink'.

khā - bāk legi, cf. xi khābāk legi āhe 'he comes to take'.

xun - ibā > xuinbā 'to hear'. e.g. xuinbā zāũ 'go to hear'.

xun - ibār > xuinbār xanai 'time to hear'.

xun - ibāk > xuinbāk legi, cf. xi xuinbāk legi āhe 'he comes to hear'.

The onomatopoeitic roots also behave in the same way, e.g.

khes - khes - ā - bā

xur - xur - ā - bā

dhar - phar - ā - bā etc.

The Progressive tense.

169. The progressive tense is formed by adding the conjunctive particle - i after the main verb root and then joining the verb roots ās for the present indicative and past tense and thāk for the rest, both of them conjugated and employed as an auxiliary. (cf. Bg. āch for the past, thāk for the future. O.D.B.L. 752)

Examples :

māi koi āsũ 'I am saying'.

māi koi āislū	'I was saying'.
tāi koi thāk	'thou go on saying'.
māi koi thākin	'I will be saying'.
māi koi thāksilū	'I had been saying'.

The progressive tense also conveys the sense of habituality.

#### The Conditional Past.

170. In a conditional sentence the word hoi is added to the past tense in the apodosis. (cf. N.I.A. santa > N.I.A. santa, hanta; E. As. hante, hāy; St. coll. hēten). In the protasis the word holi (St. coll. hēten) is sub-joined to the past participle form of the verbs. For example :

xi āhā holi māi tār lagotei gelū hoi, 'had he come, I would have gone with him'.

xi ka holi māi tāk takā dahtā dilū hoi 'had he said, I would have given him ten rupees'.

In the protasis holi may often be substituted by the conjunctives - li or - ili [ cf. § 174(2) ]. Examples :

tumi keli xi āhil hoi 'had you said, he would have come'.

xi xūnli āhil hoi 'if he had heard he would have come'.