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Taxonomy of Word Formation in Malayalam

RAJENDRAN S

MOHAN RAJ S N

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore

ABSTRACT

There are mainly two processes involved in the formation of words; one is inflection and another derivation. Words inflect in order to add grammatical features such as plurality, cases and tenses. Derivation is the process of forming new words from already available words or morphemes. The derivation of new words is otherwise called word formation. A language makes use of word formation process to increase its vocabulary. The formation of words can be classified based on formal and semantic criteria. Different types of word formation strategies are employed in languages for the formation of words. Compounding, affixation are the most common strategies employed in the formation of words. Apart from these conversion, backformation, clipping, blending, acronym formation and word manufacturing are also employed for word formation. Compounding and suffixation are extensively for the formation of words in Malayalam.

Keywords: Word formation, compounding, prefixation, suffixation, conversion, backformation, clipping, formation of blends, formation of acronyms, word manufacturing

1. INTRODUCTION

Word formation is the processes of forming new words mostly from the already available morphological elements. In morphology, inflection and derivation are distinguished from one another. Inflection is the process of changing word forms by adding grammatical information such as plural, case and tense.

Derivation involves changing of word elements by morphological process such as affixation and compounding to form new words. Word formation falls under derivation. A classification of formation of words on formal grounds is needed for the proper understanding of the word-formation in a language. Bauer (1983) classifies the word-formation in English as follows: compounding, prefixation, suffixation, conversion, backformation, clipping, formation of blends, formation of acronyms, and word manufacturing. Malayalam makes use of compounding and suffixation extensively for the formation of words. The present paper portrays the taxonomic classification word formation in Malayalam with explanations and examples.

2. COMPOUNDING

Bauer (1983: 11) defines compounding as “the process of putting two words together to form a third.” But this definition will rule out many established compounds which contains more than two words. A morphologically complex word containing at least two elements which can otherwise occur as free forms (i.e. as independent words) can be considered as a prototypical compound.

- *talayaNa* (< *tala* “head” + *aNa* “support”) “pillow”
- *marappeTTi* (< *maram* “wood” + *peTTi* “box”) “wooden box”
- *kiLippacca* (< *kiLi* “parrot” + *pacca* “green”) “parrot green”

The process of forming complex words from smaller elements that have word status under normal circumstances is known as compounding. Affixation involves morphemes that do not have word status and so is different from compounding. The word-like behavior of the constituent elements indicates that it is a compound. The constituent parts of compounds cannot be rearranged, though rearrangement of constituents in a construction is possible in the language. Moreover, the compounds show the word like quality of by not allowing any intervening elements to separate the constituents of the compound. In languages like English, typical stress patterns distinguish the compounds from the phrases. In some languages,

the constituents of a compound are joined by a linking morpheme (as found in the compound morph-o-syntax).

- *talayaNa* “pillow” vs. *?aNatala*
- *marappeTTi* “wooden box” vs. *?peTTimaram*
- *kiLippacca* “parrot-green” vs. *paccakkiLi* “green bird” (“?” marks indicates that the expression does not mean or refer anything.)

The compounds can be studied at least from five points of view:

1. Based on the grammatical categories of words which constitute compounds
2. Based on the semantic classes
3. Based on the possible linking elements
4. Based on the deep structure
5. Based on the morphophonology.

Compounding is one of the word-formation strategies language employ to form new words out of the existing words in order to enrich and update their lexicon. It is essentially an abbreviatory mechanism that languages prefer over corresponding phrasal or clausal constructions. Compounds are economical, in that they use less number of morphemes, when compared to phrases or clauses. They are unambiguous because of the fixed word order, and unique in the sense that they acquire specialized meaning and hence form the immediate choice of the native speakers of any language (*mara-ppeTTi* “wooden box”; *?peTTimaram*).

Compounding is a very productively and frequently observed phenomenon in world languages, because most of the languages exhibit a great majority of complex words that are compounds. The frequency of the compounding also results from the fact that compound are lexical fillers. The lexical gaps that may arise in the language as a result of the important and development of science and technology change in cultural concepts etc. cannot be effectively served by the existing words and therefore languages overcome this difficulty by resorting to mechanism like compounding, which facilitate the formation of new words out of the existing words.

Compound formation is widely used in Indian languages. Indian grammatical tradition is credited with the elaborate study on compound formation. The traditional grammarians like Panini of 5th B.C. and Patanjali of 2nd B.C. (Rajendran 2000: 56) have recognized the importance of this kind of word formation strategy. Malayalam, like other Dravidian languages shows a rich system of compound formation. This type of word formation compensates for the lack of productive multilayered derivational mechanism in the language. Raja Raja Varma (1986) discusses about the compound formation in the section *samAsaparakaraNam* (compounding) in *Keralapaniniyam*. According to him, compounding is the simple combination of words without the help of case markers so that relations can be established between the constituent words (for example saying *talavEdana* “head ache” instead of *talyile vEdana*). For him in *veLutta tAmara* “white lotus,” the first word *veLutta* is *purvapatam* (modifier) and the second one *tAmara* is *uttarapatam* (modified).

Formation of compounds is distinguished from derivation by affixes. Derivation by affixes involves a base and an affix. But compounds are composed of more than one word or nucleus. Compounds can also be formed either by repeating or duplicating a word or a lexeme. Various types of compounds are distinguished on the basis of lexical formatives involved in the compound formation. Compounds are different from phrases. Compounds and phrases are similar with respect to their composition. Both of them consist of more than one simple or complex word. But they differ on various counts. Compounds are generally characterized by the following properties that distinguish them from phrases:

1. Semantic non-compositionality
2. Fixed word order
3. Suppression of inflectional morphology on the non-head constituent (NHC)
4. Non-interruptability of the constituent
5. Irreversibility of the constituents
6. Referential opacity

On the basis of these criteria, it is possible to distinguish compounds from phrases. But due to several language specific reasons yet there is no clear demarcation between them.

The pioneering work of the Sanskrit grammatical tradition, Panini's *ashTaadhyaayi* defines the word (which is stem in the case of nouns and root in the case of verbs) as the nominal unit of syntax always occurring in the inflected form for nominal categories and verbal categories. However, words always occur uninflected when they occur as non-head constituents of compounds. On the other hand, the morphological inflections of words are retained in phrases. The nouns in phrases are fully inflected forms showing adnominal relations. In Sanskrit system, the distinction between words, compounds and phrases is rather clear. This kind of relation is not distinct in Malayalam.

In Malayalam, the nominal base is equivalent to a stem. So it is non-distinct from the corresponding nominative form in syntax. Therefore, the nouns which are involved in compound formation are often not distinct from uninflected words that occur in phrases. In Malayalam, words in nominative form are not overtly marked by case and hence they appear to be uninflected in surface representation. The nouns can appear in uninflected form as constituents of phrases. At the same time, the suppression of inflected morphology is an essential pre-requisite of compounding. As a consequence, it is difficult to distinguish between nouns which occur as syntactic constituents from those which occur as constituents of compounds. The adnominal relation between constituents of a compound can be realized without any inflectional marker but at the same the relation in a phrase is realized by marking the non-head constituent by genitive case. This can be evidenced from the examples given below:

Without genitive marker	With genitive marker
<i>kATTu manushyan</i> "jungle man" <i>vITTu vATaka</i> "house rent"	<i>vIT-inRe janAla</i> "house-GEN window" "window of the house" <i>rAta kaNNan-Re fArya</i> Radha Kanna-GEN wife "Radha is Kannan's wife"

Distinction has to be made between genitive marked phrases and genitive unmarked nominal compounds. In the case of nominal compounds, the non-head constituent appears in uninflected form and sometimes in the oblique form (*vITTu* > *vITTu*). As the genitive inflection is optional and the oblique stem formation is not a regular phenomenon, the distinction between phrase and compound becomes vague. As a consequence, the uninflected forms of nouns which are the non-head constituents and the nominative forms in syntax look identical. In Aronoffian sense, they can be interpreted as words, i.e. word minus inflection (Aronoff 1994). The input to the compounding is always a word or a lexeme and the output is also a word or a lexeme.

Compounding is widely used in Modern Malayalam for new coinage of words. In Modern Malayalam mere, juxtaposition of two nouns related to a new concept can form a compound word.

- *karim* “black” + *paTTika* “list” > *karimpaTTika* “black list”
- *bAhyam* “outside” + *bhIshaNi* “threatening” > *bhAhyabhIshaNi* “external threat”
- *parAjayam* “defeat” + *bhIti* “fear” > *parajayabhIti* “fear of defeat”

The compounds can be sub classified in many different ways: by the criteria of form classes of the items that make up the compounds, by semantics classes, by the presumed underlying operators linking the two elements, by presumed underlying syntactic functions and so on (Bauer 1983: 201-202). One can take up the mixture of two or more of the above-mentioned methods of classification. Here we classify the compounds based on the form classes of their formatives.

Asher & Kumari (1997) discusses about the compounding in Malayalam in details. They elaborate on different types of compounds based on the resultant grammatical category. They include postpositional compounds, nominal compounds, verbal compounds, other classes of compounds and hybrid compounds (Asher & Kumari 1997: 392-404).

2.1. *Compound nouns*

Here we have classified the formation of nouns by compounding based on the constituent words which form the compounds.

Asher & Kurmari (1997: 395-400) list them as noun-noun compounds, verb-noun compounds and adverb-noun compounds. We have looked at them from different dimensions.

2.1.1. *Noun + noun > noun*

Noun + noun compound forms the largest subgrouping of compounds. Ravindran (1975) discusses about the formation of nouns from noun + noun combination elaborately. He calls the process as nominal composition. He establishes different types of relationship between the elements or nouns constituting the compounds. One can find in the grouping many types of semantic relationship as well as different syntactic patterns. Compound nouns can be further sub-classified into four groups according to semantic criteria:

1. Endocentric compounds,
2. Appositional compounds
3. Exocentric compounds or *bahuvrihi* compound
4. Copulative compound or *dvandva* compound

Endocentric compounds are more productive as compared to other types of compounds. Asher (1997: 395) classifies the noun-noun compound as hyponymous compounds, meronymous compounds (according to him “part-of” compound, times and seasons compounds, coordinate compounds, echo compounds and complex compounds. In the hyponymous compounds are nothing but endocentric compounds in which the resultant compound nouns is the hyponym of the head noun. In the case of meronymous compound, the second element is the part of the first element.

- *cemparatti* “hibiscus” + *pUvu* “flower” > *cemparattippUvu* “shoe flower”
- *kOzhi* “hen” + *kAlu* “leg” > *kOzhikkAlu* “hen’s leg”

2.1.1.1. *Endocentric compounds*

The endocentric compound results when the compound formed from the constituent element is the hyponym of the head element.

For example, *mAmpazham* “mango fruit” is a kind of *pazham* “fruit,” that is, *mAmpazham* is the hoponym of the hypernym *pazam* and so *mAmpazham* it is an endocentric compound. Asher & Kumari (1997: 395) call them as hyponymous compounds. The endocentric compound can be formed out of two common nouns, or two proper nouns or a common noun and a proper noun.

2.1.1.1.1. *Common noun + common noun*

This appears to be more productive among noun compounding. This kind of compounding is used widely in newspapers, magazines and dictionaries. Many ranges of semantic relationships can be held between the elements undergoing this kind of compounding. This can be understood from the following examples.

- *tAmara* “lotus” + *pUvā* “flower” > *tAmarappUvā* “lotus flower”
- *tEyila* “tea” + *ceTi* “plant” > *tEyilacceTi* “tea plant”
- *vEppu* “neem” + *maram* “tree” > *vEppumaram* “neem tree”

2.1.1.1.2. *Proper noun + noun*

This type of word-formation is widely used in modern Malayalam. Mainly names of places and people are used for compounding. Some compounds of this type, particularly those containing place names, show the same semantic relationships between the elements as compounds with two common nouns. For example, *tiruvananthapuram tIvaNTinilayam* “Trivandrum railway station” shows a locative relationship parallel to *talasthAna pusthakAlayam* “central Library.” Whereas in compounds such as *ambEkkar nagar* “Ambedkar dwelling place” where the name of people is used as proper noun; this kind of relationship does not hold good as the entities are named after a person.

2.1.1.1.3. *Appositional compound*

Compound which is the hyponym of both its elements is an appositional compound. That is both compound members have same referent. It is difficult to distinguish it from endocentric compounds where compound narrows reference of head. The following are the examples.

- *AdivAsi* “tribal” + *peNNu* “woman” > *AdivAsi peNNu* “tribal woman”

AdivAsi peNNu “tribal woman” can be considered as a kind of tribe or as a kind of type of woman.

2.1.1.2. *Exocentric compounds*

If a compound is not a hyponym of both the elements of the compound, but of an unknown head, then such a compound is called an exocentric compound.

- *maram* “wood” + *maNTa* “head” > *maramaNTa* “fool”
- *chala(nam)* “moving” + *chithram* “picture” > *chalaccitram* “cinema”

2.1.1.3. *Copulative compounds*

The traditional grammars treat copulative compounds as derived from copulative or coordinative constructions (e.g. *eliy-um pUccay-um* “rat” and “cat”) by dropping coordinate marker *-um* from the constituent elements. The copulative compounds convey more information than the coordinated phrase. The constituents of a copulative compound combined in such a way that it is not clear which of the elements combined is the grammatical head. The resultant compound is not a hyponym of the elements combined; the elements name separate entities which get combined to form the entity denoted by the compound. Generally the final element of the compound carries the plural marker.

- *ATu* “goat” + *maTukaL* “common name for cow, ox and buffalo” > *ATumATukaL* “cattle”
- *koTi* “Flag,” *tOraNangngaL* “garlands” > *koTitOraNangngaL* “decoration”
- *koTiceTikaL* “plants” (it is a combination of *koTi* “creeper” and *ceTi* “small plant”)
- *accanammamAr* “parents/fathers and mother” (it is a combination of *accan* “father” and *amma* “mother”)
- *bhAryAbharttAkkanmAr* “wife and husband” (it is a combination of *bhAryA* “wife” and *bharttAvu* “husband”)
- *kAmukikAmukar* “couples” (it is a combination of *kAmuki* “lady love” and *kAmukan* “male love”)

Note that the plural marker *-kaL*, *kar* and *mAr* are attached to the second element only. This type of compounding is not very productive.

2.1.2. *Verb + noun > noun*

There are instances in which a verb and noun combine to form a compound.

- *kuTi* “drink” + *veLLam* > *kuTiveLLam* “drinking water”
- *kalakku* “mix” + *veLLam* > *kalakkaveLLam* “muddy water”
- *veTTu* “cut” + *katti* > *veTTukatti* “a kind of knife”
- *kuttu* “pierce” + *vAkku* “word” > *kuttu vAkku* “scolding”

The compound *kuTiveLLam* “drinking water” consist of a verb root (*kuTi* “drink”) a noun (*veLLam* “water”). The traditional grammars treat it as relative participle based compound in which the tense suffix and the relative participle suffix are dropped. Thus, for example, *kuTiveLLam* is considered as a sum of the following forms: *kuTikkunna veLLam* “the water is being drunk” *kuTikkum veLLam* “the water which will be drunk,” and *kuTikkAnuLLa veLLam* “the water for drinking.” The head noun of this compound can be considered to be in subject relation with the verb or object relation with the verb and other semantic relations.

The following V+N compound is different from the previous one.

- *kuRu* (*ku*) “become short” “shot” + *vaTi* > *kuRuvaTi* “short stick”
- *naTa* (*kku*) “walk” + *pAta* > *naTappAta* “(the path meant for waling) foot-path”

These compounds can also be classified as endocentric compounds and exocentric compounds.

- *veTTu* “cut” + *katti* “knife” > *veTTukatti* “a kind of knife” (endocentric)

The past tense forms of certain verbs combine with nouns to form verb + noun compounds.

- *kETTu* “having heard” + *aRivu* > *kETTaRivu* “knowledge by hearing”
- *kaNTu* “having seen” + *aRivu* > *kaNTaRivu* “knowledge by seeing”
- *toTTu* “having touched” + *aRivu* “sense” > *toTTaRivu* “sense of touch”
- *tEccu* “having rubbed” + *kuLi* “bath” > *tEccukkuLi* “bathe well by rubbing the body”

2.1.3. *Noun + verb > noun*

This type of compound formation is very rare. Compounds like the following can be given as examples.

- *tAli* “weeding-badge” + *keTTu* “tie” > *tAlieTTu* “ceremony of tying the wedding-badge”
- *kuTTi* “child” + *kaLi* “play” > *kuTTikkaLi* “childish play”

2.1.4. *Verb + verb > noun*

This kind of compound formation is not frequent in Malayalam. The following formation can be considered as examples of this kind of compounding.

- *aTi* “beat” + *piTi* “catch” > *aTipiTi* “scuffle”

In the following example, the first verb is in past participle form *piTiccu* “having caught” + *paRi* “snatch” > *piTiccupaRi* “looting”

2.1.5. *Adjective + noun > noun*

Formation of compound nouns by the combination of adjectives and nouns is commonly found in Malayalam. The following can be shown as examples of this type of formation.

- *ceRiya* “small” + *katha* “story” > *ceRukatha* “short story”
- *punar* “re-” + *jannam* “life” > *punarjanmam* “rebirth”
- *valiya* “big” + *acchan* “father” > *valiyachcan* “father’s elder brother”
- *perum* “largeness” + *pAmpu* “snake” > *perumpAmpu* “python”
- *ceRiya* “smallness” > *ceRu* “small” + *SEkharam* “savings” > *ceRuSEkharam* “small savings”
- *putiya* “new” > *putu* “new” + *maza* “rain” > *putumaza* “first rain”

2.1.6. *Adverb + noun > noun*

The elements such as *mun* “front,” *pin* “back,” *iTa* “between” which can be considered as adverbs combine with nouns to form nominal compounds. They function as prefixes.

- *mun* “front” + *parijayam* “acquaintance” > *munparijayam* “introduction”
- *pin* “back” + *tuNa* “companion” > *pintuNa* “support”
- *iTa* “between” + *tAvaLam* “place” > *iTattAvaLam* “resting place”
- *kaTa* “last” + *kuTTi* “child” > *kaTakkuTTi* “last child”

Elements like *mun* and *pin* can be considered basically as nouns.

2.1.7. *Phrase compounds*

An entire phrase seems to be involved in this type of formation of a new word. One may doubt whether to consider these forms as compounds or lexicalization of syntactic structures. Here we can distinguish the compounds as endocentric, exocentric, coordinative and copulative. (The distinction between these compounds has been already discussed in 2.1.1.)

2.1.7.1. *Endocentric compound*

As we have already noted, the compound formed from the constituent elements is the hyponym of the head element.

- *nOkkettAtta dUram* “very long distance”
- *nOkkettAtta* is a relative clause containing a verbal noun *nOkku* “sight,” *ett-Att-a* “that which cannot be reached.”
- *kayyil otungngAtta kAryam* “the problem which is difficult to handle”

otungngAtta is a relative clause containing the verb *otungngu* “be under control,” the negative element *Att* and the relative clause marker (or adjective marker) *a*.

2.1.7.2. *Exocentric compounds*

The compound formed is not a hyponym of the constituent elements.

- *toTTAl* “if touched” + *vATi* “that which shrinks” > *toTTAl vATi* “touch-me-not plant, chicken hearted woman”

2.1.7.3. Coordinate compound

Both the constituents of coordinate compounds are heads. It is difficult to say one modifies the other. The coordinate compounds under this type differ from true coordinate constructions having marked for the clitic *-um*; these formations look like syntactic phrases rather than compounds when compared with other types of coordinate compounds.

- *kaiyumkAlum* “hands and legs” in the sentence *jOliceyyAn ninakku kaiyumkAlum ille* “don’t you have hands and legs to work.”
- *angOTTum ingOTTum* “here and there” in the sentence *avan avaLe angngOTTum ingngOTTum nOkkAte talli* (literally means “He beat hear without seeing here and there.” “He beat her left and right.”
- *tirinjnjum maRinjnjum* “turning and shuffling” in the sentence *tirinjnjum maRinjum kiTanniTTum avaLkku uRkkam vannilla* (literally means “though she lied down turning and shuffling, she could not get sleep”) “In spite her lying on the bed shuffling her positions, she could not sleep.”

2.1.7.4. Copulative compound

There are compounds of this type in which the phrasal nature can be understood by analysis.

- *kilukkAmpeTTi* “a kind of toy” (< *kilukku* “rattle” + *Am* “that which is” + *peTTi* “box”)
- *pullAngkuzhal* “flute” (< *pullu* “grass” + *Am* “that which is” + *kuzhal* “tube”)
- *pinnAmpuRam* “back side” (< *pinnu* “back” + *Am* “that which is” + *puRam* “side”)

Am is originally the shortened form of *Akum* which is the adjectival form of *Aku* “become.” This kind of formation is not productive.

In some phrasal compounds the case suffixes are not dropped.

- *Ayirattil oruvan* “one among thousand/great man” (< *Ayirattil* “in thousand,” + *oruvan* “one man”)

2.1.8. Reduplicative compound nouns

One of the productive processes of the formation of a compound is reduplication. In this formation the base noun is partially reduplicated and juxtaposed to it. In reduplication if the first syllable of the base noun does not begin with *k*, say for example *pu* it will be converted into *ki* during reduplication; if the first syllable of the base noun is *ka*, it will be converted to *ki* during reduplication; and if the first syllable of the base noun is *kA*, it will be converted into *kI* during reduplication. Some of the examples are given below.

- *puli kili* “tiger and other wild animals”
- *kambum kimbun* “stick and the stick like things”
- *kAppi kIppi* “coffee and other drinks like coffee”

2.1.9. Semantics of nominal compounds

As noted by Asher & Kumari (1997: 395-398) many types of relations (case relations and other semantic relations) can be established between the constituents of noun- noun compounds: whole and part relation (e.g. *Anakkompu* “elephant’s tusk/ivory”), times and seasons (e.g. *mazakkAlam* “rainy season”), content and container (*pAlkuppi* “milk bottle”), cultivated crop and place of cultivation (*vAzattOTTam* “banana groove”), place and object (*kATTAna* “wild elephant,” *kiNaRRuveLLam* “well water”), animal and living place (e.g. *cilantivala* “spider’s web,” *uRumpupuRRu* “ant hill”), animal and young one (*pUccakkuTTi* “kitten”), material and object (e.g. *irumpukampi* “iron rod”), *cempunANayam* “copper coin”). One can think of many such relations. Ravindaran (1975) makes a detailed study of them.

2.2. Compound verbs

Compound verbs in Malayalam are formed by the combination of all the four major categories with verbs. The following two are the productive ones:

1. noun + verb > compound verb
2. verb + verb > compound verb

The following types of formation of verbs are not productive:

3. Adjective + verb > compound verb
4. Adverb + verb > compound verb

2.2.1. Noun + verb > verb

This is a productive way of forming new verbs in Malayalam. Not all verbs follow a noun to form this type of a compound. Only a selected number of verbs such as *aTi* “beat,” *vey* “keep,” *cey* “do,” *peTu* “experience” etc. are involved in this formation.

- *rAji* “resignation” + *vaykku* “keep” > *rAjivaykku* “resign”
- *accu* “imprint” + *aTikku* “beat” > *accaTikku* “print”
- *bhayam* “fear” + *peTu* “suffer” > *bhayappeTu* “be afraid of”

Not all the verbs can function as verbalizers to combine with nouns to form new verbs. Only a limited number of verbs can function as verbalizers to form verbs when combined with nouns. The following table illustrates the list of verbalizers which form verbs while combined with nouns.

Sr. no	Verbalizer with core meaning	Examples of NV compound verbs
1	<i>aTikku</i> “beat”	<i>kaN</i> “eye” + <i>aTikku</i> “beat” = <i>kaNNaTikku</i> “wink”
2	<i>Aku</i> “become”	<i>cORu</i> “cooked rice” + <i>Aku</i> “become” = <i>cORaku</i> “be cooked as rice”
3	<i>aTaykku</i> “close”	<i>karam</i> “Tax” + <i>aTaykku</i> “close” = <i>karamaTaykku</i> “remit tax”
4	<i>Akku</i> “cause to become”	<i>cORu</i> + <i>Akku</i> “cause to become” = <i>cORakku</i> “cook rice”
5	<i>ATu</i> “dance/move”	<i>kUttu</i> “drama” + <i>ATu</i> “dance/move” = <i>kUttATu</i> “act (V)”
6	<i>ATTu</i> “shake”	<i>tAru</i> “cradle” + <i>ATTu</i> “shake” = <i>tArATTu</i> “cradle (V)”
7	<i>cey</i> “do”	<i>paNi</i> “work” + <i>cey</i> = <i>paNicey</i> “work (V)”
8	<i>eTukku</i> “take”	<i>paNi</i> “work do” + <i>eTukku</i> = <i>paNiyeTukku</i> “cause to work”
9	<i>peTu</i> “do”	<i>kELvi</i> “question” + <i>peTu</i> = <i>kELvippeTu</i> “hear”

10	<i>UTTu</i> “feed”	<i>pAl</i> “milk” + <i>UTTu</i> = <i>pAlUTTu</i> “breast feed”
11	<i>paRayu</i> “say”	<i>kuRRam</i> “fault” + <i>paRayu</i> “say” = <i>kuRRampaRayu</i> “accuse”
12	<i>ERRu</i> “cause to climb”	<i>cUTu</i> “hotness” + <i>ERRu</i> = <i>cUTERRu</i> “heat”
13	<i>keTTu</i> “tie”	<i>paNam</i> “money” + <i>keTTu</i> = <i>paNamkeTTu</i> “remit fee/money”
14	<i>kATTu</i> “show”	<i>ASa</i> “desire” + <i>kATTu</i> = <i>ASakATTu</i> “lure”
15	<i>kURu</i> “say”	<i>pin</i> “behind” + <i>kURu</i> = <i>pinkURu</i> “back bite”
16	<i>paRa</i> “say”	<i>katha</i> “story” + <i>paRa</i> = <i>kathapaRa</i> “lie,” <i>kuRRam paRayuka</i> “blame”
17	<i>taTTu</i> “tap”	<i>vaTTam</i> “round” + <i>taTTu</i> “degrade tap” = <i>vaTTamttaTTu</i> “degrade”
18	<i>kuNungngu</i> “to be shy”	<i>nANam</i> “shyness” <i>kuNungngu</i> = <i>nANamkuNungngu</i> “be shy”
19	<i>peTuttu</i> “cause to suffer”	<i>kashTam</i> + <i>peTuttu</i> “cause to experience” = <i>kashTappeTuttu</i> “cause to suffer”
20	<i>piTi</i> “catch”	<i>maNam</i> “smell” + <i>piTi</i> “catch” = <i>maNampiTi</i> “sniff”
21	<i>kazi</i> “pass away”	<i>vivAham</i> “marriage” + <i>kaziyu</i> “pass away” = <i>vivAkamkaziyu</i> “to be married”
22	<i>kazikku</i> “case to pass”	<i>vivAham</i> “marriage” + <i>kazikkku</i> “consume” = <i>vivAkamkazikku</i> “marry”
23	<i>paRRu</i> “catch”	<i>abadham</i> “problem” + <i>paRRu</i> “catch” = <i>abadham paRRu</i> “encounter problem”
24	<i>vAngngku</i> “get/buy”	<i>paNi</i> “work” + <i>vAngngu</i> “buy” = <i>paNivAngngu</i> “vex”
25	<i>viTu</i> “leave”	<i>SvAsam</i> “breathe” + <i>viTu</i> “leave” = <i>SvAsamviTu</i> “breathe”
26	<i>vaykku</i> “keep”	<i>cORu</i> “cooked rice” + <i>vay</i> = <i>cORuvaykku</i> “prepare rice”
27	<i>muTakku</i> “stop”	<i>paNi</i> “work” + <i>muTakku</i> = <i>paNimuTakku</i> “resort to strike”
28	<i>valikku</i> “pull”	<i>kUrkkam</i> “snoring” + <i>valikku</i> “pull” = <i>kUrkkamvalikkku</i> “snore”

2.2.2. Verb + verb > verb

In this type of compound, the first verb, called the polar verb, is important from the point of view of meaning. The polar verb could be in root form, past participle form or infinitive form.

2.2.2.1. Verb root + verb

- *piTi* “catch” + *koTu* “give” > *piTikoTu* “surrender”
- *tallu* “beat” + *koLLu* “receive” > *tallukoLLu* “be beaten”
- *aTi* “beat” + *kUTu* “join” > *aTikUTu* “fight”

2.2.2.2. Past participle form + verb

- *kaNTu* “having seen” + *piTi* “catch” > *kaNTupiTi* “find/invent”
- *keTTi* “having tied” + *piTi* “catch” > *keTTippiTi* “embrace”
- *kATTi* “having shown” + *koTu* “give” > *kATTikkoTu* “betray”
- *oRRi* “having spied” + *koTu* “give” > *oRRikkoTu* “betray”
- *paRanju* “having said” + *koTu* “give” > *paRanjukoTu* “teach”

These compound verbs can also be seen as endocentric compounds and exocentric compounds.

2.2.2.3. Endocentric compounds

- *keTTi* “having tied” + *maRiyu* “roll” > *keTTimaRiyuka* “roll over”

2.2.2.4. Exocentric compounds

- *tUkki* “having lifted” + *aTi* “beat” > *tUkkiyaTi* “excel”

A selected number of verbs known as auxiliary verbs combine with verbs in adverbial participial or infinitive form giving aspectual and/or modal meaning to the polar verb. This type of compounding is crucial to the verb system of Malayalam.

- *OTi* “having run” + *koNTu* “having taken” + *irikkunnu* “is” > *OTikkoNTirikkunnu* “is running”

2.2.3. Adjective + verb > verb

A number of adjectival forms which function as adjectives combines with verbs to form new verbs. Compounds such as the following can be shown as examples of this type of formation which is not productive.

- *pun* “diminutive” + *ciri* “laugh” > *punciri* “smile”
- *punar* “alternative” + *jenikku* “to be born” > *punarjenikku* “rebirth”

But it should be noted that *pun* and *punar* could be considered as adverbs in the above-mentioned compound verbs.

2.2.4. *Adverb + verb > verb*

Certain elements of location which can be considered as adverbs such as *mun* “front”, *pin* “back”, *akattu* “inside” and *uL* “inside” or adverbs combine with certain verbs forming compound verbs.

- *mun* + *ERu* “climb” > *munneru* “advance”
- *pin* + *paRRu* “hold” > *pinpaRRu* “follow”
- *akattu* + *Akku* “make” > *akattAkku* “imprison, eat”
- *uL* “inside” + *peTuttu* “cause to become” > *uLpeTuttu* “include”

This is also not a productive way of forming compound verbs. It should be noted here that *mun*, *pin*, *akattu*, *uL*, etc. can be considered as nouns as well as adverbs.

2.3. *Compound adjectives*

The following are some of the instances. The adjectives which combine with the noun are derived ones.

2.3.1. *Noun + adjective > adjective*

There are mainly three sub-types in this category. The first type of adjective compound is noun + noun + adjectivalizers such as *Aya* and *uLLa*.

- *tala* “head” + *kunivu* “bowing” + *uLLa* “be” > *talakunivuLLa* “disgraceful”
- *kOpam* “anger” + *krAntam* “intensity” + *Aya* “become” > *kOpAkrAntamAya* “ferocious”

The second type of adjective compound is noun + verb compounds in which the verbs are inflected for adjectival participle.

- *kaN* “eye” + *kaNTa* “that which saw” > *kaNkaNTa* “efficacious”

The third types of compound adjectives are originally noun + noun compounds in which the second noun function as adjectives. The following are the examples.

- *rektam* “blood” + *cuvappu* “red” > *rektaccuvappu* “blood red”
- *kiLi* “bird” + *pacca* “green” > *kiLippacca* “light green”

2.3.2. *Adjective + noun > adjective*

Adjectives combine with nouns to form compounds which function as adjectives. The following compounds stand to exemplify it.

- *kaTum* “strong” + *cuvappu* > *kaTumcuvappu* “strong red”
- *iLam* “light” + *pacca* “green” > *iLampacca* “light green”

2.3.3. *Adjective + adjective > adjective*

Compounds like the following stand as a rare instance of this type of compounding.

- *apUrva* “strange” + *sundara* “beautiful” > *apUrvasundara* “strangely beautiful”

The adjective + noun compounds are which the head nouns being considered as adjectives could be shown as other examples.

- *kaTum* “black” + *nIlam* “blue” > *kaTumnIlam* “blackish blue”
- *iLam* “light” + *cuvappu* “red” > *ilamcuvappu* “light red”

2.3.4. *Noun + noun > adjective*

As we noted earlier under 2.3.1., the third type of noun + adjective compounds are basically noun + noun compounds.

- *ila* “leaf” + *pacca* “green” > *ilappacca* “leafy green”
- *AkASam* “sky” + *nIla* “blue” > *AkASanIla* “sky blue”

2.3.5. *Adjective + noun > adjective*

Compounds such as the following could be considered with hesitation as examples of this type of compounding.

- *karum* “black” + *kallu* “rock” > *karungkallu* “hard” (as found in phrases like *karungkallu manasu* “stone like/hard heart”).

Traditional grammars consider compounds like *karungkallu manasu* as *upamavacakapadam* “compound in which comparison is involved” considering them as contracted form of comparative constructions, say *kurungkallu pOluLLa manasu* “black stone like heart” in this case, by the elision of the comparative particle *pOluLLa*. As the whole noun phrase appears as a compound it is difficult to consider the part of it (adjective + noun) as a compound adjective.

2.3.6. *Adverb + noun > adjective*

The noun compounds like *munERRam* which is formed by the combination of adverb and noun can function as adjectives *munnERRa* “progressive”. This formation is rare.

- *mun* “front” + *ERRam* “ascending” > *munnERRa* “progressive” (as found in phrases such as *munnERRa nATukaL* “progressive countries”)

2.4. *Compound adverbs*

There are mainly three types of adverbial compounds:

1. Formation of compound adverbs by adding adverbial suffixes/adverbializers to compound nouns
2. Formation of compound adverbs by adding adverbial suffixes/adverbializers to onomatopoeic reduplicated compound nouns
3. Adverbial compounds in which the heads are adverbial participle
4. Adverbial compounds in which the heads are infinitive forms
5. Reduplicated compounds
6. Rhyme motivated

2.4.1. *Formation of compound adverbs by adding adverbial suffixes/adverbializers to compound nouns*

The adverbializers such as *-Ay* and *-OTu* form compound adverbs by when added to nominal compounds.

- *manam* “mind” + *pUrvam* “addition” + *Ay* > *manppUrvamAy* “deliberately”

- *snEham* “love” + *pUrvam* “addition” + *Ay* > *snEhapUrvamAy* “affectionately”
- *tandram* “one” + *pUrvam* “addition” + *Ay* > *tandrapUrvamAy* “cunningly”
- *bhayam* “fear” + *bhakti* “devotion” + *OTu* > “*bhayabhaktiyOTe*” “humbly”

The first three compounds can function as adverbs without the adverbial marker

- *avan manappUrvam avaLe kaLiyaAkki*
“He made fun of her deliberately”
- *avaL snEhapUrvam perumARi*
“She acted affectionately”
- *avar avane tandrapUrvam ozivaAkki*
“They avoided him cunningly”

2.4.2. Formation of compound adverbs by adding adverbial suffixes/adverbializers to onomatopoeic reduplicated compound nouns

Nouns are formed from by reduplication of elements which are onomatopoeic which do not exist independently.

- *paTapaTappu* “excitement”
- *kaTukaTuppu* “irritation”

These reduplicated compounds are suffixed by adverbializers such as *-Ay*, *-AyiTTu*, *-ennu~nnu* and *OTe* (originally marker of associative case) to form adverbial compounds. This formation of adverbial compound is a very productive process.

- *patupatuppAy* “softly”
- *kaTakaTAnnu* “intensively” (as in sentence *avaL kaTakaTAnnu ciriccu* “She laughed loudly and continuously”)
- *muRamuRayAyiTTu* “step by step/continuously” (as in sentence *avan jOli muRamuRayAyiTTu ceytu tIrttu* “He completed the work step by step”)
- *caRapaRAnnu* “intensively” (as in sentence *maza caRapaRAnnu peytu* “it rained intensively”)

- *kaTukaTuppOTe* “irrelatively/roughly” (as in sentence *avaL kaTukaTuppOTe samsAriccu* “she talked roughly”)

2.4.3. *Adverbial compounds in which the heads are adverbial participle forms*

The adverbial participle forms of verbs added to adverbs form new adverbial compounds.

- *munnum* “front-and” + *pinnun* “back-and” *nOkkAte* “without seeing” > *munnum pinnun nOkkAte* “without proper procedure”

2.4.4. *Adverbial compounds in which the heads are or infinitive forms*

The infinitive forms of verbs added to nouns form new adverbial compounds.

- *mUkku* “nose” + *muTTe* “to fill” > *mUkkumuTTe* “to one”’s fill” (as found in sentence *avan mUkku muTTe AhAram kaziccu* “He ate full to the stomach”)

2.4.5. *Reduplicated compounds*

Malayalam makes use reduplications to attribute the actions denoted by verbs. There are two kinds; first one is reduplicated compounds in which the single element of reduplication does not contain any meaning; the second one is reduplicated compounds in which both elements have meaning. The first type could be grouped into two based on the nature of replication; in some cases the reduplication is more or less full and in some cases the reduplication is partial.

2.4.5.1. *First type of reduplicated adverbial compound*

- *kuNukuNa* “prattle” (*kuNu* does not have any meaning but when reduplicated they denote some adverbial meaning as found in the sentence *avaL kuNukuNa samsArikkunnu* “She speaking continuously without sense”)
- *kuTukuTa* “hurriedly” (*kuTu* does not have any meaning but when reduplicated denote some adverbial meaning as found in the sentence *kuTTi ammayuTe puRake kuTukuTa OTi* “the child went behind her mother hurriedly”)

2.4.5.2. Second type of reduplicated adverbial compound

The reduplicate of infinitive forms or past participle forms may form new adverbial compounds.

- *cuTucuTa* “hot” (*cuTa* is the infinitive form of the verb *cuTu* “bake”)
- *pOka* + *pOka* > *pOkappOka* “in course of time” (*pOka* is the infinitive form of the verb *pOku* “go”)
- *OTi* “having run” + *OTi* “having run” > *OTiyOTi* “fast” (as in sentence *avan OTiyOTi naTakkunnu* “He is running fast”)
- *alaRi* “having shouted” + *alaRi* “having shouted” > *alaRiyalaRi* “loudly” (as in sentence *avan alaRi alaRi avaLe viLiccu* “He called her by shouting again again”)

2.4.6. Rhyme-motivated compounds

There are adverbial compounds which are formed from two elements which are basically past participle forms i.e. adverbial participle forms of verbs. They are combined by the coordinate marker *-um*. Their combination is motivated by rhyme. Sometimes both the elements have independent existence. The constituent elements can be shuffled from front to back.

- *taTTi-yum* “having tapped-and” + *muTTi-yum* “having dashed against-and” > *taTTiyummuTTiyum* “by some means” (as in sentence *avan taTTiyummuTTiyum jIvikkunnu* “He lives by some means”)
- *tiri-ccum* “having turned” + *maRi-ccum* “having turned upside down” > *tiriccummaRicum* “by turning leaf by leaf” (as in sentence *avaL tiriccum maRicum pustakam nOkki* “she looked at the book by turning the leaves.”)

Sometimes one of the elements may not have independent existence. In some cases both the elements do not have independent existence.

3. PREFIXATION

Prefixation is not a productive process of word -formation in Malayalam. Prefixes are found in certain words borrowed from Sanskrit.

1. *a + Sudham* “cleanliness” > *aSudham* “uncleanliness”
2. *a + sAdhAraNam* “simple” > *asAdhAraNam* “special”

4. SUFFIXATION

This process is widely used in Malayalam. For example, the derivation of the verbal noun *paThittam* “education” from the verb *paThi* “study” is effected by suffixation. Here in this instance the verbal noun suffix *-ttam* is added to the verb *paThi* by the process of suffixation. The verbal noun *paThittam* is resulted by this process. We have classified the derivation by suffixation on the basis of the classes of the resultant word forms.

4.1. Derivation of nouns

We have classified here the derivation of nouns by suffixation based on the category from which they are derived. The process of suffixation is applied to nouns, verbs, non-relativized verb stems, relativized verb stems and adjectives to derive nominal forms.

4.1.1. Nouns from nouns

Malayalam makes use of a number of suffixes to derive nouns from nouns. Some of them are productive and some are non-productive.

A good number of nouns carries gender number suffix. They are not considered as derived forms. But we can analyze into a bound root and gender number suffix.

- **adhya + pakan* > *adhyApakan* “male teacher”
- *adhya + pakar* > *adhyApakar* “teacher”
- *adhya + pika* > *adhyApika* “female teacher”
- **vidya + ardhi* > *vidyArdhi* “student”
- **vidya + ardhi + ni* > *vidyArdhini* “female student”
- **karshak + an* > *karshakan* “male farmer”
- **karshak + a* > *karshaka* “female farmer”
- **karshak + ar* > *karshakar* “farmer”
- **vaN + An* > *vaNNA* “washerman”
- **vaN + Atti* > *vaNNAtti* “washer woman”

- *dhana* “wealth” + *vAn* > *dhanavAn* “wealthy man”
- *dhana* “wealth” + *vati* > *dhanavati* “wealthy women”
- *budhi* “cleverness” + *mAn* > *budhimAn* “clever man”

The suffix set *kAran*, *kAri*, and *kArar* is a productive suffix which form a number of human nouns from non-human nouns.

- *vEla* “work” + *kAran* > *vElakkAran* “male servant”
- *vEla* “work” + *kAri* > *vAlakkAri* “female servant”
- *vEla* “work” + *kArar* > *vElakkArar* “servant”

There are a few other human-noun forming suffixes: *-ALi* “person” (e.g. *vil* “bow” + *ALi* > *villALi* “person skilled in using bow and arrow”)

A number of nominal suffixes are used for the formation of new concepts from the already available elements: *kaLLam* “theft” + *taram* > *kaLLattaram* “deceitfulness.”

4.1.2. Nouns from verbs

The formation nouns from verbs are a productive process. There are number of suffixes involved in the formation of nouns from verbs. Based on the type of stem to which the suffixes are added to form nouns, the derivation can be classified into to two types:

1. Formation nouns from non-relativized verb stems
2. Formation of nouns from relativized verb stems

4.1.2.1. Nouns from non-relativized verb stems

The uninflected verb stems, i.e. the verb stems not inflected for past/negative + relative participle is taken as non-relativized verb stems. The formation of nouns from these verb stems can readily be divided into non-productive and productive. The suffixes *-uka* and *-al* are productive and can be added to any verbs to form the concerned verbal nouns. In dictionaries, *uka* suffixed verbs are given as lexical entries.

- *paRayu* “say” + *uka* > *paRayuka* “saying”
- *cey* “do” + *al* > *ceyyal* “doing”

The non-productive suffixes are restricted to only a set of verbs to form verbal nouns of different meanings. They are *-am*, *-ttam*, *-vu*, *-kku*, *-ccil*, *-al*, *-ppu*, *-tta*, *ttu*, *-cca*, *-va*, *-mAnam*, etc. These suffixes cannot be added to all verbs. A set of suffixes takes only to a set of verbs.

- *ATu* “dance” + *am* > *ATTam* “dance (N)”
- *paThi* “study” + *ttam* > *paThittam* “education”
- *kara* “cry” + *ccil* > *karaccil* “crying”
- *konchu* “cajole” + *al* > *konchal* “cajoling”
- *varu* “come” + *vu* > *varavu* “income”
- *pO* “go” + *kku* > *pOkku* “activity”
- *iri(kku)* “sit” + *ppu* > *irippu* “sitting posture”
- *naTa(kku)* “walk” + *tta* > *naTatta* “activity”
- *neyyu* “weave” + *ttu* > *neyttu* “weaving”
- *taLaru* “become tired” + *cca* > *taLarcca* “tiredness”
- *tlru* “complete/exhaust” + *va* > *tlruva* “tax”
- *tlru* “complete/exhaust” + *mAnam* > *tlrumAnam*

Some derivation by suffixation is followed by some internal change in the stem

- *uRangngu* “sleep” + *am* > *uRakkam* “sleep (N)”
- *OTu* “run” + *am* > *OTTam* “running”
- *kaL(ku)* “steal” + *am* > *kaLLam*
- *kON* “bent” + *am* > *kOTTam* “benting”
- *tURu* “drizzle” + *al* > *tURRal* “drizzling”

There are deverbal nominal suffixes which are marked for gender. They are *-an* and *cci*.

- *kuTi(-kku)* + *an* > *kuTiyān* “drunkard (male)”
- *maTi (-kku)* + *an* > *maTiyān* “lazy person (male)”
- *maTi (-kku)* + *cci* > *maTicci* “lazy person (female)”

There is deverbal noun formation in which the derivation takes place without adding any suffix. Such formation called conversion. A number of nouns are derived by conversion.

- *kuTi(kku)* “drink” + ϕ > *kuTi* “drinking habit”
- *kaTi(kku)* “bite” + ϕ > *kaTi* “biting”
- *aTi(kku)* “beat” + ϕ > *aTi* “beating”
- *piTi(kku)* “catch” + ϕ > *piTi* “catching”
- *pUTTu* “lock” (V) + ϕ > *pUTTu* “lock (N)”
- *paNi* “work” (V) + ϕ > *paNi* “work (N)”

Sometimes the deverbial nominalization takes place by the internal change in the stem.

- *pATu* “sing” > *pATTu* “song”
- *kUTu* “join” > *kUTTtu* “friendship”
- *Otu* “teach” > *Ottu* “teaching”
- *pUSu* “smear” > *pUSu* “smearing”

The deverbal nouns of productive suffixation differ from the other deverbal nouns of non-productive suffixation semantically and functionally.

4.1.2.2. Nouns from relativized verb stems

The gerundival *-atu* and pronominalizers *avan*, *avaL*, *avar*, *atu*, *ava* can be added to relativized verb stems to form gerundival and pronominalized nouns respectively. These suffixes are productive. The morphological formation can be depicted as follows:

- verb + tense/negative marker + relative participle marker + gerundivalizer/pronominalizer
- *cay-t-a* + *atu* > *ceytatu* “that which was done”
- *cey-unn-a* + *atu* > *ceyyunnatu* “that which was done”
- *cey-Atta* + *atu* > *ceyy-Att-atu* “that which was/is/will be not done”
- *cey-t-a* + *avan* > *ceytavan* “male person who did”
- *cey-unn-a* + *avan* > *ceyyunnavan* “male person who does”
- *cey-t-a* + *avar* > *ceytavar* “person who did”
- *cey-t-a* + *avaL* > *ceytavaL* “female person who did”
- *cey-t-a* + *ava* > *ceytava* “those who did”

4.1.3. *Nouns from adjectives*

Adjectival nouns are formed by adding third person pronominal suffixes to adjectives. Derivation is equally possible both from simple adjective and derived adjectives (-*Aya* and *uLLa* suffixed ones). Any restrictions on productivity are of a semantic nature.

- *nalla* + *avan* > *nallavan* “a good male person”
- *nalla* + *avaL* > *nallavaL* “a good female person”
- *nalla* + *avar* > *nallavar* “good persons”
- *nalla* + *atu* > *nalla-tu* “a good thing”
- *nalla* + *ava* > *nallav-a* “good things”
- *azhakuLLa* + *avan* > *azhakuLLavan* “beautiful man”
- *sundharyAya* + *avaL* > *sundharyAyavaL* “beautiful girl”

Certain abstract nouns are formed by adding the nominal suffix *ma* to a set of inherent adjectival roots.

- *per(iya)* “big” + *ma* > *peruma* “greatness”
- *nal(la)* “good” + *ma* > *nanma* “goodness”
- *paza(ya)* “old” + *ma* > *pazama* “antiquity”
- *put(iya)* “new” + *ma* > *putuma* “novelty”

Certain abstract nouns are formed by adding the nominal *-ppam* to the inherent adjectival roots.

- *val(iya)* + *uppam* > *valuppam* “bigness”
- *ceR(iya)* + *uppam* > *ceRuppam* “smallness/youth”

4.2. *Derivation of verbs*

Derivation of verbs by suffixation is not a straight forward one. It is a complex process. There are two types of formation of verbs: (1) formation of verbs from nouns and (2) formation of verbs from verbs.

4.2.1. *Verbs from nouns*

A number of verbs are formed from a set of nouns by adding the verbal suffixes *u~ (i) kku*. The formation of verbs from noun is not a productive process.

- *paNi* “work” + *u(ka)* > *paNiyu(ka)* “work” (N)
- *kari* “coal” + *u(ka)* > *kariyu(ka)*
- *pU* “flower” + *kku(ka)* > *pUkku(ka)* “blossom”
- *onnu* “one” + *ikku(ka)* > *onnikku(ka)* “unite”
- *kOpam* “anger” + *ikku(ka)* > *kOpikku(ka)* “become angry”

There are a few nouns borrowed from Sanskrit verbs by a deletion of final syllable and addition of *-i*. The suffix *-i* can be considered as verbalizer.

- *anvEsh(aNam)* “enquiry” + *i* > *anvEshi* “enquire”
- *Aramp(am)* “beginning” + *i* > *Arampi* “begin”

4.2.2. Verbs from verbs

Transitive verbs are derived from intransitive verbs and causatives from transitive and intransitive verbs. The transitivity is affected by some internal change in a set of verbs. With a certain set of verbs transitivity is effected by adding the suffix *-ttu* and with certain other set of verbs by adding *-kku*. Another level of causativization is affected by adding the suffix *-ippikku*.

- *tinnu* “eat” > *tIRRu* “feed” + *ippikku* > *tIRRippikku* “cause to eat”
- *uNNu* “eat” > *UTTu* “feed” + *ippikku* > *UTTippikku* “cause to feed”
- *akalu* “leave” > *akaRRu* “push aside” + *ippikku* > *akaRRippikku* “cause to push aside”
- *pATu* “sing” + *ippikku* > *pATippikku* “cause to sing”
- *paThi(kku)* “to study” + *ippikku* > *paThippikku* “teach”
- *pO(ku)* “go” + *ippikku* > *pOyippikku* “remove”
- *naTa(kku)* “walk” + *ttu* > *naTattu* “cause to walk”
- *uNaru* + *ttu* > *uNarttu* “cause to awake”
- *cEr* “join” + *kku* > *cErkku* “cause to join”

Note that certain type of transitive formation is effected by some internal change in the verbs (*nn* > *RR*, *NN* > *TT*, *l* > *RR*). Certain transitive verbs are derived by the doubling of the consonant of the final syllable.

- *Aku* “become” > *Akku* “prepare”
- *OTu* “run” > *OTTu* “drive”
- *mARu* “change” > *mARRu* “cause to change”

Certain transitive verbs are derived from the intransitive verb stems by the de-nasalization of the nasal consonant of the final syllable.

- *tiruntu* “become corrected” > *tiruttu* “correct”
- *maTangngu* “become folded” > *maTakku* “fold”
- *mayangngu* “become unconscious” > *mayakku* “make unconscious”

The transitive meaning can be understood by the objective argument taken by the verb. Note that in the case of the verb *cEr* “join” it is the past tense suffix (i.e. whether *-nnu* or *-ttu*) that differentiates the intransitive from transitive.

- *cEr-nnu* “joined” > *cEr-ttu* “caused to join”
- *cEr-unnu* “joins-he” > *cEr-kk-unnu* “cause to join”
- *cEr-um* “will join” > *cEr-kk-um* “will cause to join”

4.3. *Derivation of adjectives*

Traditional grammars do not mention about adjective as a grammatical category. In a number of cases the nouns which attribute nouns function as adjectives. The attributive nouns get modified to function as adjectives. Certain relativized or adjectivalized verbs function as adjectives at the clausal level. Certain relativized or adjectivaized verbs (marked by *-a*) are lexicalized into adjectives. Adjectival forms of the verbs *Aku* “become” and *uNTu* “be” functions are adjectivalizer and forms adjectives when added to certain nouns.

4.3.1. *Adjectives from nouns*

Adjectives are derived widely from nouns. Bound forms such as *-Aya* (The relative participle form of the verb as “become”) and *uLLa* (from the verb *uNTu* “be”) combine with nouns to form adjectives.

- *bhangi* “beauty” + *Aya* > *bhangiyAya* “beautiful”
- *azhaku* + *uLLa* > *azhakuLLa* “beautiful”

The suffixes *-Amatte* and *-Amatu* are added to the numeral nouns to form adjectives.

- *onnu* + *Am+atte* > *onnAmatte* “first”
- *avasAnam* + *atte* > *avasAnatte* “last”

There another type of adjectives are formed from *am*-ending nouns by the deletion of final *am* and addition *-iya* ~ *ika* type adjectival suffixes. The

- *bhArat(am)* “India” + *Iya* > *bhAratIya* “Indian”
- *mUlam* “root” + *ika* > *maulika* “fundamental”
- *SarIr(am)* “body” + *ika* *SArIrika* “physical”

In certain sets of *am*-ending nouns, the adjectives are formed by the deletion of final *-m*.

- *santhOsham* “happiness” > *santhOsha* “happy” (as in the phrase *santhOshavArtta* “happy news”).
- *Subham* “goodness” > *Subha* (as in the phrase *Subhadinam* “good day”)

Certain abstract nouns which are inherently attributive in nature function as adjectives without addition of suffix.

- *cuvappu* “redness” > *cuvappu* “red”
- *pacca* “greenness” > *pacca* “green”

4.3.2. *Adjectives form verbs*

Certain relativized or adjectivalized verbs are lexicalized as adjectives.

- *cIyu* “become bad” > *cInjnja* “that which become bad” > *cItta* “bad”
- *keTu* “become bad” > *keTTa* (that which become bad) “bad”
- *meliyu* “become lean” > *melinjnja* (that which become lean) “lean”

4.3.3. *Adjectives form adjectival roots*

The so called inherent adjectives can also be considered as derived from adjectival roots by adding the adjectivalizers *-a ~ iya ~ aya*.

- *nal + a > nalla* “good”
- *val + iya > valiya* “big”
- *ceR + iya > ceRiya* “small”
- *put + iya > putiya* “new”
- *iL + aya > iLaya* “young”

4.4. *Derivation of adverbs*

Traditional grammars do not recognize adverbs as a grammatical category. The derivation of adverbs can be discussed under two headings: (1) non-productive formation and (2) productive formation.

4.4.1. *Non-productive formation*

A number of uninflected and inflected nouns and verb forms function as adverbs. Adverbs such as the following belong to this category: *melle* “slowly,” *vINTum* “again,” *iniyum* “again,” *innum* “still.” As these formations are not productive and the adverbs are lexicalized as unanalyzable units and as such listed in the lexicon, it is unfruitful to consider these adverbs as derivations.

4.4.1.1. *Adverbs from nouns*

Clitic *-E* and case suffixes *-il* and *-Al* when suffixed with certain restricted set of nouns denoting different dimensions of location function as adverbs. The following types can be listed:

4.4.1.1.1. *A restricted set of nouns suffixed by the clitic -E function as adverbs.*

- *mun* “anteriority” + *E > munnE* “in front”
- *pin* “posteriority” + *E > pinnE* “behind”
- *mEl* “superiority” + *E > mELE* “above”
- *veLi* “exteriority” + *E > veliyE* “outside”
- *uL* “interiority” + *E > uLLE* “inside”

4.4.1.1.2. *A restricted set of nouns are suffixed by the locative marker –il function as adverbs*

- *iTa* “centre” + *il* > *iTayil* “in between”
- *etir* “that which is opposite” + *il* > *etiril* “opposite”
- *naTu* “centre” + *il* > *naTuvil* “at the centre”
- *mun* + *il* > *munnil* “in front”
- *pin* + *il* > *pinnil* “behind”

4.4.1.1.3. *The names of directions suffixed by the clitic -e function as adverbs*

- *kizhakku* “east” + *E* > *kizhakke* “east”
- *paTinjARu* “west” + *E* > *paTinjARE* “west”
- *vaTakku* “north” + *E* > *vaTakke* “north”
- *tekku* “south” + *E* > *tekkE* “south”

4.4.1.1.4. *By adding OTe with a set of nouns*
Adverbs are formed by adding *OTe* to a set of nouns.

- *Sradha* + *OTe* > *SradhayOTe* “carefully
- *karutal* + *OTe* > *karutalOTe* “carefully”

4.4.1.1.5. *With certain onomatopoeic words by adding ennu*

- *peTTu* + *ennu* > *peTTennu* “suddenly”
- *kaTakaTa* + *ennu* > *kaTakaTAnnu* “expressing sound”

4.4.1.2. *Adverbs from verbs*

The formation of adverbs from verbs is not a productive process.
A set of verbs which are suffixed with *-e* functions as adverbs.

- *tuTar* “continue” + *e* > *tuTare* “continuously”
- *kELkku* “hear” + *e* > *kELkke* “audibly”
- *patukku* “hide” + *e* > *patukke* “slowly”

4.4.1.3. *Adverbs from demonstrative and interrogative determiners*

The demonstrative and interrogative determiners such as *itu*, *atu* and *Etu* combine with *pOle* “similar” and bound demonstrative

determines such as, *i-*, *a-* and *e-* combine with *pOL* “time” to form adverbs.

- *itu + pOle > itupOle* “this way”
- *atu + pOle* “way” *> atupOle* “that way”
- *Etu + pOle > EtupOle* “which way/how”
- *i + pOL > ippOL* “this time/now”
- *a + pOL* “time” + *appOL* “that time/then”
- *e + pOL > eppOL* “which time/when”

i-, *a-* and *e-* marked forms such as *iviTe* “here,” *aviTe* “there,” *eviTe* “where,” *inggu* “here,” *angngu* “there,” *engngu* “where,” *innu* “today,” *annu* “that day” and *ennu* “which day” function as adverbs.

4.4.2. Productive formation: Adverbs from nouns

Adverbs are formed by adding the bound form *Ayi* which is a adverbial participle forms of the verb *Aku* “become” with a set of nouns. It appears to be a productive process.

- *bhangngi* “beautiful” + *Ayi > bhangngiyAyi* “beautifully”
- *vyktam* “clear” + *Ayi > vyktamAyi* “clearly”
- *Sudham* “cleanness” + *Ayi > SudhamAyi* “cleanly”

4.5. Derivation of postpositions

The postpositions in Malayalam are formally uninflected or inflected forms of nouns or verbs. There are disagreements among grammarians whether to consider a particular form as noun or postposition.

4.5.1. Postpositions from nouns

A set of nouns when suffixed with clitic *-E* or locative case suffix *-il* (the past participle form of the verb *aaku* “become”) function as postpositions.

- *etir* “opposite” + *E > etirE* “opposite”
- *iTa + il > iTayil* “in between”
- *vazhi + E > vazhiyE* “through”

4.5.2. *Postpositions from verbs*

A set of inflected forms of verbs function as postpositions. They are *kuRiccu* (from verb *kuRikku* “note”), *vaccu* “with” (from verb *vaykku* “keep”), *aTuttu* (from verb *aTukku* “come near”), *ninnu* “from” (from verb *nilkku* “stand”), *paRRi* “about” (from the verb *paRRu* “hold”), *koNTu* (from the verb *koLLu* “accept”), *vENTi* (from the verb **vEL* “desire”) and *kUTi* (from the verb *kUTu* “join”)

5. BACK-FORMATION

The formation of new lexemes by the deletion of actual or supposed affixes in longer words is found in the following examples (editor > edit, contraception > contracept). Back formation is not found in Malayalam. In the formation of certain verbs from nouns borrowed from Sanskrit we can notice a sort of backformation followed by verbalization by the *-i* as given below:

- *anvES(aNam)* “enquiry” > *anvES + i* > *anvESikku* “enquire”
- *udES(am)* “assumption” > *udES + i* > *udESikku* “contemplate”

6. CLIPPING

The process by which a lexeme is shortened but retaining the original meaning is referred as clipping (mimeograph > mimeo, pornography > porn). Typical examples of clipping are not found in Malayalam. In the formation of new place names from the old ones we can notice a sort of clipping.

- *Tirukkocci* > *kocci* “Kochi”
- *triSivappErUr* > *triSUr* “Trissur”
- *malayALLs* > *mallu* “Malayali”

7. FORMATION OF BLENDS

A new lexeme formed from parts of two or more words in such a way that it cannot be analysed into morphs is called a blend

(balloon + parachute ballute, breakfast + lunch > brunch). Blends are not found in Malayalam.

But Malayalam blends English and Sanskrit words with native Malayalam words to form nominal compounds.

- *gyAs + aTuppu > gyAsaTuppu* “gas stove”
- *peTrOL + vaNTi > petrOLuvaNTi* “vehicle run by petrol”
- *iraTTa + bas > iraTTabas* “double ducker bus”

8. FORMATION OF ACRONYMS

A word coined by taking the initial letters of the words in a title or a phrase and using them as a new word is an acronym: (Strategic Arms Limitation Talk > SALT). New words are not formed from acronyms in Malayalam. Even formation of acronyms is very rare in Malayalam.

- *kEraLa vyApAri vyavasAya samghaTana > ke vi vi es* “KVVS”
- *anter dESIya hindu samghaTana > a di hi sa* “A D H S”

These acronyms cannot be considered as new words. Mostly acronyms transliterated from English are used in Malayalam.

- *bhAratIya janatA pArTTy > bi je pi* “BJP”
- *kammyUNisRRu pArTTy Ofu indya > (c)si pi ai* “CPM”
- *yuNasko* “UNESCO”.

9. ABBREVIATION

New words are formed by abbreviation in which the words are shortened for the ease of pronunciation or expression or mention. (For example English “laboratory” is abbreviated as “lab,” “professor” is abbreviated as “prof.”)

- *SrImati* and *SrimAn* are abbreviated as *Sri*.
- *pullingam* is abbreviated as *pum*
- *behuvacanam* is abbreviated as *behu*.
- *udAharaNam* is abbreviated as *udA*.
- *napumsakam* is abbreviated as *napum*

10. WORD-MANUFACTURING

The formation of a new word with no morphological, phonological or orthographic motivation is called word-manufacturing (e.g. Kodak). This kind of word-formation is not found in Malayalam. But certain onomatopoeic expressions are created timely according to requirement.

- *koNaykkal* (to express irritation)
- *caLukkupuLukku* (to express falling down)
- *kuLukuLu* (to express cold/semi solid nature of substance)

11. SUMMARY

Malayalam forms new words by employing two important processes of word formation. They are compounding and suffixation. Compound nouns are formed mostly from combining two or more nouns. This type of compounding is productive. Compound verbs are formed mostly from a noun + verb combination. This is a productive process. In addition to it, compound verbs are formed extensively by the combination of the verbal participle form of one verb with another verb. Prefixation is an unproductive process, though there are some pairs of words borrowed from Sanskrit which differ only in the presence of a negative-marking prefix on one member of the pair. A number of nouns are formed from verbs by suffixation. A set of verbs undergo transitivity or causativization by suffixation. Adjectives and adverbs are formed from nouns by suffixation.

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RAJENDRAN S

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM,
COIMBATORE.

E-MAIL: <S_RAJENDRAN@CB.AMRITA.EDU>

MOHAN RAJ S N

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM,
COIMBATORE.

E-MAIL: <SNMOHANRAJ@GMAIL.COM>