

Non-Concatenative Morphological Processes

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February 4, 2024

Introduction

Most morphology involves concatenating morphemes together:

- Prefixation
- Suffixation
- Compounding

Consider, however, the following examples:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
foot	feet
tooth	teeth
goose	geese
man	men
mouse	mice

Table 1: Examples of umlaut in English.

Generalized Glossing Guidelines

Infixation

Reduplication

- (1) Nahautl reduplication with fixed segmentism
- a.

ti-            ne:ch-    {>teh}te:mowa -0

SUBJ::2S-   OBJ::1S-   look\_for{RED}   -PRS.IND.S

‘You miss me.’
- b.

ni-            mits-        {>ih}ita   -0

SUBJ::1S-   OBJ::2S-   see{RED}   -PRS.IND.S

‘I visit you.’

ʃku'ta	'sour'	sku'ta	'a little sour'
ʃu:ni'	'bitter'	su:ni'	'a little bitter'
tʃi'tʃ	'hot'	tsi'ts	'a little hot'

Table 2: Totonac diminutives

*Conversion**Truncation**Apophony**Tonal Overwriting**Other Prosodies**Stress shift**Laryngealization**Segmental Overwriting**Transfixation*

A few languages, mostly belonging to the AFROASIATIC family<sup>1</sup>, have a kind of non-concatenative morphology called root-and-pattern morphology. The basic operation, in such a system, is a transfix. Transfixes add vowels across bases (not just one place) and may also lengthen consonants.

<sup>1</sup> Afroasiatic is the language family to which Semitic, Berber, Chadic, Cushitic, Omotic, and Egyptian belong. The best known Afroasiatic languages are Arabic, Hebrew, and Amharic.

	Perfect		Imperfect		Participle	
	Active	Passive	Active	Passive	Active	Passive
I	katab	kutib	ktub	ktab	kaatib	ktuub
II	kattab	kuttib	kattib	kattab	kattib	kattab
III	kaatab	kuutib	kaatib	kaatab	kaatib	kaatab
IV	?aktab	?uktib	ktib	ktab	ktib	ktab
V	takattab	tukuttib	takattab	takattab	takattib	takattab
VI	takaatab	tukuutib	takaatab	takaatab	takaatib	takaatab
VII	nkatab	nkutib	nkatib	nkatab	nkatib	nkatab
VIII	ktatab	ktutib	ktatib	ktatab	ktatib	ktatab
IX	ktab(a)b	ktab(i)b	ktab(i)b			
X	staktab	stuktib	staktib	staktab	staktib	staktab

Table 3: An Arabic paradigm for the root *k-t-b* '(related to) writing'.*Morphological Operations as Functions from Sign to Sign*