

Word Derivation in Thiguka

Lemuria

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1 Background

Thiguka is a constructed language created by Lemuria in 2024. This paper describes common Thiguka methods of deriving new words from already-existing roots.

Thiguka uses multiple methods to derive new words:

1. Loanwords from other languages, such as *balu* ('light blue'), derived from English 'blue'.
2. Shortening of multi-adjective phrases.
3. Lemuria making up new roots on the spot.

1.1 Glossing

This paper uses AGR to mean 'agreement' when glossing Thiguka adjectives.

1.2 Adjectives

Thiguka uses reduplication for adjectives, attaching the first syllable of the modified word followed by *-gu-* to the modifier.

- (1) tu~gu-elo tubi
AGR~ADJ-yellow water
'urine'

There are other ways to create adjectives, with multiple prefixes and suffixes available for use.

Thiguka has the agent prefix *fah-*, which is equivalent to English *-er*.

- (2) fah-lahkela
AGT-make
'maker', 'creator'

2 Examples

2.1 Phrases

The shortening of long strings of adjectives is a common word derivation method in Thiguka, with long word compounds being shortened. Usually, a syllable is taken from the front of each modifying word and then attached to the final few syllables of the modified word.

- (3) thi~gu-asalisa alu thi-gu-luti thil
AGR~ADJ-sun and AGR-ADJ-moon thing
'asallilutil'
'solar eclipse'

Often, longer phrases are condensed.

- (4) pelu-pah-sa kufa-sa pelu-tay-elah
person-NOM-SG compel-PRS person-ACC-PL
kolaga-sa tha~gu-ithere tharasag-tay-elah
comply-PRS AGR~ADJ-internet rule-ACC-PL
'pekulugusag'
'internet moderator'
(lit. 'person who makes people comply with internet rules')

Thiguka also has no explicit rule against shortening and combining already-compounded noun phrases. These words are treated like roots in Thiguka and can be derived like any other.

- (5) pe~gu-palad pekulugusag
AGR~ADJ-bad internet.moderator
'bad moderator', 'annoying moderator'
- (6) fah-lahkela-pah pekulugusag-tay-elah
AGT-make-NOM internet.moderator-ACC-PL
'internet moderator trainer'
lit. 'maker of internet moderators'

For denoting administrators, who are generally ranked higher than moderators in most internet communities:

- (7) ri-pekulugusag
INT-internet.moderator
'admin'
lit. 'super internet moderator'

2.2 Loanwords

Often, Thiguka will borrow either a word from English or Tagalog, the natlangs in which Lemuria is most fluent. In this case, the new word entering the language is modified for compliance with Thiguka phonotactics.

Thiguka	English	Etymology
balu	blue	English <i>blue</i>
pasa	cat	Tagalog <i>pusa</i> ("cat")
pudi	white	Tagalog <i>puti</i> ("white")