

1 Adjectival Morphology

Qevesa possesses three of words that could be loosely described as adjectives:

Adjectival Verbs are verb-like forms, that are almost universally formed by the Form VII root.

Adjectival Nouns are adjectives derived from nouns that attach to a form of the copula when used predicatively. The copula then inflects to the appropriate verbal conjugations.

Attributives are plain adjectives, also derived from the Form VII root, which may only occur before nouns. In a predicative position, their corresponding adjectival verb form will be used.

Adjectives possess a number of unique features: they can be directly marked for polarity, and they may also be marked for degree.

1.1 Types of Adjectival Forms

1.1.1 Adjectival Verbs

Adjectival verbs are, as the name suggests, a set of verb-like forms, derived from Form VII verbal roots. They may predicate sentences, and conjugate to aspect, topical agreement, mood and politeness in the same manner as ordinary verbs, differing in some inflections, notably aspect. The transfix patterns used to indicate aspect are the primary means of deriving attributive verbs; these are given in Table 1.1.

1.1.1.1 Adverbs

Adverbs are a derived class of attributive verbs, formed by appending the suffix *-zi* to the aspectual form that agrees with their head verb.

1.1.2 Adjectival Nouns

Unlike adjectival verbs, attributive nouns are derived from nominalisations of verb forms, as well as other nouns. The most common nominalisations used to derive adjectival nouns are the verbal nouns and the active and passive participles. Nominal forms can be turned into adjectives by appending the suffix *-mne*.

- (1) *teşuqqa* ‘narcissism’ *teşuqqamne* ‘narcissistic’

		Pattern	
		Triliteral	Biliteral
Imperfective	IPFV	$eC_1C_2uC_3C_3i$	$eC_1uC_2C_2i$
Stative	STAT	$eC_1C_2uiC_3C_3e$	$eC_1uiC_2C_2e$
Durative	DUR;IPFV	$eC_1C_2uC_3C_3ú$	$eC_1uC_2C_2ú$
Frequentative	FREQ	$eC_1C_2uC_3C_3o$	$eC_1uC_2C_2o$
Habitual	HAB	$eC_1C_2uC_3C_3a$	$eC_1uC_2C_2a$
Perfective	PFV	$eC_1C_2ioC_3C_3a$	$eC_1ioC_2C_2a$
Inchoative	INCH	$eC_1C_2iuC_3C_3o$	$eC_1iuC_2C_2o$
Cessative	CESS	$eC_1C_2íC_3C_3a$	$eC_1íC_2C_2a$
Durative	DUR;PFV	$eC_1C_2iaC_3C_3u$	$eC_1iaC_2C_2u$
Momentane	MOMT	$eC_1C_2iuC_3C_3a$	$eC_1iuC_2C_2a$

Table 1.1 *Adjectival verb aspectual conjugation*

1.1.3 Attributives

Attributives are also derived from the Form VII root, and have only a single transfix pattern, in contrast to their corresponding adjectival verbs: $iC_1C_2eC_3C_3a$ for triliteral roots, and $iC_1eC_2C_2a$ for biliteral roots.

- (2) P-L-T *pulut* ‘to beautify, to adorn’: *ipletta* ‘beautiful’
T-M-S *itmussu* ‘to be tall’: *itmessa* ‘tall’

1.2 Adjectival Inflection

Adjectives inflect for polarity and degree; neither adjectival verbs, adjectival nouns or attributives agree with their head in number, case, or aspect. The structure of an adjective is:

- (3) SUPL-*stem*-COMP-POLARITY

The adjectival stem is its base conjugated form, so for an attributive verb, this would include the aspectual, personal and modal marking.

1.2.1 Degree

Qevesa adjectives inflect to three degrees of comparison: comparative, superlative and exaggerated. These are indicated by a combination of prefixes and suffixes, which are listed in Table 1.2. Alternatively, the affixes can precede the adjective as an adverbial construction; this is preferred for predicative attributive sentences.

		Prefix	Suffix	Adverb
Comparative	COMP	Ø-	-fár	fáry
Superlative	SUPL	lók-	-fár	lókfáry
Exaggerated	EXAG	lóken-	-fár	lókenfáry

Table 1.2 *Adjectival degree affixes*

- (4) a. T-M-S *itmussu*, ‘to be tall’:

<i>itmessa</i>	<i>itmessa</i> fár	<i>lókitmessa</i> fár	<i>lókenitmessa</i> fár
<i>itmessa</i>	<i>itmessa</i> -fár	<i>lók-itmessa</i> -fár	<i>lóken-itmessa</i> -fár
tall	tall-COMP	SUPL-tall-COMP	EXAG-tall-COMP
‘tall’	‘taller’	‘tallest’	‘most tallest’

- b. *Cavoikě noye fáry etmuissešo.*

<i>Cavoik-ě</i> -Ø	<i>no-ye</i>	<i>fáry</i>	<i>etmuisse-š-o</i>
friend-1SG;POS-NOM	COMP-1SG COMP	tall\STAT-3SG;ACC-IND	
friend my	than me	(more) tall is	
My friend is taller than me.			

1.2.2 Polarity

Unlike both verbs and nouns¹, adjectives can be directly inflected for polarity. Both affirmative and negative suffixes exist, although the affirmative form is only used when a emphasising the existence of the adjectival property. The suffixes for polarity are given in Table 1.3.

	Suffix
Affirmative AFF	-šéry
Negative NEG	-démy

Table 1.3 *Adjectival polarity suffixes*

- (5) a. T-M-S *itmussu*, ‘to be tall’:

<i>itmessa</i>	<i>itmessa</i> šery	<i>itmessa</i> démy
<i>itmessa</i>	<i>itmessa</i> -šery	<i>itmessa</i> -démy
tall	tall-AFF	tall-NEG
‘tall’	‘very tall’	‘not tall’

- b. *Cavoikě etmuissešošéry.*

<i>Cavoik-ě</i> -Ø	<i>etmuisse-š-o-šéry</i>
friend-1SG;POS-NOM	tall\STAT-3SG;ACC-IND-NEG
friend my	tall is not
My friend is not tall.	

¹Note that the negative determinative prefix, described in Section ?? on page ??, may function as a polarity marker.