

A Morpho-Phonological Study of Verb Derivational Process in Kiwangona Dialect of Lamaholot

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Kiwangona Dialect, Morpho-Phonological, Derivational Process, Verbs, Affixes, Initial Phoneme Changes.	This research is about A morpho-phonological study of verb derivational process in Kiwangona dialect of Lamaholot. The objectives of this research are to describe the derivational process that attach to verbs in Kiwangona dialect of Lamaholot, to analyze and explain the meaning of the morphemes, and to find out the word class that is produced after the morphemes attach to verbs. This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytic approach, the data were collected through elicitation with native speakers in Bungalawan Village, Ile Boleng District, East Flores Regency. The findings show that the derivation processes are the prefixes {be-}, {ken-}, {pe-}, and the infix <en>, which change verbs into nouns or adjectives with meanings such as tool, actor, and result. In addition, there are initial phoneme changes such as /d/ → /n/, /g/ → /k/, /h/ → /n/, and /t/ → /n/, which produce nouns. The conclusions of this study enrich our understanding of derivational morpho-phonology, encourage the preservation of regional languages, and provide guidance for further research in the field of linguistics. A suggestion for future researchers is to analyze derivational processes in other word classes or other dialects of language.
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INTRODUCTION

The Lamaholot language, spoken across several islands in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, exhibits diverse dialects, with Kiwangona dialect serving as a vital link between generations in villages like Bungalawan. However, increasing population mobility and preference for Indonesian or foreign languages threaten its survival, leading to language identity crises. This research focuses on the morpho-phonological processes of verb derivation in Kiwangona dialect, encompassing morphological formations (e.g., affixation) and phonological changes (e.g., initial phoneme alterations) that produce new words without added morphemes. Previous research has analyzed other Lamaholot dialects, but Kiwangona remains underexplored, risking loss of linguistic heritage. Based on the background above, the research problem addresses the following:

1. What derivational processes are attached to verbs in the Kiwangona dialect of Lamaholot?
2. What are the meanings of the morphemes?
3. What word classes are produced after the morphemes attach to verbs?

The research aims to describe derivational processes attached to verbs, analyze resulting meanings, and identify produced word classes. Expected results include a comprehensive description of

morphemes, their meanings, and resulting word classes, providing a foundation for language revitalization efforts. Theoretical benefits include enriching morphology and phonology knowledge, while practical benefits support language preservation and cultural identity. The scope is limited to verb bases in Bungalawan Village, excluding dialectal variations elsewhere.

METHOD

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed in this research, detailing the research method, data resources, research instrument, data collection techniques, and data analysis procedure. The research utilized a qualitative research method with a descriptive-analytic approach to explore morpho-phonological phenomena in verb derivation.

Data were collected from two informants in Bungalawan Village, Ile Boleng Sub-district via elicitation (interviews, observation, and documentation), audio recording, and note-taking to capture natural speech, intonation, and phonological details. Instruments included a mobile phone for recording during elicitation sessions, facilitating documentation of verbal interactions and phonological aspects. The researcher used four procedures to analyze the data, such as transcribing recordings, selecting relevant utterances, categorizing and analyzing patterns (morphological and phonological), and describing findings. This method ensured in-depth insights into the dialect's structure.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This part presents the findings and discussions on verb derivational processes in the Kiwangona dialect of Lamaholot, based on data from elicitation, audio recordings, and note-taking with native speakers in Bungalawan Village.

Findings

The research identified derivational processes through prefixes ({be-}, {ken-}, {pe-}), infix (<en>), and initial phoneme changes (/d/ → /n/, /g/ → /k/, /h/ → /n/, /t/ → /n/). These processes transform verbs into nouns and adjectives, yielding meanings such as tools, actors, and results.

Discussions

Derivational processes of prefix {be-}

The prefix {be-} attaches to verbs, particularly those beginning with alveolar consonants (/d/, /l/, /r/) or vowels, resulting in nouns or adjectives. This prefix is productive in forming instrumental, agentive, and resultative derivations, reflecting tools, actors, or outcomes of actions.

1. Prefix {be-} + verb → noun

This derivational process involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {be-} results in a change in the word class from verb to noun. This process of changing a verb into a noun by adding the prefix {be-} can be explained with the following example:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| a. Doru (to rub) | → {be-} + 'doru' | → Bedoru (thing/tool used for scrubbing). |
| b. Labē (to chop) | → {be-} + 'labē' | → Belabē (chop tobacco; a tool used for chopping tobacco). |
| c. Wayak (to serve) | → {be-} + 'wayak' | → Bewayak (servant). |
| d. Wika (to split) | → {be-} + 'wika' | → Bewika (split). |

The base words *doru* (to rub), *labē* (to chop), *wayak* (to serve), and *wika* (to split) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {be-}, changing their class to nouns and altering

their meanings to *bedoru* (thing/tool used for scrubbing), *belabě* (chop tobacco; a tool used for chopping tobacco), *bewayak* (servant), and *bewika* (split). These nouns denote tools (e.g., scrubbing tool, chopping tool), actors (e.g., servant), or results (e.g., split). This process can be generalized as: prefix {be-} + verb \rightarrow noun ({be-} + V \rightarrow N).

2. Prefix {be-} + verb \rightarrow adjective

This derivation involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {be-} results in a change from verb to adjective. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| a. Lepet (to fold) | \rightarrow {be-} + 'lepet' | \rightarrow Belepet (fold/folded). |
| b. Odo (sleepy) | \rightarrow {be-} + 'odo' | \rightarrow Beod'hō (sound sleepy; refers to the condition or feeling of wanting to sleep). |

The base words *lepet* (folding) and *odo* (sleepy) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {be-}, changing their class to adjectives and altering their meanings to *belepet* (fold/folded; refers to the condition of folding) and *beod'hō* (sound sleepy; refers to the condition or feeling of wanting to sleep). These adjectives indicate states or conditions resulting from the base actions. This process can be generalized as: prefix {be-} + verb \rightarrow adjective ({be-} + V \rightarrow A).

Derivational processes of prefix {ken-}

The prefix {ken-} attaches to verbs beginning with the velar consonant /g/, resulting in nouns or adjectives. This prefix is particularly associated with forming instrumental and resultative derivations, often involving morpho-phonological assimilation (e.g., /g/ to /k/).

1. Derivational Process of the Prefix {ken-} + Verb \rightarrow Noun

This derivational process involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {ken-} results in a change from the verb to noun. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| a. Garu (to grate) | \rightarrow {ken-} + 'garu' | \rightarrow Kenaru (grater). |
| b. Geka (chopping) | \rightarrow {ken-} + 'geka' | \rightarrow Keneka (house made of chopped bamboo). |
| c. Géré (climb up) | \rightarrow {ken-} + 'géré' | \rightarrow Kenéré (ladder; stairs). |
| d. Genā (inherit) | \rightarrow {ken-} + 'genā' | \rightarrow Kenenā-nē (inheritance). |

The base words *garu* (to grate), *geka* (chopping), *géré* (climb up), and *genā* (inherit) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {ken-}, changing their class to nouns and altering their meanings to *kenaru* (grater), *keneka* (house made of chopped bamboo), *kenéré* (ladder; stairs), and *kenenā-nē* (inheritance). These nouns denote tools (e.g., grater, ladder) or results (e.g., inheritance, chopped bamboo structure). This process can be generalized as: prefix {ken-} + verb \rightarrow noun ({ken-} + V \rightarrow N).

2. Derivational Process of the Prefix {ken-} + Verb \rightarrow Adjective

This derivation involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {ken-} results in a change from verb to adjective. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Gorě (to fry) | \rightarrow {ken-} + 'gorě' | \rightarrow Kenorě-ne (fried food). |
| b. Geto (to break) | \rightarrow {ken-} + 'geto' | \rightarrow Kenetū (broken) |

The base words *gorě* (to fry) and *geto* (to break) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {ken-}, changing their class to adjectives and altering their meanings to *kenorě-ne* (fried food) and *kenetū* (broken). These adjectives indicate states or conditions resulting from the base actions, such as processed food or physical damage. This process can be generalized as: prefix {ken-} + verb → adjective ({ken-} + V → A).

Derivational processes of prefix {pe-}

The prefix {pe-} attaches to verbs beginning with alveolar consonants (/d/, /l/, /t/), resulting in deverbal nouns or adjectives. This prefix is primarily agentive, forming nouns denoting actors and adjectives describing actor traits or results.

1. Derivational Process of the Prefix {pe-} + Verb → Noun

This derivational process involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {pe-} results in a change from verb to noun. This process can be explained with the following examples:

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|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Laã (to steal) | → {pe-} + 'laã' | → pelaã (thief). |
| b. Du'ün (to sell) | → {pe-} + 'du'ün' | → pedu'ün-ne (seller') |
| c. Leta (requesting) | → {pe-} + 'leta' | → pelet'aã (requester). |
| d. Lile (watch) | → {pe-} + 'lile' | → pelile (watcher; audience). |

The base words *laã* (to steal), *du'ün* (to sell), *leta* (requesting), and *lile* (watch) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {pe-}, changing their class to nouns and altering their meanings to *pelaã* (thief), *pedu'ün-ne* (seller), *pelet'aã* (requester), and *pelile* (watcher; audience). These nouns denote actors performing the base actions. This process can be generalized as: prefix {pe-} + verb → noun ({pe-} + V → N).

2. Derivational Process of the Prefix {pe-} + Verb → Adjective

This derivation involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {pe-} results in a change from verb to adjective. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Laté (to heat) | → {pe-} + 'laté' | → pelatī (heated; hoted). |
| b. Tutu (to speak) | → {pe-} + 'tutu' | → petutu (talkative). |

The base words *laté* (to heat) and *tutu* (to speak) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {pe-}, changing their class to adjectives and altering their meanings to *pelatī* (heated; hoted) and *petutu* (talkative). These adjectives indicate states resulting from actions or traits of actors. This process can be generalized as: prefix {pe-} + verb → adjective ({pe-} + V → A).

Derivational processes of infix <en>

The infix <en> is inserted into the first syllable of verbs beginning with consonants like /s/ or /t/, resulting in deverbal nouns or adjectives. This process changes verbs to nouns (denoting tools or actors) or adjectives (denoting states).

The change caused by the addition of the infix <en> results in derivations from verbs to nouns or adjectives. This derivational process can be explained with the following examples for nouns:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| a. Tané (weaving) | → 't<en> + ané' + | → Tenané (a tool used for weaving; weaving tool) |
| b. Sake (to stick something using a stick/pole) | → 's<en> + ake' | → Senake (stick; pole). |
| c. Tekē (migrate) | → 't<en> + ekē' | → Tenekē (migrant). |

For adjectives:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| d. Turu ('sleep') | → 't<en> + uru' | → tenurū ('asleep'). |
| e. Seru ('to burn') | → 's<en> + eru' | → sener'ū ('burnt; burned'). |

The base words tané (weaving), sake (to stick something with a stick/pole), tekē (migrate), turu (sleep), and seru (to burn) are verbs that undergo derivation with the insertion of the infix <en>, changing their class to nouns (tenané: weaving tool; senake: stick/pole; tenekē: migrant) or adjectives (tenurū: asleep; sener'ū: burnt/burned) and altering their meanings to denote tools, actors, or resulting states. This process can be generalized as: verb + infix <en> → noun/adjective (V + <en> → N/A).

Other forms of derivation

Phoneme changes derive instrumental nouns without affixes, involving assimilation.

Phoneme Change Process

- Dayuk (V) 'to fan' : 'palm leaves that have been dried in the sun'
/d/ → /n/ → Nayuk (N) : 'a fan made from woven'
- Genato (V) 'to send; to entrust'
/g/ → /k/ → Kenato (N) 'delivery; consignment; shipment'.
- Giri (V) 'combing'
/g/ → /k/ → Kiri (N) 'comb'
- Hamo (V) 'to sweep'
/h/ → /n/ → Namo (N) 'broom'
- Huro (V) 'scooping; spooning'
/h/ → /n/ → Nuro (N) 'spoon'
- Tobo (V) 'to sit'
/t/ → /n/ → Nobō (N) 'bench; chair'
- Tubak (V) 'planting'
/t/ → /n/ → Nubak (N) 'tool used for planting; planting tool'

These phoneme substitutions (e.g., /d/ → /n/, /g/ → /k/, /h/ → /n/, /t/ → /n/) involve consonant assimilation for articulatory ease, transforming verbs into nouns that denote tools or results. For instance, dayuk (to fan) becomes nayuk (fan), and genato (to send) becomes kenato (shipment). This process can be generalized as: initial phoneme changes in verb → noun (V with phoneme shift → N).

These processes highlight the dialect's morpho-phonological richness, with phonological adaptations ensuring derivational productivity and semantic shifts. The findings underscore the need for preservation to maintain linguistic heritage.

CONCLUSION

This research identifies key morpho-phonological derivational processes in Kiwangona dialect, characterized by two kinds of affixes: prefix, and infix. Three types of Prefixes were found: {be-}, {ken-}, and {pe-}. Furthermore, there is one type of Infix: <en>, producing nouns and adjectives with meanings like tools, actors, and results. Initial phoneme changes uniquely form instrumental nouns, where the base verb changes into a noun, such as (/d/ > /n/), (/g/ > /k/), (/h/ > /n/), and (/t/ > /n/).

These findings enrich linguistic understanding and support regional language preservation. It is recommended that future studies conduct deeper analysis of other word classes and dialects, encouraging further research to document endangered languages.

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