

Nominal Suffixation in Hindko

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Abstract

This research describes the nominal suffixation process in Hindko. It aimed to reveal the affixes of different categories which are used for nominal suffixation. For this purpose, the documentation of Hindko language spoken in different regions of Neelum (Neelmi Hindko) Azad Kashmir was a prerequisite. The study adopted a qualitative approach and data was collected through discourse-centred method, in which Hindko Radio programs, Hindko Literature and Hindko songs were collected. The data was analysed on the etymological information of the phenomenon under observation. The study reflected that in Hindko language, suffixation is a very productive process of forming nouns. It was revealed that in Hindko Language suffixes like *ii*, *KaR.-aa* and *-dar* is used to derive Nouns from nominal roots. Moreover, the suffixes-*ii*, and *-Kar.* are used to derive nouns from the nominal base. The suffix *_KaR* can only be attached with bases having sound like features e.g. *Dam*, *GRal* etc. Moreover, the data showed that the suffix *_ii* brought a semantic change in the root words like *LenR* means *Slide* in general but when we say *LenRii* it meant 'a small slide'. Data showed that these suffixes do not bring any morphological or phonological change in the root or bases. So, these can be termed as neutral suffixes in Neelmi Hindko. The data also concluded that in Hindko, nominal suffixes are conditioned semantically and morphologically for new derivation.

1. Introduction

In literature, the researchers have investigated the language in various linguistic aspects e.g. Grierson (1916) discussed in his study that the language has a historical perspective and goes back to the native of Hindu community who were residing in the region. Ahmed (2008) is another linguist who investigated the language and referred that its linguistic history is very old and goes back to 1500 BC. It has been opined that Hindko is a complex language which shows diversity and it is spoken by a particular community in the region of South Asia. (Haroon, 2011; Mir, 2012). Moreover, the roots of this language can be traced back to the linguistic community of the Indus region. Grierson (1916) used the term Hindko for the language of Hindus who were speaking the language in the South Asian regions. Moreover, the language also has its grounding in different communities and regions of South Asia and the language also has its connection with different cultures and language typologies as discussed by (Haroon, 2011; Mir, 2012).

In the diachronic aspects, the researchers have explored many languages like English, Russian, Spanish and German but paid less attention to undocumented languages like Hindko spoken in Azad Kashmir. In addition to that, Awan (1986) supported the idea that Hindko got a brief linguistic attention in the Grierson's linguistic survey. Addelton (1986) also studied the language and focused on its linguistic typology, family system, regional features and several language users residing in different regions of South Asia. Rensch (1992) also briefly discussed the language and how the language originated in different communities and regions of the world from morphological and lexical identities, differences, shared knowledge and unambiguity found in the language.

The language generates new words like any other major language of the world such as English, Spanish, and German etc. The word-generating processes like conversion, coinage, and borrowing are not explored or found attention of linguists. Mir (2012) briefly discussed word formation process i.e. affixation and concluded that in this language, both the inflectional and derivational morphemes are found which are used for not only generating new words through affixation, but they are also performing grammatical functions. In addition to that, he also mentioned that in language, all identified affixes perform generating functions of new words. However, the findings of his study revealed that Hindko prefixes only form new words of the same category and this process is not very much productive in the language. Reh (1993) stated that Western Nilotic exhibits some of the most striking and complex patterns of mutation found in the languages of the world. Wolf (2007) discussed the cases of multiple-feature mutation which is problematic for approaches to mutation and barred explicit protection for floating features by specific constraints.

The paper focuses on nominal suffixation process in Hindko and aims to investigate the productivity of nominal suffixes for this process in the language. Moreover, the study also focuses on restrictions on the suffixes when are being attached with the roots.

2. Purpose of the Study

The previous researches point out that Hindko is spoken in different regions of Pakistan; especially Azad Jammu and Kashmir has different varieties which differ from each other in phonetic, morphological, lexical, syntactic and semantic features. The research also shows that no significant works have been done previously to document the features of Hindko except Haroon (2011), Mir (2012), Nawaz (2014) etc. This language has a significant number of speakers but it remained undocumented over the period of time.

The aim of the current study is to identify the nominal suffixes in Hindko and how these suffixes are used by the speakers of the language to perform different syntactic and morphological functions. Moreover, the paper focuses on nominal suffixation process in Hindko and aims to investigate the productivity of nominal suffixes for the process in the language. Moreover, the study also focuses on restrictions on the suffixes when they are being attached to the roots.

3. Methodology

The study is qualitative in nature and used qualitative techniques for data collection and analysis. The study utilized various data collection tools, methods and apparatuses for gathering the data. The researcher collected the required data using the listening, observing and note-taking techniques after listening the native speakers' daily conversations of different social and geographical contexts. The researcher noted the uttered tokens, speeches and segments of the conversations of native language users in a diary in a disturbance-free situation. In addition to that, while noting, the researcher has not been an active participant and acted as a silent observer. After carefully examining the collected data, the researcher documented the required linguistic units of the language which were required for the phenomenon under investigation.

Moreover, the researcher also collected the information for consecutive two weeks out of listening to the radio program "Phul JaRian" which was telecasted on FM at 5 PM in Hindko language. The researcher, again while hearing the program, used the same data collection technique and jotted down the required linguistic data for the phenomenon under investigation. In addition to this, the Hindko songs which were rich in its linguistic structure were recorded by the researcher for the data collection. The data

was analysed using the theoretical framework of Plag (2003) which categorized the affixes. The suffixes were identified in Hindko in the theoretical framework

4. Research Questions

- What are the nominal suffixes in Hindko?
- What syntactic and morphological features are reflected by these nominal suffixes in the language?

5. Literature Review

In the field of Hindko, linguists and researchers have not paid much attention towards its phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic investigation as they did on other regional or global languages of the world.

In the past, there were researchers who explored the language from its phonological and morphological aspects e.g. (Haroon, 2015; Nawaz, 2014) worked on the phonological and verbal phrases in Hindko. The study focused on the language spoken in Peshawar city. Nawaz discussed the junction features of the language within the verb-root and the root and inflection. He gave a detailed description of junction features within the verb-root and the root and the inflection. Primarily, the study applied a prosodic analysis on Hindko material. In the data analysis, he relied on his knowledge and own experience.

In Linguistics, Morphology is a branch which deals with words and their structures and it requires people to understand its language compositions, language nature and its family matters. Every language of the world has its own word formation system e.g. Okeke (2003) studied English and briefly discussed that lexical units in English are composed of the basic composition units called roots which give basic meaning to the words. He also discussed that for the extension of the words and for deriving new words from the basic word, affixes are attached on the left or right side of the roots. The process is known as affixation and different types of affixes contribute in its morphological and syntactic functions.

Bauer (1983) stated that suffixes can be classified into four classes of derivatives they are producing. The affixes are used to form nouns, verbs, adjectives and some are used to derive either of the categories of syntactic class of the lexical units in the languages like English and other European typology linguistic background. The traditional theory of word formation also supports the syntactic functions of the affixes like forming nouns, verbs, adjectives and some are used to derive either the categories of syntactic class of the lexical units and are based on the nature of the syntactic category of the words which are derived through the process of word formation and these can be de-adjectival, adverbial, nominal and de-adverbial.

The French linguist Serbat, has carefully discussed the derivational morphemes in Latin and showed his concern on the bases category as nouns or verbs and proposed the use of concepts as pronominal or proverbial base due to the fact that bases do not correspond to the categories of lexical items or class to which they belong to. Moreover, he also mentioned that they lack any syntactic value but belong to notional level above the distinction in the lexical categories.

Rachmadie (1990) said that an affix can cause transformation of the part of speech of the root or base. Plag (2006) designate that word-formation procedures can be called as productive or unproductive, subject on the extent to which they can be applied to form new morphologically complex words. Mir (2012) stated that in Hindko, affixes are used to derive new words of different categories and these affixes are of different types like verbal, adjectival, nominal and denominal. Mir (2012) also stated that these affixes are syntactically and morphologically constrained and their productivity depends on these constraints.

6. Analysis

The data analysis focused on identifying the nominal suffixes in Hindko and how these suffixes were used to perform lexical and syntactic functions in the Hindko language. Moreover, the data also studied the productivity of the suffixes when these suffixes were attached with the root words of different categories.

6.1. Suffix ‘-kar’ as De-nominal Suffix

By adding the suffix ‘kar’ with the nominal root, nouns can be formed in Hindko. The suffix ‘kar’ derives a word of similar category and functions as class-maintaining derivational affix. It gives additional sense.

Base	Outcome	Meaning	Function	Class
a. Dam-kar	Damkar	Loud Noise	Derivation	Maintaining
‘moko damkar changa nii lagdaa’ ‘I don’t like loud noise’				
b. ShaRap-kar	ShaRapkar	Eating Noise	Derivation	Maintaining
‘Aslam rotii kandeyaan shaRapkar kardaa hy’ ‘Aslam produces noise whose eating’				

c. GaRRap-kar GaRRapkar Drinking Noise Derivation
Maintaining

‘Korii sunR panRii pendeyaan GaRRapkar keta’ ‘the girl produced noise while drinking’

d. pat-kar patkar strong beating Derivation Maintaining

‘Police sunR us ko patkar kadyaa’ ‘police beaten him very hard’

e. GaRRal-kar GaRRalkar sudden Loud Sound Derivation Maintaining

‘Mein ratein GaRalkar sunReya’ ‘Last Night I heard a sudden loud noise’

f. KhaRal-kar KhaRalkar sound produced by pots Derivation Maintaining

‘Kokaraan sunR KhaRalkar keeta’ ‘The chickens made disturbance/ sudden sound’

h. shaRun-kar ShaRunkar Sound nose stiffness Derivation Maintaining

‘Nenda shRunkar karda hy’ ‘The boy is producing breathy sounds’

i. Thal-kar Thalkar sound of knocking Derivation Maintaining

‘bar koi thalkar kardaa hy’ ‘someone is knocking at the door very hard’

The data are given in 6.1 (a-i) shows that the suffix ‘kar’ is a de-nominal derivational affix which is used to derive noun from a nominal root word. The above data also illustrates that the suffix ‘kar’ can only be attached to those roots which are used to give the sense of sound. In 6.1, for example in the root word is ‘thal’ in (h) which means a ‘sudden sound’ but when the suffix ‘kar’ is attached with it, a new word of the same category is formed ‘thalkar’ which means ‘knocking strongly’ [yara darwaza kholo pata ni kas sunRR thalkar chay da ha]. If we try to attach a suffix with another Hindko root word, then the process of affixation will be blocked e.g. with any other noun except sound or verb, the affix can’t be attached. As far as morphological or phonological effect is concerned, the above data shows that the suffix doesn’t create any effect on the root. The suffixes help in constructing derivatives that belong to the same syntactic category, to which a semantic meaning can be combined into. If there is a semantic continuity between the base and the derivative, the function of the suffix is to modify and when there isn’t any semantic continuity between the two constituents, the suffix exerts the formative function.

6.2. Suffix ‘ii’ as De-nominal Suffix

By adding the suffix “ii” with nominal roots, Nouns can be constructed in Hindko. The suffix ‘ii’ derives a word of similar category and functions as class-maintaining derivational affix.

Base	Outcome	Meaning	Function	Class
(a) [PaTar- [ii] Maintaining	‘PaTaRii	a piece of tin	Derivation, F-Singular	
‘ moko ak Patrii dy’ ‘ give me a piece of tin’				
(b) [SuTeR [ii] Maintaining	SuTeRii	‘a piece of rope’	Derivation F-Singular	Maintaining
‘maRii sutrii kutha hy’		‘ where is my rope?’		
(c) [LaR-[ii] Maintaining	LaRii	a big House	Derivation F-Singular	
‘ MaRii laRii tiar ha’		‘ My bungla is ready’		
(d) [ChIKh-ii] Maintaining	ChIKii	‘last breath’	Derivation F. Singular	
‘Aslam ko chikhii lagi di hy’		‘Aslam is taking his last breath’		
(e) LenRR-ii Maintaining	LenRRii	Slide (small)	Derivation F. Singular	
‘mein barfoo utaa LenRii lai’ ‘I slid on the snow’				
(f) GaRRang-ii Maintaining	GaRRangii	Small Hole	Derivation F. Singular	
‘maRy kara gaa ak grangii hy’ ‘There is a small hole in front of my house’				

In Hindko language, the suffix “ii” performs different inflectional and derivational functions. In the language, the suffix –“ii” can be used to show gender marker, tense etc. The above data are given in 6.2 (a-f) demonstrate that the suffix ‘ii’ can be used for derivational purposes in Hindko e.g. [LaR] is a Noun and when it takes suffix ‘ii’ with it then the outcome is /LaRii/ which means ‘House’ used like; [us sunR Graan bich LaRRii BaRRai] ‘he constructed a house in the village’. In the same way, if we look at another example [SuTeR] which is a noun meaning, ‘Measurement rope’ and when it takes the suffix ‘ii’ with it, then the outcome is ‘SuTeRii’ meaning ‘Rope’.

The above data shows that the base is nominal but when the suffix ‘ii’ is attached with it, a word of the same category is derived. The examples are given above also show that in Hindko language; syntactic and morphological constraints also affect the productivity of the suffixes e.g. “ii” suffixes can only be used with specific roots and they are not productive in forming the nominal words in the language. The data shows that the productivity of the suffix “ii” is affected due to the phonological and morphological constraints which stop the suffix to be attached with other roots like adjectives, common nouns and verbs.

6.3. Suffix ‘-aa’ as De-nominal Suffix

By adding the suffix ‘-aa’ with nominal or verbal roots, Nouns can be formed in Hindko. The suffix ‘-aa’ derives a word of similar category and functions as class maintaining or class changing derivational suffix.

Base	Outcome	Meaning	Function	Class
(a) [PaTar- [aa]	PaTaRaa	a piece of tin	Derivation, M-Singular	Maintaining
‘ moko ak Patraa dy’ ‘give me a piece of tin’				
(b) [SuTeR [aa]	SuTeRaa	‘a piece of rope’	Derivation M-Singular	Maintaining
maRii sutraa kutha hy’ ‘where is my rope (big)?’				
(c) [Chaj-[aa]	Chajaa	‘outer side of the roof’	Derivation M-Singular	Maintaining
‘Kara da Chaja Bara hy’ ‘The outer edge of the roof is big’				
(d) GaRRang-aa	GaRRangaa	big Hole	‘Derivation M. Singular	Maintaining
maRy kara gaa ak grangaa hy’ ‘There is a big hole in front of my house’				

In Hindko language, the suffix “-aa” performs different derivational functions. In the language, the suffix “-aa” can be used to show gender marker, tense etc. but in the data given above the suffix –aa is used as a nominal suffix to derive nouns form nominal roots. The above data are given in 6.3 (a-d) demonstrate that the suffix “-aa” can be used for derivational purposes in Hindko e.g [PaTr] is a Noun and when it takes suffix ‘aa’ with it, then the outcome is /PaTraa/ which is noun means ‘A piece of Tin bigger in size’. [usunR Graan bich PatRaa daa Karobar keeta] ‘he did the business of Tin in the village’. In the same way, if we look on another example [SuTeR] is noun which

means ‘Measurement rope’ and when it takes the suffix “-aa” with it then the outcome is ‘SuTeRaa’ which is noun means ‘Rope’.

The above data shows that the base is nominal but when the suffix “-aa” is attached with it, a word of the same category is derived. The above given examples also show that in Hindko language, syntactic and morphological constraints also affect the productivity of the suffixes e.g. “-aa” suffix can only be used with specific roots and which is not so much productive in forming the nominal words in the language. The data shows that the productivity of the suffix “-aa” is affected due to the phonological and morphological constraints which stop the suffix to be attached with other roots like adjectives, common nouns and verbs.

6.4. The suffix ‘-aa’ as De-Verbal nominal suffix

By adding the suffix “-aa” with verbal roots, Nouns can be formed in Hindko. The suffix “-aa” derives a word of similar category and functions as a class changing derivational suffix.

Base	Outcome	Meaning	Function	Class
(a) [Dal- [aa] Changing	‘Dalaa	a big piece of wood	Derivation, M-Singular	
‘Moko ak Dala dy’		‘give me a bigger piece of wood’		
(b) [Bal [aa] Changing	Balaa	‘a piece of refined wood’	Derivation M-Singular	‘
‘Moko ak Balaa dy’		‘give me a refined piece of wood’		
(c) [KaR-[aa] Changing	KaRaa	Stall of Woods	Derivation	M-Singular
‘Kara da KaRaa Bara hy’		‘The house stall of woods is big.’		
(d) PonR-aa Changing	PonRaa maRa PonRaa	Wooden made Filter much change	‘Derivation M. Singular	
	hy’		‘My wooden made filter is very	
			good’	

In Hindko language, the suffix “-aa” performs different derivational functions. In the language, the suffix “-aa” can be used to show gender marker, tense etc. but in the data given above the suffix “-aa” is used as a de-verbal nominal suffix to derive nouns from verbal roots. The above data are given in 6.4 (a-d) demonstrates that the suffix “-aa” can be used for derivational purposes in Hindko e.g. [Dal] is a verb and when it takes suffix “-aa” with it, then the outcome is /Dalaa/ which is noun and it means, ‘A bigger

piece of wood' in such a way, ['Moko ak Dala dy'] 'Give me a bigger piece of wood'. In the same way, if we look at another example [Bal] which is a verb in Hindko meaning 'Refine the wood' and when it takes the suffix "-aa" with it, then the outcome is "Balaa" which is a noun meaning 'Refined piece of wood'. The above data shows that the base is nominal but when the suffix "-aa" is attached with it, a word of the different category (from verb –Noun) is derived. The examples are given above also show that in Hindko language, syntactic and morphological constraints also affect the productivity of the suffixes e.g. "-aa" suffix can only be used with specific roots and which is not productive while forming the nominal words in the language. The data shows that the productivity of the suffix "-aa" is affected due to the phonological and morphological constraints which stop the suffix to be attached with other roots like adjectives, common nouns and verbs.

6.5. The suffix '-dar' as De-nominal Suffix

By adding the suffix '-dar' with nominal roots, Nouns can also be formed in Hindko. The suffix '-dar' derives a word of similar category and functions as class maintaining derivational suffix.

Base Class	Outcome	Meaning	Function
(a) [NaTa- [dar] Maintaining	'NaTedar	Relative	Derivation, M-Singular
'Oh MaRa NaTadar hy'		'He is my relative'	
(b) [Garan [-dar] Maintaining	Garandar	'village mate'	Derivation M-Singular
'Moko ak Garandar mileya'		'I met with a village mate'	
(c) [TiaR-[dar] Maintaining	TiaRdar	Daily wages labor	Derivation M-Singular
'TiaRdar aj kal mangy hen'			'In these days labors are expensive
(d) Boz-dar Maintaining	Bozdaar	Person without Fast	'Derivation M. Singular
Mein ak bozdar dekhyā'		'I saw a person without fast'	

In Hindko language, the suffix "-dar" performs different derivational functions. In the language the suffix "-dar" can be used to show singular but derivational function etc. but in the data given above the suffix "-dar" is used as a de-nominal suffix to derive nouns from nominal roots. The above data are given in 6.5 (a-d) demonstrate that the suffix "-dar" can be used for derivational purposes in Hindko e.g [NaTa] is a noun and

when it takes a suffix “-dar” with it, then the outcome is /naTadar/ which is noun means ‘Relative’ [Oh, MaRa NaTadar hy] ‘He is my relative’. In the same way, if we look on another example [Garan] is a noun in Hindko which means ‘village’ and when it takes the suffix “-dar” with it then the outcome is ‘garandar’ which is noun means ‘village mate’. The above data show that base is nominal but when the suffix “-dar” is attached with it a word of the same category (from noun –Noun) is derived. Above given examples also show that in Hindko language syntactic and morphological constraints also affect the productivity of the suffixes e.g. “-dar” suffix can only be used with specific roots and not so much productive in forming the nominal words in the language. The data shows that the productivity of the suffix “-dar” is affected due to the phonological and morphological constraints which stop the suffix to be attached with other roots like adjectives, common nouns and verbs.

6.6. Summary of nominal suffixes in Hindko

Fig 1.

Suffixes	Outcome	Root	Function	Class
ii	Nominal	Noun	Derivation	Maintaining
-aa	Nominal	Noun	Derivation	Maintaining
-aa	Nominal	Verbs	Derivation	Changing
-kar	Nominal	Noun	Derivation	Maintaining
-dar	Nominal	Noun	Derivation	Maintaining

The data given in 6.6 shows that in Hindko language there are five suffixes which can be used as nominal suffixes. These suffixes derive nouns from either nominal roots or verbal roots. The data also shows that there are different syntactic, lexical, phonological and semantic constraints which affect the productivity of these suffixes in the language.

7. Conclusion

The paper presents an important morphological aspect of nominal suffixation in Hindko. The data reveals that in Hindko, suffixes can derive nouns when they are attached with the roots of either the same category or a different category e.g. when the

suffix “ii” is attached with the root ‘LenR’ (Slide), it derives a word of the same category ‘LenRii’ (small Slide) but here, it works as a diminutive suffix. Moreover, the data also reflects that when a suffix like “-kar” is added to the root words having sound features, they derive new words of nominal category which refer to sounds of different things or activities in Hindko e.g. ‘Dam’ is a root word which refers to a sound produced with any instrument or by beating drum etc. but the outcome of this process will be ‘Damkar’ meaning a sound produced by continuous beating of drum. In this sense, the suffix “-kar” would work as an Augmentative noun forming suffix (Thayer, 2013).

In addition to this, the data also reveals that there are strict restrictions on the process of suffixation with roots e.g. the suffix “-kar” cannot be attached with roots other than those which have sound-like features and if this suffix is attached, then it would generate ungrammatical word e.g. in Urdu language, this suffix can be attached with many roots, like ‘Fankar’ meaning artist but in Hindko, it is restricted only to sound related roots. Based on this data, it can be concluded that in Hindko and many other languages with derivational morphology, there are severe restrictions on possible combinations of affixes and bases. A given derivational affix can be linked to particular bases that have phonological, morphological, semantic or syntactic properties as in literature discussed by (Fabb, 1988; Plag, 2003).

Moreover, after analysing the data, it can also be concluded that in Hindko, all noun-forming suffixes are derivational class maintaining which means in Hindko, nouns cannot be formed from words/ roots having different grammatical category as in English nouns can be formed from roots having adjectives and verb-like features Plag (2003) but the study shows that in Hindko, nouns can only be formed from roots having nominal features.

In addition to that, in Hindko language, there are five suffixes which can be used as nominal suffixes in the language. These suffixes are forming words of the same category when they are attached with the roots of either the same category nouns or different categories like verbs. The data analysis also shows that these suffixes are not very much productive in the language due to the phonological, morphological and syntactic constraints on the affixation process when the suffixes are attached to the roots.

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