

AFFIXATION IN MIDDLE KHMER WITH OLD AND MODERN COMPARISONS

This paper is a statement on Khmer affixation, based on a synchronic study of the language of the Middle Khmer (Mid.K.) inscriptions. The material was inscribed between the years 1566 and 1747 A.D., and is to be found in the form of 117 pages of print published by the Buddhist Institute of Phnom-Penh with the title '*Inscriptions modernes d'Angkor.*' The whole corpus has been examined. Other Khmer literature attributed to this period—the *Ream Ker* and the *cbap*, for example—has not been consulted specifically because the printed texts available to me depend on manuscripts which have been copied many times and could not possibly equal the inscriptions in reliability.

The method chosen for the presentation of this paper is intended to facilitate comparison with my earlier (1963) treatment of Khmer affixation, Old and Modern. The reader is referred to that article for the general discussion of the consonantal nature of Khmer affixes, their position between the initial of the base and its vowel-nucleus, and the phonetic features of juncture which usually occur. The whole of Section II of that article, dealing with the graphic/phonetic contexts in which prefixes and infixes occur, may be taken as applying to Mid.K. This leaves two of the three questions there posed to be treated with reference to Mid.K. The two questions are:

1. What phonological elements are prefixed or infixes?
2. What grammatical functions do they perform?

It is proposed to discuss these two questions and at the same time to compare the answers with the Old and Modern findings of the previous article. A complete list of the collected data, arranged according to the affix involved, is appended, with, where known, the equivalents in Old (O.K.) and Modern Khmer. (Mod.K.)

SECTION I.

The Phonological Elements Which May Be Prefixed Or Infixes

Table I shows the prefixes and infixes which have been found. An affix is regarded as established on a synchronic basis if an occurrence of the affixed form and its base has been found in the inscriptional material. *Affixes occurring only in a derivative, i.e. for which the base has not been found and for which the diachronic evidence of O.K. or Mod.K. is needed to prove their occurrence, are treated as only partially established for Mid.K.* Their entries in the table are in parentheses.

The Mid.K. affixes are compared with the O.K. findings in Table 2 and

Table 1
MIDDLE KHMER AFFIXES

Prefix Table			Infix Table		
	Single Consonant Prefixed	Two Consonants Prefixed	Single Non-nasal Consonant Infixed	Single Nasal Consonant Infixed	Two Consonants Infixed
Velar	k	kN (kr)	p	m	mn
Palatal	^c Rd. c	(cN) (Rd. cN)		n	rn
Dental	t	tN tr		N	
Bilabial	p [m]	pN pr			
Liquid	r l	rN lN			
Sibilant	s	(sN) Sr			
Glottal		ʔN			

Notes to the above table:

Rd. = Reduplicated.

() indicates that only the affixed form and no base was found in the Mid.K. material.

[] m is enclosed in square brackets because in all examples it is a reduction of muoy 'one' and as such does not merit inclusion.

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF MIDDLE AND OLD KHMER AFFIXES

Prefix Table			Infix Table		
	Single Consonant Prefixed	Two Consonants Prefixed	Single Non-nasal Consonant Infix	Single Nasal Consonant Infix	Two Consonants Infix
Mid.K. lacks in comparison with O.K.	Rd. t Rd. n Rd. m	dN mr			
Common to both Mid.K. and O.K.	p	kN cN tN pN pr rN lN ʔN	p	m n N	mn
Additional in Mid.K.	k c t r l s Rd. c	(kr) (Rd. cN) sr (sN)			m

with the Mod.K. affixes in Table 3. Y. A. Gorgoniev (1966), F. Huffman (thesis, 1967) and P. Jenner (thesis, 1969) have all treated Modern Khmer affixes much more fully than I have. All have postulated more affixes than I did in 1963. However for the purposes of establishing affixes in the limited material of the inscriptions and of making comparisons with Modern Khmer I have used the 1963 list. This contains only those affixes for which either a large number of examples can be found in Modern Khmer or for which the meanings of the examples are all very similar. The affixes which are common to all stages are shown in Table 4. The results of these comparisons are summarized in the following three paragraphs:

TABLE 3
COMPARISON OF MIDDLE AND MODERN KHMER AFFIXES

Prefix Table			Infix Table		
	Single Consonant Prefixed	Two Consonants Prefixed	Single Non-nasal Consonant Infixed	Single Nasal Consonant Infixed	Two Consonants Infixed
Lacking in Mid.K. in comparison with Mod.K.	Rd. k Rd. ŋ Rd. p Rd. t Rd. p, m Rd. m Rd. l Rd. s	cr			rm
Common to both Mid. and Mod.K.	k c Rd. c t p r** s	kN kr cN, Rd, cN tN tr pN pr rN lN sN sr ʔN	p > b*	m n N	mn rn
Additional in Mid.K.	[**]	--	--	--	--

* The infix spelled p in Mid.K. is spelled p but pronounced b in Mod.K.

** Mod.K. has a prefix r ~ l. An allomorphic relationship between r and l would be difficult to establish for Mid.K. using only the synchronic material. However, it is not held that a prefix l of Mid.K. is lost in Mod.K.

Table 2. Comparison of Mid.K. with O.K. affixes.

Prefixed. The lack of reduplicated t, n and m as compared with O.K. is not a matter to which great weight should be attached. All the O.K. examples were in parentheses, indicating that the meanings were not completely established, and I have no further evidence of such prefixes since the time of writing the article.¹ The lack of the prefix dN in the Mid.K. material is also a slight matter. Again, the O.K. entry was in parentheses. In Mod.K.