

## MORPHOPHONEMIC CHANGES IN MEITEIRON COMPOUNDING

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The aim of this paper is to show the modification of bases in Meiteiron. The paper deals about the changes of consonants and vowels in the process of compounding.

### Introduction

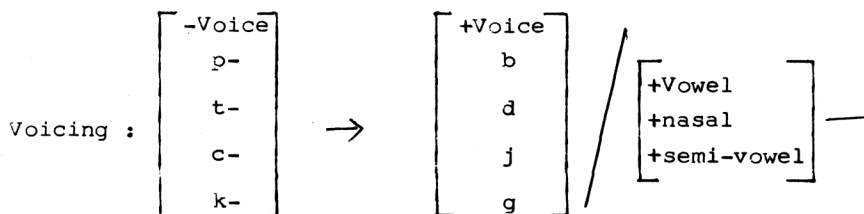
The general characteristics of the morphophonemic changes in Meiteiron roots are very irregular. The sound changes which occur in compounding can be discussed in the following headings. They are (1) voicing, (2) deaspiration, (3) change of lateral sound, (4) changes of nasals, (5) changes of vowels, (6) loss or delation and (7) addition of semi-vowels.

#### 1. Voicing

In the process of voicing, the voiceless sounds change into voiced sounds. The type of process is of progressive assimilation. The unaspirated voiceless stop sounds p, t, c, k are found to have changed into their voiced counterpart b, d, j, g, respectively, when the second root is preceded immediately by a voiced sound (i.e., a nasal, a vowel) or a semi-vowel. It is shown in the following table.

Table 1

|   |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1st root ends in a nasal, or a semi-vowel or a vowel    | + 2nd root begins with p- | = Compound<br>[-Voice] → [+Voice]<br>p > b |
| ends in a nasal or a vowel or a semi vowel              | begins with t-            | t > d                                      |
| ends in a nasal or a vowel, or a vowel, or a semi-vowel | begins with c-            | c > j                                      |
| ends in a nasal or a vowel, or a semi-vowel             | begins with k-            | k > g                                      |



Examples :

p > b

p<sup>h</sup>i + pan = p<sup>h</sup>iban 'border of cloth'

cloth border

t<sup>h</sup>a + pum = t<sup>h</sup>abum 'the whole month'

month whole

k<sup>h</sup>onj + pi = k<sup>h</sup>onbi 'big toe'

leg mother

|                         |   |                      |                        |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| ləm + pan               | = | ləmban               | 'wild arum'            |
| land arum               |   |                      |                        |
| huy + pu                | = | huybu                | 'owner of dog'         |
| dog owner               |   |                      |                        |
| sən + pu                | = | sənbu                | 'owner of cow'         |
| cow owner               |   |                      |                        |
| ləy + pak               | = | ləybak               | 'clay'                 |
| land + broad            |   |                      |                        |
| caw + pəŋ               | = | cawbəŋ               | 'fool'                 |
| big to be fool          |   |                      |                        |
| <u>t &gt; d</u>         |   |                      |                        |
| p <sup>h</sup> i + ta   | = | p <sup>h</sup> ida   | 'type of cloth'        |
| cloth type              |   |                      |                        |
| k <sup>h</sup> oŋ + ta  | = | k <sup>h</sup> oŋda  | 'shape of leg'         |
| leg shape               |   |                      |                        |
| k <sup>h</sup> oy + toŋ | = | k <sup>h</sup> oydoŋ | 'one having big naval' |
| navel high              |   |                      |                        |
| t <sup>h</sup> əw + təw | = | t <sup>h</sup> əwdəw | 'mode of doing'        |
| duty + to do            |   |                      |                        |
| sen + ton               | = | sendon               | 'debt'                 |
| money to debt           |   |                      |                        |
| ləm + toŋ               | = | ləmdoŋ               | 'high land'            |
| land to be high         |   |                      |                        |
| ciŋ + toŋ               | = | ciŋdoŋ               | 'high hill'            |
| hill to be high         |   |                      |                        |

|                  |   |        |                  |
|------------------|---|--------|------------------|
| ciŋ + tum        | = | ciŋdum | 'hillock'        |
| hill to be round |   |        |                  |
| pa + ton         | = | padon  | 'end of eyelash' |
| eyelash tip      |   |        |                  |

### c > j

|                         |   |                      |                  |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------|
| p <sup>h</sup> i + caw  | = | p <sup>h</sup> ijaw  | 'big cloth'      |
| cloth to be big         |   |                      |                  |
| p <sup>h</sup> i + cəm  | = | p <sup>h</sup> ijəm  | 'ordinary cloth' |
| cloth ordinary          |   |                      |                  |
| t <sup>h</sup> oŋ + caw | = | t <sup>h</sup> oŋjaw | 'door'           |
| door to be big          |   |                      |                  |
| k <sup>h</sup> aŋ + caw | = | k <sup>h</sup> aŋjaw | 'big pan'        |
| pan to be big           |   |                      |                  |
| səm + ci                | = | səmji                | 'knot of hair'   |
| hair near               |   |                      |                  |
| k <sup>h</sup> aw + caw | = | k <sup>h</sup> awjaw | 'big bag'        |
| bag to be big           |   |                      |                  |
| həy + caw               | = | həyjaw               | 'big fruit'      |
| fruit to be big         |   |                      |                  |

### k > g

|                         |   |                      |             |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| p <sup>h</sup> i + kəŋ  | = | p <sup>h</sup> igəŋ  | 'dry cloth' |
| cloth to be dry         |   |                      |             |
| t <sup>h</sup> aŋ + kon | = | t <sup>h</sup> aŋgon | 'sickle'    |
| sword to be curved      |   |                      |             |