

MORPHOPHONEMIC CHANGES IN MEITEIRON COMPOUNDING

Dr. P. Madhubala
Manipur University
Imphal, India

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 deletion and (7) addition of semi-vowels.

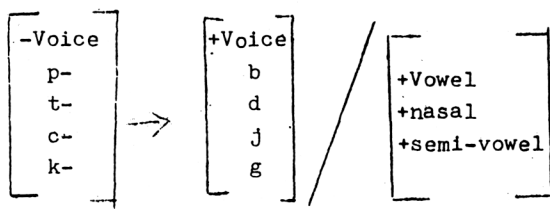
1. Voicing

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	+2nd root	=Compound
ends in a nasal, or a semi-vowel or a vowel	begins with p-	[-Voice] → [+Voice] 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

Voicing :



Examples:

p > b

^hi + pan = ^hiban 'border of cloth'
 cloth border

^ha + pum = ^habum 'the whole month'
 month whole

^hoŋ + pi = ^hoŋbi 'big toe'
 leg mother

lɔm + pan = lɔmban 'wild arum'
 land arum

huy + pu = huybu 'owner of dog'
 dog owner

sən + pu = sənbu 'owner of cow'
 cow owner

lɔy + pak = lɔybak 'clay'
 land + broad

caw + pəŋ = cawbəŋ 'fool'
 big to be fool

t > d

^hi + ta = ^hida 'type of cloth'
 cloth type

^hoŋ + ta = ^hoŋda 'shape of leg'
 leg shape

^hoy + toŋ = ^hoydoŋ 'one having big naval'
 navel high

^hw + təw = ^həwdəw 'mode of doing'
 duty + to do

sen + toŋ = sendoŋ '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 ^h i + caw =	p ^h ijaw	'big cloth'
cloth to be big		
p ^h i + cəm =	p ^h ijəm	'ordinary cloth'
cloth ordinary		
t ^h oŋ + caw =	t ^h oŋjaw	'door'
door to be big		
k ^h aŋ + caw =	k ^h aŋjaw	'big pan'
pan to be big		
səm + ci =	səmji	'knot of hair'
hair near		
k ^h aw + caw =	k ^h awjaw	'big bag'
bag to be big		
həy + caw =	həyjaw	'big fruit'
fruit to be big		

k > g

p ^h i + kəŋ =	p ^h iŋəŋ	'dry cloth'
cloth to be dry		
t ^h aŋ + kon =	t ^h aŋgon	'sickle'
sword to be curved		
k ^h on + kay =	k ^h ongay	'undesirable speech'
voice to break		
t ^h əw + kən =	t ^h əwgan	'guard'
duty to save		
siŋ + kəy =	siŋgəy	'shed of firewood'
firewood store		

p ^h ay + kən	=	p ^h aygən	'thigh'
thigh to be hard			
miŋ + kəw	=	miŋgəw	'term of address'
name to call			
leŋ + ka	=	leŋga	'same age'
shoulder to group			

Exception : In some compounding there is no changes of p,t,c,k if the 2nd root is immediately preceded by a nasal or semivowel or a vowel.

Examples :

p remains as p

ləm + pak	=	ləmpak	'meadow'
land to be broad			
ceŋ + pak	=	ceŋpak	'flattened rice'
rice to be broad			
ləw + pu	=	ləwpu	'owner of the paddy field'
paddy field owner			

t remains as t

paw + tak	=	pawtak	'advice'
news to indicate			
u + ton	=	uton	'top of the tree'
tree top			
mi + top	=	mitop	'outsider'
man others			
ya + ton	=	yaton	'tip of the tooth'
teeth tip			
lay + ton	=	layton	'tip of the tongue'
tongue tip			

c remains as c

k ^h oŋ + cət	=	k ^h oŋcət	'journey'
leg to go			
ləm + cət	=	ləmcət	'character'
land to go			