

## Verbal suffixes in Mising<sup>1</sup>

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The verb phrase in Mising is often polymorphemic in shape, its semantic role made operational by a process of agglutination of suffixes. While forms with two to four suffixes are quite frequent, (e.g. *gi+len+to* > *gilen**to*, *gi+len+bo+to* > *gilen**bo**to*, *gi+len+gor+to* > *gilen**gor**to*, *gi+len+bo+gor+to* > *gilen**bo**gor**to*), the realisation of a form like *gilen**bogorkin**ma:mi**lo:sin**da*, with the addition of eight suffixes to the root *gi*+,<sup>2</sup> is a distinct possibility in appropriate linguistic situations. This word may be broken up as follows:

<i>gi</i> +	'go/come'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> +	'go/come out'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bo</i> +	'go/come out, taking someone with'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bogor</i> +	'go/come out, taking someone with, hurriedly'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bogorkin</i> +	'know how to go/come out, taking someone with, hurriedly'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bogorkin</i> <i>ma</i>	'not know how to go/come out, taking someone with, hurriedly'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bogorkin</i> <i>ma:mi</i> <i>lo</i>	'if (subject) do/does not know how to go/come out, taking someone with hurriedly'
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bogorkin</i> <i>ma:mi</i> <i>lo:sin</i>	- <i>sin</i> and - <i>da</i> , in the present context,
<i>gi</i> <i>len</i> <i>bogorkin</i> <i>ma:mi</i> <i>lo:sin</i> <i>da</i>	lend a mild emphasis to the meaning of the preceding elements.

Of the eight suffixes above, *-len* ('emerge') and *-kin* ('know how') are actually roots in other contexts. Such roots also often function as the second element in compound roots.

It may also be seen from the above example that suffixes like *-len*, *-bo*, *-gor*, *-kin* cannot be placed word-finally, whereas negative (*-ma*), conditional

<sup>1</sup> This article originally appeared as an appendix to Tabu Taid's *A Dictionary of the Mising Language*, which was distributed at the 27th ICSTLL, Paris 1994. [Ed.]

<sup>2</sup> In this article, *ə* and *ɪ* are used to represent central vowels instead of the *c* and *v* of Taid's transcription. [Ed.]

(-milo) and emphatic morphemes (-sin, -da), etc., can take the word-final position like suffixes that signal tense, aspect, mode, interrogation, etc.

A list (not exhaustive) of the Mising verbal suffixes with indications of their semantic and grammatical functions follows. Examples of roots to which they can be added have also been given. (The suffixes in boldface are roots as well.)

Suffix	Typical preceding roots <sup>3</sup>	Resultant form class	Occurs word final		Broad Meaning
			Yes (+),	No (-)	
-ko	(all verbs)	n	+		place of an action
-kom	tag, yi:, dag	v	-		to cover
-ko:	ba:, sum, ber	v	-		to cross by an action
-ka	(all verbs)	v	+		(past tense marker)
-kakui	(all verbs)	v	+		'let us' go back and do something
-kag	do, tɪ:, mo	v	-		to ruin by an action
-kag	je:/jə:	v	-		to stun by an action
-kang	(movement verbs)	v	+		(past tense marker)
-kang	(movement verbs)	v	+		(imperative marker)
-kad	pɪ, sug, kag	v	-		to wet or dirty by an action
-kan	sud, lə:	v	-		to show or point out by an action
-kan	do, le, gad	v	-		to be suitable for an action
-kab	mo, kɪr, jo:	v	-		to close or cover by an action
-kam	la:, lu	n	+		fit or eligible for an action
-karag	lu, pe	v	-		to do something tellingly
-kalag	i, mo, tu	v	-		to do something wrongly
-kay/kaboy	(all verbs)	v	+		'let us' do something
-ka:	yir/yɪr, lu	v	-		to denigrate by an action
- <b>ka:</b>	do, tɪ:, yag	v	-		to taste by an action
-kid	bu, so	v	-		to make extremely tight by an action
- <b>kin/ken</b>	(all verbs)	v	-		to know how to do something

<sup>3</sup> For meanings of preceding roots, see Taid's dictionary. [Ed.]

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-kug	yab, də:	v	-	to uproot by an action
-kud	ka:, bər	v	-	to turn back with an action
-kum	gi, la:, mə	v	-	to assemble or bring together by an action
-kur	(all verbs?)	n	-	the time after an action
-kur	pad, də:	v	-	to pierce through with an action
-kulub	do, tɪ	v	-	to finish everything by an action
-ku:	mo, nɪ:	v	-	to disturb by an action
-ke	yum, təg, gam	v	-	to kill by an action
<b>-ken/kin</b>		v	-	(see -kin)
-keb/keleb	mo, lu, gi	v	-	to get into trouble by an action
-kɪ	(all verbs)	v	-	to try something by an action
-kid	do, sam	v	-	to level (grasses, plants) to the ground by an action
<b>-kin</b>	bu, ræg, təg	v	-	to snap (a rope, etc.)
-kira-msu	lu, gi, to	v	-	to fail to achieve by an action
-god	di:, pa, mo	v	-	to put a mark by an action
-gor	(all verbs)	v	-	to do something quickly
-go:	gi, lu, do	v	-	to move about doing an action
<b>-gan</b>	yu, yud	v	-	to keep (or make keep) by an action
-gab	yə:, rin, pag	v	-	to hold fast by an action
-gid	bu, so, seg	v	-	to tighten by an action
-gu:	do, mo, lu	v	-	to be favourable for an action <sup>4</sup>
-gere:su	do, tɪ:	v	-	to over(eat), to over(drink)
-ge:	mo, da	v	-	to open or make way by an action
-gəng	mə, dun	n	+	(to put something in a) container by an action

<sup>4</sup> The negative -gu:ma 'to be unfavourable' is more common.

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-gə:	lu	n/v	+/-	to find an alibi with an action
-ngo:/ngad	(all verbs)	n	+	the remaining part of an action
-ngasu	(all verbs)	v	-	to stop an action
-ngad	(see -ngo:)			
-ngab	(all verbs)	v	-	to finish an action
-nger	(all verbs?)	v	-	to be disgusted with an action
-ngir	ti, do	v	-	to be intoxicated by an action
-sod	bin, tæg, ræg	v	-	to cause (a rope, etc.) to snap by an action
-son	a:, gi, re:	v	-	to move from one to another by an action
-sor	læd, bu	v	-	to stretch something by an action
-sag	mo, ba:, to	v	-	to pledge something (to gods) by an action
-san	a:, lo	v	-	to dry by an action
-sar	lu, di:	v	-	to spread something by an action
-sa:	re:, la:, ni:	v	-	to move, or cause to move, upward by an action
-sa:	(all verbs?)	v	-	to begin to do something
-sid	do, ti:	v	-	(to eat/drink) to the last crumb/drop
-sin	(all verbs)	v	+	to confirm or emphasize an action <sup>5</sup>
-si:/si:	mo, mə, lə:	v	-	to keep something carefully
-su	(all verbs)	v	-	(generally, a reflexivizer)
-sum	(many verbs)	n/v	+/-	to indicate the end of an action
-sur	dəm, ga:, nig	v	-	to cause the liquid content to flow out by an action
-jog	pe:, gid, tæg	v	-	to cause a wound by an action

<sup>5</sup> -sin may be added to all verbs after tense markers; it is also used between a verb and the negative suffix -ma.