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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root ends in a nasal, or a semi-vowel or a vowel</th>
<th>+ 2nd root begins with p-</th>
<th>= Compound [-Voice]⇒ [+ Voice] p &gt; b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in a nasal or a vowel or a semi-vowel</td>
<td>begins with t-</td>
<td>t &gt; d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ends in a nasal or a vowel, or a vowel, or a semi-vowel</td>
<td>begins with c-</td>
<td>c &gt; j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ends in a nasal or a vowel, or a semi-vowel</td>
<td>begins with k-</td>
<td>k &gt; g</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voicing:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
-\text{Voice} \\
-\text{Voice} \\
+\text{Voice} \\
+\text{Voice} \\
\end{bmatrix}
\]

Examples:

\[ p > b \]

\[ p^h + \text{pan} = p^h \text{iban} \]

'border of cloth'

cloth border

\[ t^h + \text{pum} = t^h \text{abum} \]

'the whole month'

month whole

\[ k^h + \text{q} + \text{pi} = k^h \text{q} + \text{bi} \]

'big toe'

leg mother
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Bhutanese</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>land arum</td>
<td>ləm + pan</td>
<td>ləmban 'wild arum'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dog owner</td>
<td>huy + pu</td>
<td>huybu 'owner of dog'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cow owner</td>
<td>sən + pu</td>
<td>sənbu 'owner of cow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clay</td>
<td>ləy + pak</td>
<td>ləybak 'clay'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>big to be fool</td>
<td>caw + pəŋ</td>
<td>cawpəŋ 'fool'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t &gt; d</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cloth type</td>
<td>pʰi + ta</td>
<td>pʰida 'type of cloth'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leg shape</td>
<td>kʰɔŋ + ta</td>
<td>kʰɔŋda 'shape of leg'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>navel high</td>
<td>kʰɔy + ton</td>
<td>kʰɔydon 'one having big\ naval'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duty to do</td>
<td>tʰəw + taw</td>
<td>tʰəwdəw 'mode of doing'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>money to debt</td>
<td>sen + ton</td>
<td>sendon 'debt'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high land</td>
<td>ləm + ton</td>
<td>ləmdon 'high land'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hill to be high</td>
<td>ciŋ + ton</td>
<td>ciŋdon 'high hill'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
cig + tum = cigdum   'hillock'
hill to be round
pa + ton = padon   'end of eyelash'
eyelash tip

c > j

phî + ca = phijaw   'big cloth'
cloth to be big
phî + cêm = phijêm   'ordinary cloth'
cloth ordinary
thog + ca = thogjaw   'door'
door to be big
khaŋ + ca = khanjaw   'big pan'
pan to be big
sêm + ci = semji   'knot of hair'
hair near
kʰaw + ca = kʰawjaw   'big bag'
bag to be big
høy + ca = hoyjaw   'big fruit'
fruit to be big

k > g

phî + kâŋ = phìgəŋ   'dry cloth'
cloth to be dry
thâŋ + kôn = thâŋgon   'sickle'
sword to be curved


**k'ongay**  
undesirable speech

**t'awgæn**  
'guard'

**singəy**  
'shed of firewood'

**p'aygæn**  
'thigh'

**mïgəw**  
'term of address'

**leŋga**  
'same age'

**læmpak**  
'meadow'

**ceŋpak**  
'flattened rice'

**læwpu**  
'owner of the paddy field'

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

**læmpak**  
'meadow'

**ceŋpak**  
'flattened rice'

**læwpu**  
'owner of the paddy field'

voice  to break

duty  to save

firewood store

thigh to be hard

name to call

shoulder to group
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

kʰoŋ + cət = kʰoŋcət 'journey'
leg to go

ləm + cət = ləmcət 'character'
land to go

mi + cəm = micəm 'layman'
man simple

məy + cək = məycək 'pang of sorrow'
fire to burn

k remains as k

wa + kət = wakət 'complain'
word to give
u + kup = ukup  'pieces of wood'

ləw + kon = ləwkən  'paddy field'

paddy piece

ləy + kəŋ = ləykəŋ  'dry land'

earth to be dry

2. Deaspiration

In deaspiration process, voicing rule will apply first and in the second step deaspiration will apply to the aspirated sounds. So, the voiceless aspirated stop pʰ, tʰ, kʰ and voiceless fricative s become unaspirated voiced b, d, g and j, respectively, when the second is preceded by a vowel or a semi-vowel or a nasal. After applying voicing rule the initial of the second root pʰ, tʰ and kʰ are deaspirated.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>2nd root begins with</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in a</td>
<td></td>
<td>pʰ, tʰ, kʰ &amp; s-</td>
<td></td>
<td>pʰ &gt; b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nasal, or</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>tʰ &gt; d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a semivowel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kʰ &gt; g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>s &gt; j</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deaspiration:

\[
\begin{bmatrix}
  \text{pʰ} \\
  \text{tʰ} \\
  \text{kʰ} \\
  \text{s}
\end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix}
  \text{b} \\
  \text{d} \\
  \text{g} \\
  \text{j}
\end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix}
  \text{+nasal} \\
  \text{+semivowel} \\
  \text{+vowel}
\end{bmatrix}
\]
Examples:

\[ p^h > b \]

\[ p^h i + p^h a m = p^h i b a m \quad 'condition' \]
cloth, place

\[ s a + p^h a m = s a b a m \quad 'place where thing to be made' \]
to make place

\[ t^h > d \]

\[ p^h a w + t^h o y = p^h a w d o y \quad 'interest as paddy' \]
paddy, more

\[ s e n + t^h o y = s e n d o y \quad 'interest' \]
money, more

\[ k^h > g \]

\[ p^h i + k^h a = p^h i g a \quad 'lining' \]
cloth, under

\[ s e n + k^h a w = s e n g a w \quad 'purse' \]
money, bag

\[ s > j \]

\[ s i n j + s i t = s i n j i t \quad 'an instrument to scrap turmeric, ginger etc. to powder' \]
ginger to scrap

\[ s a m + s e t = s a m j e t \quad 'comb' \]
hair to be dress

Exception: In some compounding there is no changes of \[ p^h, t^h, k^h \text{ and } s \] if the second root is preceded
by a vowel, or a semi vowel or a nasal and also voiceless stop p, t and k.

\( p^h \) remains as \( p^h \)

\[ k^h \text{o}_n + p^h \text{a}_m = k^h \text{o}_n p^h \text{a}_m \]

'Place for putting foot'

\( t^h \text{o}_k + p^h \text{a}_m = t^h \text{o}_k p^h \text{a}_m \)

'exit'

\( h_i + p^h \text{a}_m = h_i p^h \text{a}_m \)

'sleeping place'

\( k\text{e}_t + p^h \text{a}_m = k\text{e}_t p^h \text{a}_m \)

'place where to keep offerings'

\( t^h \) remains as \( t^h \)

\[ p^h \text{a}_m + t^h \text{o}_n = p^h m t^h \text{o}_n \]

'higher post'

\( h\text{a}_y + t^h \text{u}_m = h\text{a}_y t^h \text{u}_m \)

'A fruit'

(Atalatia monaphalia)

\( k^h \) remains as \( k^h \)

\[ t^h \text{a}_ + k^h \text{a}_y = t^h \text{a}_ k^h \text{a}_y \]

'fortnight'

\( h\text{a}_y + k^h \text{a}_ = h\text{a}_y k^h \text{a}_ \)

'plum'

\( s \) remains as \( s \)

\[ p^h_i + s \text{a} = p^h_i s \text{a} \]

'mode of weaving'

'cloth + to make
\[ t^h \text{aw} + \text{sin} = t^h \text{awsin} \]
\[ \text{duty} + \text{to arrange} \]
\[ cak + \text{ta} = cakta \]
\[ \text{rice} + \text{mode} \]
\[ yot + \text{pak} = yotpak \]
\[ \text{iron} + \text{to be broad} \]

3. Nasal change

The three nasals \( m, n, \& \eta \) are found to undergo irregular changes while compounding. These changes can be studied under two categories - (1) changes of nasals and (2) loss or deletion of nasals (details will be under the heading of loss or deletion).

3.1 Changes of nasals

In the process of changing the two elements are affected. \( \eta \), the nasal changes is of reciprocal nature. In the first step voicing rule will be applied to the initial voiceless sound of the second root and correspondingly it will affect the preceding sound of the first root final. It is shown by the following table.
Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Root</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>2nd Root</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in</td>
<td></td>
<td>begins with</td>
<td></td>
<td>(k &gt; g corresponding to the preceding sound and also m &gt; n corresponding to the following velar sound g)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-m</td>
<td></td>
<td>k-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ends in begins with (p > b corresponding to the preceding voiced sound & also n > m corresponding to the following bilabial sound b)

| -n       |   | p-        |   |          |

ends in begins with (k^h > g, the initial of the second root aspirated k^h is de-aspirated and changes corresponding to the preceding voiced sound and also n > n corresponding to the following velar sound g)

| -n       |   | k^h-      |   |          |

**RECIPROCAL:**

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{-Voice} & \rightarrow \text{+Voice} \\
k^- & \rightarrow g \\
p^- & \rightarrow b \\
k^h^- & \rightarrow g \\
+\text{Nasal} & \rightarrow +\text{Nasal} \\
m & \rightarrow n \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
+\text{nasal} \\
+\text{Volar} \\
+\text{Bilabial}
\end{align*}
\]
Examples:

Ends in \(-m\)

\(n\dot{a}m + k\dot{a}n = n\dot{a}g\dot{g}n\) \(\text{'back (body)'}\)

back + to be hard

k\(o\)m + k\(u\)t = k\(o\)ng\(\ddot{g}\)t \(\text{'}pit'\)

pit + to be narrow

Ends in \(-n\)

s\(\ddot{a}\)n + p\(a\)n = s\(\ddot{a}\)mb\(\ddot{a}\)n \(\text{'fence'}\)

cow + barrier

l\(a\)n + p\(a\) = l\(a\)mb\(a\) \(\text{'}match'\)

war + to oppose

Ends in \(-n\) and begins with \(k^h\) in the second root:

s\(e\)n + k\(^h\)aw = s\(e\)gg\(a\)w \(\text{'purse'}\)

money + bag

s\(\ddot{a}\)n + k\(^h\)om = s\(\ddot{a}\)gg\(o\)m \(\text{'milk'}\)

cow + milk

The above examples have exceptions. There is no change of \(n\) and \(m\), only voicing rule applied to the 2nd initial sound. The nasals remain as it is.

Examples:

\(m\) remains as \(m\)

l\(a\)m + k\(a\)nj = l\(a\)mg\(a\)nj \(\text{'dry land'}\)

land + to dry

k\(u\)m + k\(a\)nj\(b\)e = k\(u\)m\(k\ddot{a}\)nj\(b\)e \(\text{'draught'}\)

year + to dry
n remains as n

sən + pi = sənbi  'cow'
cow + mother

yen + pi = yenbi  'hen'enhens + mother

pən + kʰa = pənkʰa  'south of the barrier'
barrier + south

sən + kʰa = sənkʰa  'to contribute one's share'
money + to contribute

4. Changes of lateral sound

The lateral l changes into r, if it is preceded by a vowel or a semi-vowel.

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Root</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>2nd Root</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in vowel or semi vowels</td>
<td>begins with l-</td>
<td></td>
<td>l &gt; r</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trill: \[
\begin{array}{c}
+ \text{lateral} \\
\hline
l
\end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c}
+ \text{trill} \\
\hline
r
\end{array} / \begin{array}{c}
+ \text{vowel} \\
+ \text{semi vowel}
\end{array}
\]

Examples:

pi + lan = piran  'tears'
tear + coweb

mi + ləm = mirəm  'foreign land'
man + land
ga + li = nari 'fermented fish'
fish+to store

u + li = uri 'creeper'
tree+cane

po + lam = poram 'way for pawn'
pawn+way

paw + law = pawraw 'proverb'
news + to take

møy + lik = mayrik 'spark'
fire+spark

Exception: The lateral ₁ remains as ₁ when it is preceded by voiceless stop (p,t,k) and also by nasal sounds.

\[
[₁] \rightarrow [₁] / \left[ \begin{array}{l}
\text{Voiceless} \\
\text{p,t,k} \\
\text{and + nasal}
\end{array} \right]
\]

Examples:

pot + lam = potlam 'requirements'
thing+way

pʰək + len = pʰəklen 'big mat'
mat best

kʰəŋ + lək = kʰəŋlək 'space between toes'
leg + between

4.1 In the process of changing the initial of the second root ₁ changes into ᵠ if it is preceded by a vowel, or a semi vowel. Then the preceding low vowel of the first root a changes into central mid vowel ə.
Examples:

\[ \text{a} > \text{a} \]
\[ \text{sa} + \text{lu} = \text{səru} \quad \text{'bone'} \]
\[ \text{animal} + \text{bone} \]

\[ \text{ma} + \text{lon} = \text{məron} \quad \text{'his/her language'} \]
\[ \text{his/her} + \text{language} \]

4.2 However, there is one exception that the lateral \( l > m \) after \( m \). The process involved is to assimilate to \( m \) and become gemininated.

Example: \( l > m \)

\[ \text{pəm} + \text{len} = \text{pəməmən} \quad \text{'main seat in a house'} \]

place + best

5. Changes of vowels

In some compounds certain vowels are found change in Meiteiron. The changes took place in three ways and can be discussed in two sections. 1. Changes of \( \text{a} \rightarrow \text{e} \) and \( \text{o} \rightarrow \text{u} \). 2. Changes of \( \text{a} \rightarrow \text{a} \).

5.1 \( \text{e} \rightarrow \text{a} \) and \( \text{o} \rightarrow \text{u} \)

Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root ends in n +</th>
<th>2nd root begins with - voice</th>
<th>= compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \text{e} \rightarrow \text{a} )</td>
<td>( \text{e} \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
<td>( \text{a} \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{e} \rightarrow \text{e} )</td>
<td>( \text{e} \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
<td>( \text{o} \rightarrow \text{u} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \text{e} \rightarrow \text{a} \quad \text{when} \quad \text{g} \rightarrow \emptyset /v-c \]
Examples:

cẹn + ton = cadon 'broken rice'
rice + small

\( k^h \circ n + k^h a \) = huga 'sole'
leg + below

5.2 The vowel \( a > o \) only in the four roots e.g. \( t^h a \) 'chest', sa 'body', cak 'rice' and ma 'he/she'. Out of four roots, again a root having \(-k\) in the final will also be deleted.

Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>= Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in (-a) and (-k)</td>
<td>begins with</td>
<td>- voice</td>
<td>i) ( a &gt; o )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ii) ( a &gt; o ) and also ( k \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example:

t\( ^h a + p a k \) = t\( ^h b a k \) 'chest'
chest + to be broad

sa + tum = sadum 'flesh'
body + to be round

ca\( k + k \circ a \) = ca\( g a g \) 'rice without curry'
rice + to be dry

ma + pa = m\( o p a \) 'his/her father'
he/she + father

However, there are exceptions for all the above changes. Examples are on the next page.
ceŋ + pak = ceŋpak  'flattened rice'
rice+to be broad
kʰonŋ + pak = kʰonŋpak  'foot'
leg + to be broad
sa + pʰi = sapʰi  'dress for hunting'
body+cloth
cak + len = caklen  'dinner'
rice+best
cak + saŋ = caksəŋ  'kitchen'
rice+house

6. Loss or deletion

The loss of a consonant is usually related to articulatory processes in order to make pronunciation easier. The deletion may be discussed under the following categories: (1) loss of voiceless t & k (2) loss of nasals.

6.1 Loss of voiceless t & k

The final sound of the first root gets deleted when a voiceless sound as its initial of the second root and also the initial voiceless sound of the second root is changed into voiced sounds.
Table 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>2nd root</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>compounding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in</td>
<td>-t</td>
<td>begins with</td>
<td></td>
<td>t → ∅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless</td>
<td>t-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vl &gt; Vd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ends in</td>
<td>-k</td>
<td>begins with</td>
<td></td>
<td>k → ∅</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voiceless</td>
<td>k-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vl &gt; Vd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(in such cases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the preceding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>vowel of the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>first root is</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>shorten as</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a &gt; ∅)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\begin{bmatrix} -\text{voice} \\ t- \\ k- \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} +\text{voice} \\ d- \\ g- \end{bmatrix}\quad \text{when}\quad \begin{bmatrix} t \\ k \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \emptyset \quad \text{c} \quad \text{c} \quad \text{geminination}
\]

Example: \( t > \emptyset \)

\( k^hut + \text{tag} = k^hudan \)  'Part of the hand between wrist & elbow'

hand + joint

\( k^hut + \text{top} = k^hudop \)  'ring'

hand + add

\( k > \emptyset : \) when \( k- \) is deleted the vowel of the first root \( a \) is shorten and changes into \( a > \emptyset \).

Examples:

\( \text{cak} + \text{ka} = \cdot \text{caga} \)  'scorch rice'

cake + to burn

\( \text{cak} + \text{kum} = \text{cagum} \)  'waste rice'

cake + waste.
Exception: There are some compounding which have no deletion of т and к.

Example:

\[ k^h \text{ut} + \text{ta} = k^h \text{utta} \quad '\text{shape of hand}' \]
hand + shape

\[ s\text{ak} + \text{ta} = s\text{akta} \quad '\text{shape of face}' \]
face + shape

6.2 Loss of nasals

The nasal sound of the 1st root final gets deleted when a nasal sound is in the initial position of the second root.

Table 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root ends in -m</th>
<th>2nd root begins with n-</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>compounding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( m \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( n &gt; m )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root ends in -n</th>
<th>2nd root begins with n-, p-, t-, c-</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>compounding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( \eta \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( o &gt; u )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( e &gt; \text{a} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root ends in -n</th>
<th>2nd root begins with l-</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>compounding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( n \rightarrow \emptyset )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( l &gt; r )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2.1 \( m \rightarrow \emptyset \)

When the nasal sound \( m \) of the 1st root is deleted and also the initial of the second root \( n > m \).

Example:

\[ \text{im} + \text{nu} \text{g} = \text{imug} \quad '\text{inside the house}' \]
house + inside
pʰəm + nuŋ  =  pʰəmmuŋ  'bed'
place + inside

6.2.2 ŋ → Ø

The nasal sound ŋ of the first root final is deleted and also the vowel of the first root o > u and e > æ.

Examples:

kʰoŋ + niŋ  =  kʰuniŋ  'heel'
leg + back

kʰoŋ + pom  =  kʰubom  'calf'
leg + bulging

cẹŋ + kem  =  cẹgem  'broken rice'
rice + break

cẹŋ + ton  =  cẹdon  'broken rice'
rice + small

Exception: In some environments the nasal ŋ remains intact and also there is no change of the 1st root vowel.

Example:

kʰoŋ + pak  =  kʰoŋpak  'foot'
leg + ŋ to be broad

kʰoŋ + kap  =  kʰoŋkap  'foot step'
leg + span

cẹŋ + pʰu  =  cẹŋpʰu  'a pitcher for storing rice'
rice + pot
6.2.3 \( n \rightarrow \emptyset \)

The nasal sound \( n \) of the 1st root final is deleted and also the initial of the second root \( l > r \) due to the preceding vowel.

Example:
yen + lum = yerum 'egg'
hen + egg

7.0 Loss of vowels

The vowel \( a \) gets deleted while compounding in two instances.

\[ [+\text{Vowel } a ] \rightarrow \emptyset / [ ] \]

Example:
ca + ani = cani 'two hundred'
hundred+two
ca + ahum = cahum 'three hundred'
hundred+three

8.0 Addition of semi vowel

While compounding the semivowel \( w \) and \( y \) are added. The semi vowel \( w \) is added (1) between semivowel \( l \) and mid back vowel (2) low vowel \( a \) or high front vowel \( i \) and mid back vowel \( o \). The semi vowel \( y \) is added between \( a - o \). It is shown in the following table.
Table 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st root</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>2nd root</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ends in semi</td>
<td></td>
<td>vowel -w, -y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begins with</td>
<td></td>
<td>o-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ends in -a or</td>
<td></td>
<td>-i</td>
<td></td>
<td>+w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>begins with</td>
<td></td>
<td>o-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ends in -a</td>
<td></td>
<td>o-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Addition: $\emptyset \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} w \\ y \end{array} \right] / \left[ \begin{array}{c} w \rightarrow o \\ a \text{ or } i \rightarrow o \\ a \rightarrow o \end{array} \right]$

Example:

- $t^h\text{aw} + o^h g = t^h\text{awwo}g$ 'nature of work'
- duty+nature
- $s + u n = s a w u n$ 'leather'
- animal+skin
- $n a + i n = n a y i n$ 'ear ring'
- ear + to wear

References


