Verbal suffixes in Mising[1]

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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. *gɨ+len+to > g ɨlento, g ɨ+len+bo+to > g ɨlenboto, g ɨ+len+gor+to > g ɨlengorto, g ɨ+len+bo+gor+to > g ɨlenbogorto*), the realisation of a form like *gɨlenbogorkinma:mɨlo:sinda*, with the addition of eight suffixes to the root *gɨ+*,[2] is a distinct possibility in appropriate linguistic situations. This word may be broken up as follows:

gɨ +	'go/come'
gɨlen +	'go/come *out*'
gɨlen*bo* +	'go/come out, *taking someone with*'
gɨlenbo*gor* +	'go/come out, taking someone with, *hurriedly*'
gɨlenbogor*kin* +	'*know* how to go/come out, taking someone with, hurriedly'
gɨlenbogorkin*ma*	'*not* know how to go/come out, taking someone with, hurriedly'
gɨlenbogorkinma:*mɨlo*	'*if* (subject) do/does not know how to go/come out, taking someone with hurriedly'
gɨlenbogorkinma:mɨlo:*sin*	*-sin* and *-da*, in the present context,
gɨlenbogorkinma:mɨlo:sin*da*	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

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[1] 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.]
[2] In this article, ə and ɨ are used to represent central vowels instead of the c and v of Taid's transcription. [Ed.]

(-*m*$\dot{i}$*lo*) 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[3]	Resultant form class	Occurs word final Yes (+), No (-)	Broad Meaning
-*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, ti:, 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*	*pi, 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, kir, 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/yir, lu*	v	-	to denigrate by an action
-**ka:**	*do, ti:, yag*	v	-	to taste by an action
-*kid*	*bu, so*	v	-	to make extremely tight by an action
-**kin/ken**	(all verbs)	v	-	to know how to do something

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3   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	gɨ, 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, tɨ	v	-	to finish everything by an action
-ku:	mo, nɨ:	v	-	to disturb by an action
-ke	yum, təg, gam	v	-	to kill by an action
-ken/kin		v	-	(see -kin)
-keb/keleb	mo, lu, gɨ	v	-	to get into trouble by an action
-kɨ	(all verbs)	v	-	to try something by an action
-kɨd	do, sam	v	-	to level (grasses, plants) to the ground by an action
-kin	bu, rəg, təg	v	-	to snap (a rope, etc.)
-kɨra-msu	lu, gɨ, 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:	gɨ, lu, do	v	-	to move about doing an action
-gan	yu, yud	v	-	to keep (or make keep) by an action
-gab	yə:, rɨn, 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[4]
-gere:su	do, tɨ:	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

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4 The negative -gu:ma 'to be unfavourable' is more common.

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-gəː	*lu*	n/v	+/-	to find an alibi with an action
-ngoː/ngad	(all verbs)	n	+	the remaining part of an action
-ngasu	(all verbs)	v	-	to stop an action
-ngad	(see *-ngoː*)			
-ngab	(all verbs)	v	-	to finish an action
-nger	(all verbs?)	v	-	to be disgusted with an action
-ngɨr	*tɨ, do*	v	-	to be intoxicated by an action
-sod	*bɨn, təg, rəg*	v	-	to cause (a rope, etc.) to snap by an action
-son	*aː, gɨ, reː*	v	-	to move from one to another by an action
-sor	*ləd, bu*	v	-	to stretch something by an action
-sag	*mo, baː, to*	v	-	to pledge something (to gods) by an action
-san	*aː, lo*	v	-	to dry by an action
-sar	*lu, dɨː*	v	-	to spread something by an action
-saː	*reː, laː, nɨː*	v	-	to move, or cause to move, upward by an action
-saː	(all verbs?)	v	-	to begin to do something
-sid	*do, tɨː*	v	-	(to eat/drink) to the last crumb/drop
-sin	(all verbs)	v	+	to confirm or emphasize an action[5]
-sɨː/sɨː	*mo, mə, ləː*	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, gaː, nɨg*	v	-	to cause the liquid content to flow out by an action
-jog	*peː, gid, təg*	v	-	to cause a wound by an action

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[5] *-sin* may be added to all verbs after tense markers; it is also used between a verb and the negative suffix *-ma*.

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-jon	(many verbs)	n/v	+/-	companion (or to accompany) in an action
-jo:	(all verbs)	v	-	to be expert in an action
-jar	mo, lu	v	-	to cause to grow well by an action
-jin	yum, ed	v	-	to squeeze out the liquid fully by an action
-jed(su)	sa:, gɨ, dug	v	-	to encounter a dirty object
-jeb/jem	sa:, do:	v	-	to step over, sit over, etc. something
-jer	lu, ga:	v	-	to scatter something by an action
-nyɨ:	(many verbs)	v	-	to be bad or adverse for an action
-to	(all verbs)	v	-	(imperative marker)
-to	(all verbs?)	v	+	(past tense marker)
-tog	gɨ, yud, sar	v	-	to move in a southerly direction with an action
-tog	(occasional variant of imperative -to)			
-to:	lə, mo	v	-	to cause something to tumble down by an action
-tag	sum, ber, ra	v	-	to be engaged in an action in large numbers
-tag	do, tɨ:	n	+	an item of food (taken with another item or a drink)
-tag	(many verbs)	v	+	(past tense marker)
-tab	gə, o, nɨ:, yud	v	-	to fall down or cause to fall down by an action
-tid	ri:, mo	v	-	to cover something by an action
-tum	(many verbs)	v	-	to obstruct or prevent an action
-tung	(all verbs?)		-	(recent past marker)
-tur	mo, kab	v	-	to bring back to life by an action
-tu:	(many verbs)	v	-	to leave an action half-done

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-tu:	təg pa, rəg	v	-	to make into two or more parts by an action
-ten	(all verbs?)	v	-	to do or be something again
-tər	(all verbs?)	n/v	+/-	(to come to) the end of an action
-tɨ	(all verbs)	v	-	to do or be something always or repeatedly
-tɨ:	(many verbs)	v	-	to be satiated by an action[6]
-do	(all verbs)	v	+	habitual present marker
-don/dun	gud, mɨr	v	-	to swell up in an action
-don/donəi	(all verbs)	v	+	(-do followed by interrogative marker)
-dor	mud, yab	v	-	to make (a fire) aflame by an action
-dag	(all verbs)	v	+	(habitual present or present progressive marker)
-dan	(all verbs?)	v	-	to do something positively
-dar	je:/jə:, ud	v	-	to make awake by an action
-dung	(all verbs)	v	+	(present progressive marker)
-dud(su)	si, e	v	-	to dirty by an action
-dub	mo, sam, nɨ:	v	-	to damage or harm severely by an action
-dum(su)	lu, i, mo	v	-	to extend help by an action
-dɨ	(all verbs)	n	+	time for an action
-dɨr	mə:, to, gɨ	n/v	+/-	to feel bad or disgusted with an action
-no:	(many verbs)	v	-	to do something in advance
-na	(many verbs)	v	-	to be helped by something to do an action
-nam	(all verbs)	n/adj	+	the act of doing something; (that) which is done

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6   Co-occurence with the negativiser -ma is more common.

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-*nə*	(all verbs)	adj/n	+	doer; agent of an action
-**n***i*g	*sa:, sum*	v	-	to get pierced by something in an action
-*n i r*	*mo, yad, yum*	v	-	to grind or make bits of something with an action
-*po*	(all verbs?)	v	-	to like, or be good for, an action
-*pog*	*u, bi:*	v	-	to be brimful
-*pom*	(many verbs)	v	-	to do something in a group
-*por*	*dəm, tu, ta:*	v	-	to break or undo something by an action
-*po:*	(all verbs?)	v	-	to lead an action; to do something while someone else waits or does something else
-*po:təi*	(many verbs)	v	+	to entreat someone for an action
-*pag*	*do, ti:*	v	-	to eat up or drink up
-*pag*	*gə, ər, lu*	v	-	to put something away by an action
-*pad*	*g i, tu*	v	-	to cross (a path) with an action
-*pan*	*mo, n i:, nər*	v	-	to take persons or things apart with an action
-**pa:**	*ma, t i, g i*	v	-	to get something or be benefited in an action
-*pa:/pai*	(all verbs)	v	-	(The action is permissible)
-*pa:yə*	(all verbs?)	v	-	(The action will have to be performed)
-**pid**	*g i, də:*	v	-	to get scattered with an action
-*pir*	*gud, tum*	v	-	to bend or fold by an action
-*pum*	*du:, dag, kəd*	v	-	to come close or bring together with an action
-*ped*	*dəm, mo, ab*	v	-	to kill by an action
-*pen*	*dəm, mo, n i:*	v	-	to break or dismantle by an action
-**pe:**(*su*)	*sa:, gag, tu*	v	-	to cut oneself by an action

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-pə	(all verbs)	v	+	(non-finite, often followed by another non-finite element *əmna*)
-pɨ	*gɨ, dug*	v	-	to catch up with someone by an action
-pɨd	*mo, sun, lu*	v	-	to cure or rescue by an action
-pɨn	*gə, o:*	v	-	to cause water to dry in an action
-pɨ:	*gɨ, dug, ngə:*	v	-	to reach a destination by an action
-bo	(many verbs)	v	-	to allow or make someone a companion in an action
-bo	(all verbs)	v	+	(used after a tense marker to indicate completion or immediacy of an action)
-bom	*i, gɨ, lu, mo*	v	-	to get along with an action
-bolog	*gɨ, tu*	v	-	to overstep and fall in an action
-bor	*lab, tam*	v	-	to spread (wings, leaves, etc.) by an action
-bo:	*də:, dug*	v	-	to go beyond or over something in an action
-bo:je/bo:y	(many verbs)	v	+	let us start an action now
-bag(su)	*do, tɨ:*	v	-	to cause mouth thrush in an action
-bad/bar	(all verbs?)	v	-	to do or be something in excess
-ban	(all verbs)	v	-	to surpass by or in an action
-bar	(see *-bad*)			
-bala:su	*i, lu*	v	-	to lose all sense of proportion as a result of doing something excessively
-bi	(many verbs)	v	-	to do something for someone[7]
-bɨ/bɨ:	*do, pɨ, dun*	v	-	to make full by an action

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[7] Benefactive *-bi* means 'give' as a main verb. See Taid's dictionary, p. 107. [Ed.]

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-bug	(many verbs)	n/v	+/-	to begin an action for the first time
-bud	sam, n*i*g	v	-	to cause something to go under or inside by an action
-bur	sam, n*i*g, tag	v	-	to loosen the soil by an action
-beg	ka:, ma, lu	v	-	to find or be able to partake of something in an action
-bid	do, le, gad	v	-	to have finished something before the advent of inconvenient or unfavourable times
-bin	bu, rad, kab	v	-	to clear or clean something by an action
-bi:	(see *-bi:*)			
-mo	(all verbs)	v	-	to cause or allow to do or be something
-mo:	(many verbs)	v	-	to have the leisure to do something
-ma	(all verbs)	v	+	(negative marker)
-man	(many verbs)	v	-	to do something for fun
-mab	n*i*:, nər	v	-	to level or suppress something by an action
-ma:	(all verbs)	v	-	(negative marker in non-final positions)
-mid	mo, mud, yab	v	-	to put out (fire, etc.) by an action
-mi:	mə:, ka:	v	-	to think or see attentively
-mur	(many verbs)	v	-	to do something wrongly
-mig	tub, təg, nər	v	-	to turn into powder or very small bits by an action
-min	(many verbs)	v	-	to follow or join someone in an action
-milo	(all verbs)	v	+	"if" (conditional marker; syntactically non-finite)
-rob	dag, g*i*, len	v	-	to start an action in right earnest
-ro:	(many verbs)	n/v	+/-	after an action is over

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-ra(su)	*mo, tu, ni:*	v	-	to get a footing by an action
-ra(su)	*gə, du:*	v	-	to take shelter or rest with an action
-ri	*gi, lu:*	v	-	to obstruct by an action
-ri:	*dəm, yon*	v	-	to cause to fall by an action
-rug	*do, ti:, ti*	n	+	the left-over after an action
-rum	*po:, tə:, pa*	v	-	to cover all over by an action
-rɔ	(many verbs)	n	+	the price of an action
-rid	*mo, lu, je:*	v	-	to frighten or threaten by an action
-rig	*lu, je:*	v	-	to respond by an action
-lod	(many verbs)	n	+	the way an action is performed
-lom	*mo, lu, je:*	v	-	to frighten by an action
-lo:	*pa, mo, tag*	v	-	to clear (jungle) by an action
-la	(all verbs)	v	+	(non-finite marker)
-lang	(all verbs)	v	+	(imperative marker in the future tense)
-lang	(all verbs)	v	+	(suffix used after tense suffixes to mark interrogation with negative expectation)
-lag	*i, lu, mo*	v	-	to make a mistake in an action
-lad	*gi, lu, tu:*	v	-	to reverse an action
-la:	(many verbs)	v	-	to be able to do something ("can")
-la:je/la:y	(many verbs)	v	+	"let us undertake" an action
-lu(su)	*mo, pi*	v	-	to mix by an action
-lum	*tə, bid*	v	-	to submerge by an action
-lu:	*mo, si:/si:*	v	-	to cause (water) to get muddy by an action
-lig	(many verbs)	v	-	(diverse meanings with different verbs, but generally implies getting along with an action)

Suffix	Typical preceding roots	Resultant form class	Occurs word final	Broad Meaning
-liː/niː	(all verbs?)	n/v	+/-	(to) desire to do something
-yo	(all verbs)	v	+	(negative imperative: "don't!")
-yo(su)	*lu, mo, og*	v	-	to try to irritate by an action
-yod	*dəː, sar, gɨ*	v	-	to move in a different direction
-yai/yyai	(all verbs)	v	+	(conditional past marker)
-yag	*mo, nur, təg*	v	-	to make an opening (through a fence) by an action
-yaː(su)	*lu, mo, dəm*	v	-	to keep away from something by an action
-yad	*mo, lu, yir*	v	-	to persuade someone by an action
-yar	*gɨ, duː, baː*	v	-	to do something for a long time
-yid	*do, gɨ, lu*	v	-	to have a regular practice of doing something
-yin/yɨn(su)	*məː, lu*	v	-	to console or comfort oneself
-yir/yɨr	*lu, mo, po*	v	-	to teach by an action
-yir/yɨr(su)	*lu, mo, po*	v	-	learn by an action
-yud	*mo, sar, kag*	v	-	to drown by an action
-yub	*mo, niː, riː*	v	-	to put to sleep by an action
-yum	*kaː, gə*	v	-	to look nice
-yed	*gɨ, dag, og*	v	-	to surround by an action
-yə	(all verbs)	v	+	(future tense marker)
-yən/yənəi	(all verbs)	v	+	(future tense marker followed by question marker)

Hundreds of reduplicative verbal suffixes are also used by Mising speakers quite frequently. In many cases, the second element rhymes with, and reinforces the meaning of, the first element. In some cases, such reinforcement may be effected by merely repeating the first element. There are also instances of reduplicative suffixes where the two elements together express a single meaning, the first element alone being incapable of carrying any meaning. A proper linguistic study is sure to reveal many interesting

semantic and morphological features of these reduplicative verbal suffixes. A few examples (out of the hundreds) are given below:

	Reduplicative suffix		
Root	First element	Second element	Broad meaning
gɨ 'go/come'	*gɨ+pid*	*gɨ+yid*	to go away in different directions
mo 'do'	*mo+pen*	*mo+ren*	to dismantle completely
lu 'say'	*lu+lag*	*lu+sag*	to make mistakes in saying something
aː 'come in'	*aː+son*	*aː+yon*	(of diseases) to be highly contagious
bu 'pull'	*bu+kɨn*	*bu+rɨn*	to cause (ropes, thread, etc.) to snap
mo 'do'	*mo+se*	*mo+ye*	to waste unnecessarily
piː 'be enough'	*piː+sud*	*piː+lud*	to be inadequate in quantity
do 'eat'	*do+jer*	*do+yer*	to make a large area dirty while eating
lu 'say'	*lu+tum*	*lu+lum*	to speak incoherently
gɨ 'go/come'	*gɨ+tər*	*gɨ+tər*	to wander about without any destination
tiː 'drink'	*tiː+da*	*tiː+da*	to drink on and on
to 'wait'	*to+kiː*	*to+ram*	to get disgusted with waiting
i 'do'	*i+loː*	*i+ka*	(it hardly matters whether he) does it or not
mo 'do'	*mo+rɨd*	*mo+keː*	to threaten in many ways
do 'eat'	*do+sub*	*do+ngab*	to eat up everything
tiː 'to drink'	*tiː+tiː*	*tiː+yod*	not enough drinks to be satiated