

## POULA ROOTS AND AFFIXES

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### ABSTRACT

Poula is spoken in the present Senapati district of Manipur and Phek district of Nagaland and also in some other adjoining areas. The land areas extend about 1200 sq.km. and are observed in four areas viz. Chilivai, Lepaona, Paomata and Razeba Circles. It is the language of the Poumai Naga tribe. This paper makes an attempt to discuss the types of roots and affixes of Poula. Free roots in this language are found in monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic words which can be divided into nominal and verbal free roots. There are two types of affixes i.e. prefix and suffix. Prefixes such as pronominal, reflexive, benefactive, causative etc. are found. Suffixes are divided into nominal and verbal suffixes. Nominal suffixes such as plural, diminutive, case, gender marker are found. Under verbal suffix there are intensive, directional, reciprocal, manner/mode suffix etc. In this paper aspect markers of verbal suffix are also discussed.

### **Introduction**

A root is a form which is not further analysed either in terms of derivational or inflectional morphology. A root is the basic part always present in a lexeme. The root can be classified into two types i.e. free root and bound root.

In Poula, the free root can be found in monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic words. It may be divided into Nominal Free roots and Verbal Free roots.

### **Nominal free roots:**

a) Monosyllabic free root:

co	'cow'
ma	'pumpkin'
pu	'forehead'
ba	'stool'
pa	'pair'

## b) Disyllabic free root:

kumi	'butterfly'
batew	'finger'
hithew	'eyes'
peisey	'hair'
peirə	'cap'

## c) Polysyllabic free root:

likhyana	'eagle'
layrəkhaw	'basin'
larədzə	'ink'
comarewpew	'sugarcane'

**Verbal free roots:**

## a) Monosyllabic free root

ta	'go'
tou	'eat'
rə	'write'
tay	'kick'
kho	'cook'

## b) Disyllabic free root

səwda	'prepare'
beday	'cut'
silai	'throw'
nəyu	'sulk'

## c) Polysyllabic free root

phawrara	'float'
sokouyu	'continue'
pawdaiyu	'insult'

**Bound roots:**

In Poula, kinship terms are bound roots as exemplified below:-

-pu	'father'
-pfə	'mother'
-nay	'aunt'
-dzərai	'brother/sister (elder)'
-theyhu	'brother/sister (younger)'

Until and unless one of the personal pronouns **ə**-first person, **ni**-second person and **pu**-third person is added it does not give a complete meaning, for instance

əpu	'my father'
nipu	'your father'
pupu	'his/her father'

The personal pronouns can be added to the body parts as given below:-

əmay	'my mouth'
niphi	'your leg'
puba	'his/her leg'

### Affixes:-

Affixes are bound roots which can only occur when attached to a root or word. In agglutinative language. Affixes are very important. They take part in the formation of various words and in deriving several word classes, namely, noun, verb, adjective and adverb. Besides these, they are used in forming various sentence types –declarative, negation, interrogative and imperative.

There are two types of affixes in Poula i.e. prefix and suffix. They are discussed in the following:-

### Prefix:-

The types of prefixes found in Poula are (a) Pronominal prefix (b) Reflexive prefix (c) Benefactive prefix and (d) causative prefix

### Pronominal prefix:

In Poula, only the pronominal prefix **ə**-the first person nominal pronominalization is found. For example:

ba	'hand'	əba	'my hand'
phi	'leg'	əphi	'my leg'
may	'mouth'	əmay	'my mouth'

The verbal pronominalization is not found in this language.

### Reflexive Prefix:

The prefix **la**- is used for reflexive by adding to the action verb.

kə	'drink'	lakə	'to drink oneself'
ve	'come'	lave	'to come oneself'
paw	'speak'	lapaw	'to speak oneself'

### Benefactive Prefix:

Benefactive is indicated by addition of a prefix **doni-** to the verb, as in the following examples:-

tu	'run'	donitu	'to run for someone'
ka	'cry'	donika	'to cry for someone'
təw	'eat'	donitəw	'to eat for someone'

### Causative Prefix:

Causative is formed by prefixing a morpheme **pa-** to the verb as given below:-

paw	'tell'	papaw	'cause to speak'
tu	'run'	patu	'cause to run'
ka	'cry'	paka	'cause to cry'

### Suffixes:-

The affixes which can occur after the root is known as suffixes. There are many suffixes which are more than the number of prefixes. Suffixes can be divided into two categories i.e. (a) nominal suffixes and (b) verbal suffixes. They are discussed in the following:-

### Nominal suffixes:

Nominal suffixes are very large in number. They are plural markers, diminutive marker, case marker and gender marker.

### Number suffixes:

In Poula, the suffixes **-taw** and **-veisi** are used as number suffix for indicating plural marker.

sei	'dog'	seitaw	'dogs'
mai	'man'	maitaw	'men'
co	'cow'	coveisi	'all the cow'
sa	'cat'	saveisi	'all the cat'

The suffixes **-me**, **-de**, **-khu** are used as a collective number.

mai	'man'	mame	'a group of man'
na	'clothes'	nade	'a bundle of clothes'
pupa	'flower'	pupakhu	'a bunch of flowers'

**Diminutive suffixes:**

In common gender , the diminutive suffixes **-tew** is used to indicate small animals .

sei	'dog'	seitew	'puppy'
so	'cow'	cotew	'calf'
Sa	'cat'	satew	'kitten'
vo	'pig'	votew	'piglet'

There are two different sets of suffixes to indicate male and female ; the suffixes **-de,- pou ,ləw ,etc** are used to express male and the suffix **-kə** is used to express female for animal categories. For bird, the suffixes **-dzə** and **-kə** are used for male and female respectively.

	Male		Female
code	'bull'	cokə	'cow'
sapou	'male cat'	sakə	'female cat'
vapou	'male monkey'	vakə	'female monkey'
voləw	'male pig'	vokə	'female pig'
houdzə	'cock'	houkə	'hen'

**Case suffixes:**

There are eight case suffixes in Poula. They are:-

1. Nominative - new
2. Accusative - ye
3. Genitive - vei
4. Instrumental - new
5. Locative - hi
6. Ablative - hnew
7. Associative - kwa

**Directional suffix:**

There are certain suffixes which indicate the place as well as direction. These suffixes indicate the exact location as given in the following:

-phawhi	'on or above'
-khaylaihi	'in or inside'
-dzəhi	'out or outside'
-khayhi	'below or under'
-phihi	'beside'

Suffixes with the nouns are given below:-

-phawhi	'on or above'		
ki	'house'	kiphawhi	'on or above the house'
pei	'head'	peiphawhi	'on or above the head'
-khaylaihi	'in or inside'		
li	'pot'	likhaylaihi	'in or inside the pot'
ki	'house'	kikhaylaihi	'in or inside the house'
-dzəhi	'out or outside'		
ki	'house'	kidzəhi	'out or outside the house'
-khayhi	'below or under'		
bu	'chair'	bukhayhi	'below or under the chair'
li	'pot'	likhayhi	'below or under the pot'
-phihi	'near or beside'		
tsəbe	'tree'	tsəbepihi	'near or beside the tree'
ki	'house'	kiphihi	'near or beside the house'

#### Exclusiveness:

The suffix **-leikhi** is added to a noun to indicate 'only'. Some examples are given below:

maileikhi	'only man'
saleikhi	'only cat'
khawvuleikhi	'only curry'
maleikhi	'only pumkin'

#### b) Verbal suffixes:

Verbal suffixes are intentive suffix, directional suffix, reciprocal suffix, manner/mode suffix etc. Other suffixes are aspect markers, negative markers, imperative markers, interrogative markers, etc. They are discussed in the following:-

The suffix **-nə** is used as an intentive suffix by adding to the verb.

kə	'drink'	kənə	'like to drink'
ta	'go'	tanə	'like to go'
kya	'cry'	kyanə	'like to cry'
toh	'jump'	tohnə	'like to jump'

#### Directional suffix:-

In Poula, the suffixes **-rei**, **-kupa**, **-shew**, **-thew** etc. are used as directional suffix by adding to the action verb.

tu	'run'	turei	'to run upward'
ta	'walk'	tarei	'to walk upward'
yao	'fly'	yaokupa	'to fly up'
tay	'kick'	tayshew	'to kick downward'
tu	'run'	tushew	'to run downward'
la	'pour'	lathew	'to pour inside'

### Reciprocal suffix:-

The suffix **-kava** is used as a reciprocal suffix by adding to the verb.

da	'beat'	dakava	'to beat each other'
yu	'look'	yukava	'to look each other'
jə	'quarrel'	jəkava	'to quarrel each other'

### Manner/Mode suffix:-

The suffix **-yudəw** is used for manner or mode .It is suffixed to the action verb as exemplified below:

co	'read'	coyudəw	'the manner of reading'
kə	'drink'	kəyudəw	'the manner of drinking'
sew	'do'	sewyudəw	'the manner of doing'

### Aspect markers:

Poula has four aspect markers which are added to the verb. They are:

1. Simple aspect-**ye**  
i khoto təw-ye  
i rice eat-sp  
'I eat rice'
2. Progressive aspect **-cahi**  
i khaoto təw-cahi-ye  
i rice eat -prog.asp-sp  
'I am eating rice'
3. Perfective aspect-**cere/ləwre**  
i khaoto təw-cere/ləwre  
i rice eat-perf.asp  
'I have taken rice'
4. Unrealised aspect **-lai**  
i ko-lai

i play-unreal.asp  
'I will play'

## Conclusion

In Poula there are numerous forms of roots. They are monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic forms which may be divided into Nomina free roots and Verbal free roots. There are two types of affixes found in this language i.e. prefix and suffix. Suffixes can be further divided into Nominal suffixes and Verbal suffixes.

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