

MORPHOLOGICAL CHANGE IN BALOCHI

Hamid Ali Baloch

*Assistant Professor,
Department of Balochi,
University of Balochistan, Quetta
goraanbaloch@gmail.com*

Abstract:

The Balochi is considered to be one of the archaic languages in the Iranian region. It has sustained its morphological structure, but because of passage of time and contact with Iranian and south Asian languages, a little bit changed its morphological structure.

In this paper, the change in morphological structure in Balochi will be focused in detail.

Keyword: Balochi language, morphology, morphological change

1. Introduction:

The meanings of the words depends upon the construction or formation of words. In different languages of the globe words have different structures and their formation process is different. Words are may be in simple, compound and complex forms.

“The term ‘morphology’ has been taken over from biology where it is used to denote the study of the forms of plants and animals. Its first recorded use is in writings by the German poet and writer Goethe in 1796. It was first used for linguistic purposes in 1859 by the German linguist August Schleicher to refer to the study of the form of words. In present-day linguistics, the term ‘morphology’ refers to the study of the internal structure of words, and of the

Morphological Change in Balochi

systematic form–meaning correspondences between words.” (Booij, 2005).

This chapter deals with the morphological structure of the Bal. words. Bal. as it has mentioned in the introductory chapter occupies a vast area in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan and it has approximately six dialects and a number of sub-dialects. Each and every dialect of Balochi somehow differs with each other morphologically. (Jahani, C. and Korn, 2009).

1.1 Overview of Morphological structure

Before going through the details, it is necessary to know about what the morphology is? According to Leiber (2009),

“the Morphology is the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in the languages of the world, and the way forms of words are varied depending how they are used in sentences” (Leiber, 2009).

1.2 Prefixes in Balochi Morphology

In several Balochi dialects, a 'verbal element' -a marks the imperfective aspect (Jahani & Korn) in the non-past tense the verbal element also marks the indicative mood as opposed to the subjunctive mood.

While morphologically, the element belongs to the verb, it is enclitic to the word preceding the verb phonologically (and thus generally written as if it were a suffix). It can therefore not occur in clause initial position or after a pause. Other restrictions apply as well (for details, see Axenov 2006: 168-170).

1.2.1 Prefix

The prefixes like,

Pěš: *Pěš-trān* ‘first speech’, *pěš-dārag* ‘to show’, *pěš-rid* ‘first line’, *pěš-janag* ‘pre-emptive attack, attack first’, *pěš-dar* ‘out door of home’, *pěš-dast* ‘to do a work firstly’, *pěš-kār* ‘servant’, *pěš-gāl* ‘preface’, *pěš-jāh* ‘

Hamid ali Baloch

the front part of a house', *pěš-hāl* 'to send a message to someone before the time'.

tāk: *tāk-band* 'magazine', *tāk-čand* 'winter', *tāk-kār* 'journalist'.

Trund: *trund-bandag* 'to tighten something', *trund-tačag* 'to go hastily', *trund-tančag* 'to tighten something', *trund-jallag* 'to tighten an animal', *trund-čārag* 'to stare on someone', *trund-čandag* 'to shake severely'.

The prefix *-bi-* is used for imperatives in all western dialects of Balochi, such as, *bi-kan* 'to do', *bi-war* 'to eat', *bi-ro* 'to go', *bi-nind* 'to sit', *bi-iškun* 'to listen or to hear', *bi-guš* 'to say', *bi-dār* 'to hold', but on the other hand the prefix *-bi-* is diffused in the EHD, such as '*kan, war, rao, nind, iškun, guš* and *dá*..

Āp-: *āprēc*, *āpray* 'swell up', *āptarr* 'whirling of water', *āpjāh* 'water reservoir', *āpčār* 'water expert', *āpjós* 'hot water or boiled water', *āpčand* 'waterfall', *āpxāna* 'bladder', *āpdār* 'the land which preserves water, powerful', etc. (Hashmi, 2000; Dashti, 2015)

1.2.2 Modal markers

The prefix *bi-* marks the imperative and the subjunctive: *bi-ka(n)* 'do!', *bi-kan-it* 'that he/she do', *bi-kurt-en* 'he/she would do.' The prefix is often omitted in complex verbs, e.g. *bir gard* 'return!', *bi-pól* 'ask', *dur (p-)kan* 'remove!'.

The past subjunctive adds *-en-* to the past stem, usually also employing *bi-* at the same time.

1.2.3 Negation in Balochi morphology

The negative prefix is *na-*; the prohibitive prefix is *ma-* (occasionally *na-* in IrBal.), which is used for all non-indicative forms, i.e. those that also use positive *bi-*, with which both are mutually exclusive (see 3.2.5.2). In compound TAM-forms, complex verbs and periphrastic aktionsart and modal constructions, *na-* and *ma-* are added to the main verb.

The Balochi language has lost its negative prefix *-a-* in most of the places, except in some words '*a-béd* 'without', *a-pat* 'endless', *a-pók* or *a-póg* 'co-wife, not wife', *a-ṭal* 'not saved, weak', *a-dār* 'not stay, stay for a

Morphological Change in Balochi

while, sojourn stay’, *a-řang* ‘irregular’, *a-gól* ‘insane’ *a-náwár* ‘not eaten, hungry’, *a-nóš* ‘intoxicated’, (Hashmi, 2000: 32-80).

But on the other hand, Balochi has lost its negative prefix –a- into bé, such as, ‘ a-sar> bé-sar ‘ headless or without head’, a-dard> bé-dard ‘pain-less’, a-bó> bé-bó ‘ odourless, smell-less’, a-bun> bé-bun ‘ baseless’, a-puss> bé-puss(ag) ‘issueless’, a-bím> bé-ím ‘ fearless’². This structure of the Balochi negative prefix –a- into –bé- changed after the suppression of the Arabs in 5th to 6th centuries and the Persian in 14th to 19th centuries, where Persian was adopted as the lingua franca of India as well as the OL of the Khanate of Kalat during the Chakarian period till the end of 1947. The Persian language contact laid a great impact over the morphology of the Balochi language in the pertinent period.

1.3 Affixes in Balochi morphology

An affix is considered to be a morpheme that is adjacent to a word stem to form a new word or word form.

1.4 Suffixes in Balochi morphology

Balochi is categorized as a compound language morphologically, and the compound words are formed by the addition of prefixes or suffixes.
-ók

The suffix *ók*, such as, *wān-ók* ‘reader, one who reads’, *gwaš-ók* ‘teller’, *čār-ók* ‘one who see’, *kařř-ók* ‘earner, one who earns’, *kuřř-ók* ‘the thing which ends up’, *dār-ók* ‘supporter’, *čam-ók* ‘the thing which glitters’, *sind-ók* ‘plucker’ etc.

én

the suffix *zabr-én* ‘better’, *jwān-én* ‘better’, *wašš-én* ‘more tasty’, *zapt-én* ‘of no taste’, *širkin-én* ‘more tasty’, *sór-én* ‘more salty’ etc.

² For detail see (Baloch, Hamid Ali 2017, unpublished Pahlavi to Balochi Dictionary).

Hamid ali Baloch

-ik

Čār-ik ‘one fourth’, *panč-ik* ‘one fifth’, *šaš-ik* ‘one sixth’, *hapt-ik* ‘one seventh’, *hašt-ik* ‘one eighth’.

-kār

Zānt-kār ‘intellectual’, *bé-kār* ‘idle’, *šar-kār* ‘skilled’, *róč-kār* ‘daily wages’,

-āk

Wānāk ‘readable’, *zānāk* ‘understandable’, *tripin-āk* ‘shining’,

-ak

Mardak ‘a small man e.g. short statured man’,

-uk

Jahāz-uk ‘a small aero plane’, *gāđi-uk* ‘a small vehicle’, *but-uk* ‘a small doll’, *dračk-uk* ‘a small tree’, *bačal-uk* ‘a small boy’, *lóg-uk* ‘a small hut’, etc

The prefixes like, *áp-ár* ‘one who brings water’, *áp-darp* ‘water cane’, *áp-pad* ‘the stains of water’, *áp-ray* ‘to swell up’, *áp-rang* ‘water-like’, *pač tarrag* ‘to expand’. The suffix *-ā*, at the end of nouns and pronouns or subject is like a phoneme. Such as, *éy kitāb-ā bwān* ‘read this book’, *ā bačakk-ā gind ay?* ‘Do you see that boy?’, *maróčí Hāni Bālāč-ā gindít* ‘today Hani see/ will see Balach’, *Bālāč Hāni-ā nagindít* ‘Balach does not/will not see Hani’, *man Bālāč o Haní-ā gindān* ‘i (will) see Balach and Hani’. (Jahani, 2016)

1.4.1 Suffix –ā as oblique case after prepositions

Pa Bālāč-ā ‘for Balach’, *ča é bačakk-ā* ‘from this boy’, *mān é kitāb-ā* ‘in this book’. When the oblique case denotes the location or direction, it will be such as; *man šahr-ā rawān* ‘I go/will go to city’, *tao šahr-ā ay?* ‘Are you in city?’

–tir

The suffix *-tir-* is common in all dialects of the Balochi language, such as, *Jwān-tir* ‘better’, *šar-tir* ‘better’, *sáp-tir* ‘cleaner’, *balad-tir* ‘more talented’, apart from this, the suffix *-én* is common in EHD, *nén* in R dialect and *én* in kéčí and Coastal dialects.

Morphological Change in Balochi

The morpheme like, *é, iš kanant-iš* is used for plural some place and *-é* on the other places, such *kanant-é* ‘they do’.

1.4.2 The genitives

The genitives like, *mard* ‘man’ > *mard-ay* ‘of man’, *šahr* ‘city’ > *šahr-ay* ‘of city or city’s’ *kitab* ‘book’ *kitāb-ay* ‘book’, of book’. For example: *mard- ay jan* ‘man’s wife’, *šhar- ay niyādi* ‘city’s market’, *kitāb – ay tāk* ‘book’s pages or pages of the book’. Balochi has also plural genitives. In the plural genitives, the nominal endings will be *-í*, such as, *čukkāni pit* ‘children’s father’, *pasāni waḍ* ‘sheep’s fence’. Apart from this, Balochi has several genitives in a single sentence, e.g. *é janik-ay pit-ay nām kambar int* ‘the name of this girl’s father is Kambar’. In Balochi, somehow the clitics combine with the genitive in a singular form of a noun or word, such as,

1.4.3 The morphemes

Words are potentially complex units, composed of even more basic units, called morphemes. A morpheme is the smallest part of a word that has grammatical function or meaning, we will designate them in braces. For example, *kanag* ‘to do’, *kurt* ‘did’, *kurtant* ‘have done’, *kurtag antant* ‘they have done’, *kan ante* ‘they do or will do’, here, the *-ag, rt, nt* and *te* are the morphemes of the verb, respectively. The morpheme *-í* at the end of a verb such as *kanagí* ‘about to do’, *waragí* ‘about to eat’, *nindagí* ‘about to set’, *gindagí* ‘about to see’.

1.4.4 Copula

The singular copulas in Balochi are *ān, ay* and *ít*, while the plural are *én, it* and *ant*.

For example: Singular

<i>man nind ān</i>	I (will) sit.	
<i>Tao nind ay</i>	you (will) sit.	
<i>Ā nind ít</i>	he/she/it/that	(will)

sit(s).

Plural:

<i>mā nind én</i>	we (will) sit.
<i>Šumā nind it</i>	you (will) sit.
<i>Ā nind ant</i>	they (will) sit.

1.5 Morphological Structure in different Dialects

The morphological structure in Eastern Hill Balochi (EHD) is somehow different than that of other dialects of the Balochi language. For example, *-e* is the ending heard everywhere, but there is a pronounced frequency to weaken it to *-a*, *-e* or nothing. In accord with the practice of dropping the 3rd singular *-t*, these sub-dialects also form 3rd singulars on *-r-*, and *-n-* stems without it. Jan ‘strikes’, *kan* ‘does’, *bar* ‘carries, takes’, *war* ‘eats’, but note, *bārt-í* ‘carries it’, *wārt-í* ‘eats it’. The verb *girγ* forms a 3rd singular *gí*, but *gírt* or *gírť* is also heard very occasionally. *-k-* is prefixed in all sub-dialects of EHD, but only in the present tenses. (Elfenbein, 1966)

1.5.1 Morphological structure in R dialect

The genitive singular ends in *-e* everywhere except in A and S which preserve the older *-ay*; it is never weakened or dropped in the sub-dialects of R. All sub-dialects *gít*, except south S *gírť*. *k-* is prefixed in all sub-dialects to present-stem tenses, and some sub-dialects (s, č, a) in the north also prefix it to a verb in the apodosis of an irrealis construction: *aga man saí búťénun ki ta gužnag-e, man zút kātun* ‘if I had known that you were hungry, I should have come earlier’ (Elfenbein, 1997)

The Paradigms:

Singular	plural					
N	<i>man</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>ā</i>	<i>amma</i>	<i>šumā</i>	<i>āwān</i>
G	<i>miní, mní</i>	<i>tay, tí</i>	<i>āy</i>	<i>amme</i>	<i>šume</i>	<i>āwāní</i>
D.Acc	<i>minā, mnā</i>	<i>tarā, trā</i>	<i>āyrā</i>	<i>ammārā</i>	<i>šumārā</i>	
	<i>āwānā</i>					
Obl.	<i>man</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>āy</i>	<i>ammā</i>	<i>šumā</i>	
	<i>āwān</i>					

Josef misunderstood the Panjguri (P) sub-dialect in some areas, he says that the P sub-dialect has also *maí*³, me beside *mní*. The distribution of *tay* and *tí* is quite random⁴. P has a N to, Kolwā, *tao*; both make an Obl. *ta*. The 3rd

³ This is to be noted that *maí* is only used in Ke and EHD, not the R sub-dialects.

⁴ During my field work i didn’t find even rarely *tay* and *tí* in P sub-dialect.

Morphological Change in Balochi

stem singular is *āy-* everywhere except in N, but S, A have a N. Sing. *āy* too; K has an Obl. *āyā*. All these sub-dialects keep D-Acc. *āyrā* apart from *ārā*. The 3rd plural S, A, Č use *ā* throughout while S, A making a D.-Acc. *āwān*. P has a N *ān*, which also occurs sporadically in S and A. K makes its N *āyān*, and P, K use the stem *āy-* for the other cases: G *āyānī*, D.-Acc. *āyānrā*, Obl. *āyān*. Č, S, A often have *edinā* ‘here’, *ādinā* ‘there’, while A has *ādā* ‘there’ as well as *odinā* ‘there’. K, P have *edā* ‘here’, *údā* ‘there’ and *édémā* ‘on this side’, *ādémā* ‘on that side’, while the regular usage in Č, S, A is *šéškā*, *šāškā*. (ibid, 17-18)

K and P have a *-y-* epenthesis such as *nayān*, *naye(t)*, *neyant*, while Č, S, A have a *-w-* epenthesis such as, *nawun-* *nawan*, *nawe-* *nawet*, *nayint-* *nawant*. There is a *-w-* epenthesis everywhere in these sub-dialects except in P, which is *-y-*. K, Č, S, A *rawag*, but in P *rayag*.

K, Č, S, A		P	
<i>Raín</i>	<i>rawān</i>	<i>raín</i>	<i>rayān</i>
<i>Rawe</i>	<i>rawet</i>	<i>reye</i>	<i>reyeit</i>

In all sub-dialects of R, except A and P, *bín-bayān*, *be-baet*, *bít bayant*. A makes 1st sing *baín*, 2nd sing *baye*, from a stem *ba(y)-* P makes 1st plural *ban*, 2nd Plural *bet*, 3rd plural *bant*, from a stem *b-*. all sub-dialect from the stem *kāy*; such as, *kāín-kayān*, *kāe- kāet*, *kāit-kayānt*. P and K shorten the 3rd singular to *ket*. P, K *nibišta kan*, Č *binmis*, S *nimišta kan*, A *biniwis*. In all sub-dialects of R. *bwasp*, P, K *bwar*, Č, S, A *bor*. In all sub-dialects *bošt*⁵, all sub-dialects *pikān*, while K and C dialects *bikan*. All sub-dialects of R. *minind* or *mnind*, while in K, C, *binind* and in EHD, *nind*.

K, P use only *-ag*, as does the southeast part of Č; all the *-tin* only, or beside *-ag*, the latter used a ‘literary’ form. 1st sing *-ín*; 1st plural *-an* in all sub-dialects. Only A makes a 1st plural in *-ant*. (ibid, 17-18)

The morphological structure of Saráwání dialect

⁵ But in Č *bóst*, *óstag(v)*, and third form *óstāt*.

Hamid ali Baloch

The genitive singular is everywhere in *-e*. the 3rd sing. is *gírt*. The *k-* prefix is unknown to this dialect, which prefixes *y-*, particularly to *āyag*, *ārag*, *illag* in both in present and past stem tenses, e.g, *yāyag* ‘to come’ – *yāyān* ‘they come’, *yārag* ‘to bring’ – *yārān* ‘they bring/’, *yillag* ‘to allow’ – *yillān* ‘they allow’. For instance, *man yāyān* ‘I come’, *man yārān* ‘I bring’, *man yillān* ‘I allow’, *šumā ča kujā yahtet?* ‘From where you came?’ *man yāran é* ‘I will bring him’. (ibid, p, 20)

1.5.2 Morphological structure of Ke dialect

In K dialect the in *-e*. the 3rd singular is *gít* and the *k-* always prefixed to the presents, rarely to the past. *edā* and *úda* are common, the parenthesis *-h-* is found in some areas of Kech, such as Dašt, Tump, Bulaida and Nasirabad. *Nahun* ‘i am not’-*nahén* ‘he/she/it is not’, *nahint* ‘he is not’- *nahant* ‘they are not’.

The verbal ending everywhere is *-ag*, etc. (ibid, p, 22)

1.5.3 Morphological structure of Lúṭoni dialect

In the L. dialect the genitive singular is always *-e*. the 3rd singular is *gírt*, but in the north *gít*. The *k-* prefix is unknown; in its place *y-* can be prefixed to all verbs with an initial vowel, on both past and present stems, such as, *man yāún* ‘I come’, *man yārún* ‘I bring’, *man yillun* ‘I allow’.

The 3rd person *āy-*, expect for 3rd singular D.-Acc. is unexpected (the existence of the expected forms was consistently denied); N singular *ā* also appears when subject of an intransitive verb, and *-ā* Obl. singular is often dropped. N plural also has *ān* used as subject of intransitive verbs. *édā(n)* ‘here’ *odā(n)* ‘there’; *édémā* ‘on this side’ and *ādémā* ‘on that side’ are common. *-h* epenthesis throughout such as, *nahún-nahin*, *nahe- nahet*, *nahint-nahant*. (p, 24)

1.5.4 Morphological structure of Coastal dialect

In the C dialect the genitive singular usually ends in *-e*, which is felt to be the ‘correct’ form. Very noticeably, however, it tends to be reduced to *-ə* or nothing in normal speech, as well as in poetry recitations. 3rd singular

Morphological Change in Balochi

gít, sometimes *get*. The *k-* prefix is universal for verbs with an initial vowel in present stem tenses, but rare in other tenses.

The 3rd person N. singular *ā*, but *āy* is used for the other cases; the plural is made from *ā-*, with *-h-* epenthesis. *edā*, *odā* and *édéma* and *ādémā* are common.

Josef Elfenbein has wrongly added *-h-* epenthesis in the C. dialect which is basically *y-*. the stems *raw-*, *ray-*, the ending is *ān*, *én* and *-t*. for instance, *rawān* 'I go'-*raén* 'we go', *rawe* 'you go'-*rawet* 'they go', *rawt* 'he/she/it goes' *-rawant* 'they go', *dant* 'he/she/it gives' *-dayant* 'they give'.

The prefix *b-* *bwar* 'to eat', *bóšt* 'to stand', *bekan* 'to do', *bnind* 'to sit, or sit down' is common (p, 26)

1.6 Effects on the morphology of Balochi

The morphological structure of Bal is mainly effected by Persian in Iranian Balochistan, especially in Zahedan and Saráwán and EHD in Pakistan.

Conclusion:

The vast geographical area and contact with the neighboring languages, Balochi has somehow changed its morphological structure. The loss of *a-* prefix into *bé-* is new change from Persian. In some places, *-a*, still exists such as, *a-póg* 'cowife', *a-dár* 'temporary stay', *a-wád* 'saltless'.

Loss of 'r' into 'i' in some dialects such as '*gírt* 'to catch' > *gít*' and *á-* into *yá* in few dialects such as '*áyag* 'to come' > *yáyag*. The *-r-* into *t* such as *kurta* > *kuta*.

Hamid ali Baloch

References:

- Booij, G. (2005). *The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Baloch, H. A. (2018). *Pahlavi-Balochi Dictionary*. Quetta: Balochi Academy.(Unpublished)
- Dashti, J. (2015). *Balochi Labzbalad*. Quetta: Balochi Academy, Adalat Road, Quetta, Balochistan.
- Elfenbein, J. (2006). *The Baluchi Language: A Dialectology with Texts*. NY: Routledge Printing Press.
- Elfenbein, J. H. (1997). Balochi Phonology. In A. S. Kaye, *Phonologies of Asia and Africa, Including Caucasus Vol.1* (pp. 761-775). Winnona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, USA.
- Hashmi, S. Z. (2000). *Sayad Ganj*. Karachi: Sayad Hashmi Reference Library, Mallok Hotel, Malir, Karachi
- Jahani, C. (2016, April-May 28-5 May). *the Balochi Language Project*. Retrieved from Institutionen för lingvistik och filologi:
<http://www.lingfil.uu.se/forskning/the-balochi-language-project/>
- Leiber, R. (2009). *Introducing Morphology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, the Edinburgh Building, Cambridge, UK