NOUN—STEM IN COLLOQUIAL SINHALA

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ABSTRACT

Some of the chief phonological and morphological features of the colloquial Sinhala noun stem, both simple and complex, are discussed with special emphasis on the derivational processes.

0. Some of the major structural features of the Colloquial Sinhala (CS) noun stem are briefly outlined in this paper within a structural frame-work. The variety of CS subject to this analysis is that which is spoken in Colombo and its suburbs, and which is considered as the standard variety.

0.1 The following representational symbols are used in this presentation:

Vowels : i, i, e, e, e, u, u, o, o, a, a, o;

Consonants : p, b, ṇb, t, d, ņd, t, d, ņl, c, j, k, g, ņg, m, n, ŋ, y, r, l, s, h, f, š.

1. Phonological Structure of noun-stems

1.1 Canonical Shapes

A noun stem can range from monosyllabic to pentasyllabic as to syllabic structure, and can end either in a close syllable or an open syllable. The different canonical structures of the noun-stem can be represented as follows:

I. monosyllabic

\[
\begin{align*}
C V & \quad \text{e.g.} \quad gē \quad \text{house} \\
C ĕC & \quad \text{gas} \quad \text{tree} \\
C ĕC & \quad gāl \quad \text{cow-pen}
\end{align*}
\]

II. disyllabic

\[
\begin{align*}
C ĕCV & \quad \text{vahu} \quad \text{calf} \\
& \quad \text{nari} \quad \text{jackal} \\
C ĕCV & \quad \text{gița} \quad \text{parrot} \\
& \quad \text{mind} \quad \text{corpse} \\
& \quad \text{kul} \quad \text{wages}
\end{align*}
\]
III. trisyllabic

*CVCV* — gôni— sack
*CVCVCV* — pätta— goose
*CVCVCV* — malli— younger brother
*pâya— elder brother

IV. quadrisyllabic

*CVCV*CVCV* — paturu— splinter
*CVCV*CVCV* — parâla— rafter
*CVCV*CVCV* — këbelë— ant-eater
*CVCVCVCVC* — pandölam—a wooden-structure
*CVCVCVCVC* — pañikkam—spittoon
*CVCVCVCVC* — pâviccī— ure
*CVCVCVCVC* — mûnissam—pellet
*CVCVCVCVC* — massinä— cousin

V. pentasyllabic

*CVCVCVCVCV* — kâlamêdiri— firefly
*(C)VVCVCVCVCV* — unôhapulu— loris

1.1.2 Noun-stems can be classified as heavy or light depending on their selection between the following markers:

1.1.2.1 Animate nouns

(a) direct case singular

—*a* heavy stems
—*ā* light stems

(b) vocative case singular

—*o* — *e* heavy stems
—*ô* — *ē* light stems

1.1.2.2 Inanimate nouns

(a) genitive singular

—*e* heavy stems
—*ē* light stems
1.2 Accordingly the noun stems having the following syllabic structures will be called light:

(1) all stems ending in a—\(\overline{V}\), that does not yield a glide when a termination is added;

(2) monosyllabics of the structure (C) \(\overline{V}X\)—;

(3) disyllabics ending in \(\overline{V}X\)— with first syllable heavy;

(4) trisyllabics ending in \(\overline{V}X\) provided that in the same stem the first syllable is not heavy and the second syllable not light.

(5) Other polysyllabics with a penultimate light syllable not ending in -i/-u.

('X' represents a consonant which becomes part of the following syllable when a termination is added.)

All other stems will be called heavy.

1.2.1 Specific instances for the heavy and the light stems are given below:

(a) Heavy Stems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>animate nouns</th>
<th>stem</th>
<th>direct-singular</th>
<th>vocative singular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>balu—dog</td>
<td>balla</td>
<td>bullo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gőn—elk</td>
<td>gőna</td>
<td>gőno</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rilä—monkey</td>
<td>rilővä</td>
<td>rillevo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malli—younger brother</td>
<td></td>
<td>maliye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kebella—ant eater kebella</td>
<td></td>
<td>kebellėvo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>inanimate nouns</th>
<th>stem</th>
<th>genitive-singular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nădi—pulse</td>
<td>nădiye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pokkōlam—blister</td>
<td>pokkōlome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palam—a measure</td>
<td>palame</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Light stems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>animate nouns</th>
<th>stem</th>
<th>direct singular</th>
<th>vocative singular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>put—son</td>
<td>putā</td>
<td>putē</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gon—ox</td>
<td>gonā</td>
<td>gonō</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>massinā—cross-cousin</td>
<td>massinā</td>
<td>massinō or massinō</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
inanimate nouns

stem                      genitive singular
pālam—bridge             pālomē
pattorō—newspaper         pattorē

2. Morpho-phonemics

Some very general morphophonemic rules that apply in noun-stem formation are given below:

2.1 Vowel-Fronting,

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\{u\} \rightarrow \{i\} \\
\{ū\} \rightarrow \{i\} \\
\{o\} \rightarrow \{e\} \\
\{ə\} \rightarrow \{ē\} \\
\{a\} \rightarrow \{ɛ\} \\
\{ā\} \rightarrow \{ɛ\}
\end{array}
\]

morphologically conditioned

2.2  \(ə \rightarrow a\) / closed syllable

2.3 \[
\begin{array}{c}
\{ɛ\} \\
\{a\} \\
\{o\}
\end{array}
\]

\(ə \rightarrow a\) / medial open syllable

2.4  \(øy \rightarrow φ\) / \(-i\)

2.5  \(V₁ + V₂ \rightarrow V₂,\ V₁ \neq i/u\)

2.6  \(Cᵰi + V₂ \rightarrow -CᵰiV₂\)  
     \(\text{ } (\text{ } -CᵰCᵰV₂ \text{ to be specified})\)

2.7  \(Cᵰu + V₂ \rightarrow CᵰuV₂\)  
     \(\text{ } (\text{ } -CᵰCᵰV₂ \text{ to be specified})\)

2.8  \(h \rightarrow s\) / \(\#\#\)  
     \(\rightarrow ss\) / gemination

2.9  \(\text{ } -C \rightarrow φ\) / \(\text{ } -C.C\)

2.10  nasal \(\rightarrow\) nasal — homorganic / — stop/nasal
3. **Morphological structure of noun-stems**

A noun stem can be either (a) simple or (b) derived.

3.1 Simple stems are those that do not yield any further significant morphophonemic segmentation:

- e.g. *balu* - dog, *tattā* - father, pot-books etc.

3.2 Derived stems are formed by the processes of prefixation and suffixation, and are of the following major types:

(a) nouns derived from nominal bases,
(b) nouns derived from adjectives, and
(c) nouns derived from verbal bases,

A very brief description of these types is given below:

3.2.1 Suffixation.

3.2.1.1 Nouns derived from nominal bases:

3.2.1.1 Gender - deriving suffixes

All these suffixes derive the corresponding feminine form from the masculine noun-form. This type of derivation is however restricted to several classes of nouns.

(a) —*i*, nouns taking this suffix fall into two sets. Set I nouns front the stem vowels when this suffix is added;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m(asculine)</th>
<th>f(emine)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>balu—</td>
<td>balla ‘dog’</td>
<td>belli ‘bitch’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kukul—</td>
<td>kukula ‘roaster’</td>
<td>kikili ‘hen’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balal-</td>
<td>balala ‘cat’</td>
<td>beloli ‘cat-f’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bamunu—</td>
<td>bamuna ‘brahmin’</td>
<td>bemini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vañduru—</td>
<td>vañcura ‘monkey’</td>
<td>vañdiri ‘monkey-f’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ūru—</td>
<td>ūra ‘pig’</td>
<td>Irī ‘sow’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a.1) In the case of set II, —*i* is directly added to the masculine noun-form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>girā—</td>
<td>girāva ‘parrot’</td>
<td>girāvi ‘parrot-f’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monara—</td>
<td>monara ‘pea-cock’</td>
<td>monari ‘pea-hen’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kumāra—</td>
<td>kumāraya ‘prince’</td>
<td>kumāri ‘princess’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manomāle—</td>
<td>manomālaya</td>
<td>manomālī ‘bride’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kiñbul—</td>
<td>kiñbulula ‘crocodile’</td>
<td>kiñbuli ‘crocodile-f’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of all the feminine deriving suffixes —*i* is the most productive type.
(b) —ʊː: Nouns taking this suffix undergo stem-vowel fronting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kolū—</td>
<td>kolla ‘lad’</td>
<td>kello ‘lass’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>horū—</td>
<td>horā ‘thief’</td>
<td>herō ‘thief-f’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koral—</td>
<td>koralā ‘lame-man’</td>
<td>kero ‘lame woman’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mahalū—</td>
<td>mahalla ‘old-man’</td>
<td>mehalla ‘old-woman’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) —inni—/inna: These two suffixes are in free variation. Nouns taking these suffixes fall into two sets.

Set I stems undergo vowel-fronting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>valas—</td>
<td>valāha ‘bear’</td>
<td>velahinnā ‘bear-f’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kok—</td>
<td>kokā ‘crane’</td>
<td>kekinnī ‘crane-f’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Set II stems do not undergo vowel-fronting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yak—</td>
<td>yakā “devil”</td>
<td>yakinnī ‘devil-f’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(d) —ni, This suffix is taken by the following nouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yassā—</td>
<td>yassāya ‘devil’</td>
<td>yassāni ‘devil-f’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rassē—</td>
<td>rassēya ‘demon’</td>
<td>rassēni ‘demoness’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(e) —icci, This is taken only by one noun:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eluc—</td>
<td>eluva ‘goat’</td>
<td>elicci ‘she-goat’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(f) —issi, This is taken by the following nouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stem</th>
<th>m.</th>
<th>f.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gessā—</td>
<td>gessāya ‘youth’</td>
<td>gessissi ‘maid’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>podi—</td>
<td>poddi ‘little’</td>
<td>podissi ‘little girl’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. Actually -ʊ is the direct case singular marker, the feminine marker being -i. Thus keli + -ʊ → keliya → kello, etc. However this process has become obsolete.
3.2.1.2 Agent deriving suffixes

(a) There is only one suffix of this type, viz. \( kār -- \), which yields the masculine form \( kārāya \), and the feminine form \( --kāri \). This suffix gives the meaning of 'one who deals with/one who handles/one who owns' etc.

\[
\begin{align*}
kiri & \text{ 'milk'} & \text{ kirikārāya} & \text{ 'milk-man'} \\
pattēra & \text{ 'news'} & \text{ pattērākkārāya} & \text{ 'paper boy'} \\
boru & \text{ 'lie'} & \text{ borukārāya} & \text{ 'liar'} \\
udav & \text{ 'help'} & \text{ udavkārāya} & \text{ 'helper'} \\
\end{align*}
\]

(b) The following nouns undergo certain morphophonemic adjustments before \( -kārāya \).

(i) stems ending in \( -m \) drop it;

(ii) initial \( k \) of \( -kār \) \( \rightarrow \) \( kk \).

\[
\begin{align*}
dādēyam & \text{ 'hunt'} & \text{ dādēyakkārāya} & \text{ 'hunter'} \\
sellōm & \text{ 'sport'} & \text{ sellakkārāya} & \text{ 'playful-fellow'} \\
karmō & \text{ 'bad-resist'} & \text{ karumakkārāya} & \text{ 'unfortunate person'} \\
& \text{ of past-action} & & \\
uṇumō & \text{ 'legacy'} & \text{ urumakkārāya} & \text{ 'inheritor'} \\
\end{align*}
\]

(c) The form neṭtuva 'dancer', has the special stem \( neṭtu \) \( \rightarrow \) \( neṭukkārāya \) 'dancer.'

3.2.1.3 Attribute deriving suffixes

There is only one suffix having two alternants \( -a, -ā, \), distributed as follows:

(a) stems ending in \( -a \) add \(-a\) with the change \( -a \rightarrow æy/-a\);
(b) all heavy stems add \(-a\);
(c) all light stems add \(-ā\).

3.2.1.3.1 The attribute deriving suffix usually has an impolite connotation, and only masculine reference:

\[
\begin{align*}
kūḍā & \text{ 'basket'} & kūḍāya & \text{ 'one who carries/deals with baskets'} \\
kalisōma & \text{ 'pants'} & kalisōmā & \text{ 'one who wears pants'} \\
kasippu & \text{ 'illicit liquor'} & kasippuva & \text{ 'an addict to or one who distills illicit liquor'} \\
redi & \text{ 'cloth'} & reda & \text{ 'one who wears cloth'} \\
\end{align*}
\]
3.2.1.3.2 When added to place-names, it give the sense *native of* but
has a rather impolite connotation. Only the —a alternant
is added to these nouns, the following morphophonemic
rules being observed:

(a) place names taking —e as the singular genitive marker
add —a directly;

(b) place names, the direct and the genitive singulars of
which are identical add —a with the change: stem final

\[
\begin{align*}
{—o} & \rightarrow —y / —a \\
{—ə} & \rightarrow —y / —a
\end{align*}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>direct—singular</th>
<th>genitive singular</th>
<th>native of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| gālla           | gālle            | gālla
| ‘Galle’         | ‘Galle’          | ‘native of Galle’ |
| kuliyaπiṭiya     | kuliyaπiṭiya     | kuliyaπiṭiya
| ‘Kuliyaπiṭiya’   | ‘Kuliyaπiṭiya’   | ‘native of Kuliyaπiṭiya’ |
| mātara          | mātara           | mātara
| ‘Matara’         | ‘Matara’         | ‘native of Matara’ |
| kolaṃba         | kolaṃba          | kolaṃba
| ‘Colombo’        | ‘Colombo’        | ‘native of Colombo’ |
| mātala          | mātala           | mātala
| ‘Matale’         | ‘Matale’         | ‘native of Matale’ |

3.2.1.4 Abstract noun deriving suffix

There is one suffix —κομα which is usually added to noun-stems
indicative of position or profession to derive the corresponding
abstract noun:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>noun</th>
<th>suffix</th>
<th>meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>guru</td>
<td>κομα</td>
<td>‘position of being a teacher’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>veda</td>
<td>κομα</td>
<td>‘medical practice’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emaṭi</td>
<td>κομα</td>
<td>‘ministerial position’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.1.5 Specificity deriving suffix

There is one suffix -ə₂, which is added to a few mass-nouns to yield the sense of a specific variety of the item referred to:

₇əl ‘rice’
₇ələ ‘a variety of rice’
₇ər ‘milk’
₇ərə ‘a variety of milk’
₇ətə ‘water’
₇ətəə ‘a variety of water’
₇əl ‘sand’
₇ələ ‘a variety of sand’

Word-final ‘i’ ‘u’ and ‘ə’ that have developed as increment vowels are dropped when -ə, is added; otherwise a word-final -i and -u are dropped before -ə with the resultant gemination of the preceding consonant provided it is not a retroflex.

3.2.1.6 Honorific deriving suffixes

(1) -anə, this is added only to certain kinship nouns to signify a degree of respect:

₇əta ‘father’
₇ənə ‘father’
₇əma ‘mother’
₇ənə ‘mother’
₇əmə ‘uncle’
₇ənə ‘uncle’

(2) -ərə, this is added to some kinship terms and to most nouns expressing professional titles:

₇əru ‘teacher’
₇ərə ‘teacher’
₇əvə ‘physician’
₇əvə ‘physician’

(3) -umə this is added to most nouns expressing professional titles, and in many contexts may be substituted for -ərə:

₇əru ‘teacher’
₇əvə ‘physician’

3.2.1.2 Nouns derived from adjectives:

3.2.1.2.1 abstract noun deriving suffix

I. -ə₃, this is added to a few colour, descriptive adjectives and to a few quantifying adjectives. These adjectives are classifiable into two sets depending on their morphophonemic behavior.

(a) set I

₇ədu ‘white’
₇əru ‘red’
₇ənil ‘blue’
₇əru₇əru ‘brown’
₇əho₇ə ‘good’

₇ədu ‘whiteness’
₇əru ‘redness’
₇ənil ‘blueness’
₇əru₇əru ‘brownness’
₇əho₇ə ‘goodness’
(b) Set II

Adjectives belonging to this set do not drop the stem-final vowel before → :

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{kalu} & \text{‘black’} & \text{kalu} & \text{‘blackness’} \\
\text{loku} & \text{‘big’} & \text{loku} & \text{‘bigness’} \\
\text{ađu} & \text{‘less’} & \text{ađu} & \text{‘paucity’} \\
\text{pođi} & \text{‘little’} & \text{pođi} & \text{or ‘a little’} \\
\end{array}
\]

II. -kome (3.2.1.1.4 above) can also be added to descriptive adjectives to yield the corresponding abstract noun :

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{hońda} & \text{‘good’} & \text{hońdakome} & \text{‘goodness’} \\
\text{nařa} & \text{‘bad’} & \text{nařakome} & \text{‘badness’} \\
\text{loku} & \text{‘big’} & \text{loku} & \text{‘bigness’} \\
\end{array}
\]

3.2.1.2.2 attribute deriving suffix

-\-ā (3.2.1.1.3 above) can also be added to colour, descriptive and to a few quantifying adjectives to derive attributive nouns :

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{sudu} & \text{‘white’} & \text{sudā} & \text{‘white skinned person’} \\
\text{sudda} & \text{} & \text{} & \text{‘white skinned person esp. a European’} \\
\text{kalu} & \text{‘black’} & \text{kalu} & \text{‘dark-skinned person’} \\
\text{kalla} & \text{} & \text{} & \text{‘black person’} \\
\text{loku} & \text{‘big’} & \text{lodka} & \text{‘big/old person’} \\
\text{pođi} & \text{‘small’} & \text{pođda} & \text{‘small person’} \\
\end{array}
\]

3.2.1.3 Nouns derived from verbal bases

3.2.1.3.1 Agent noun deriving suffix :

-\-nna, this derives nouns expressive of the doer of the action indicated by the verb base :

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{na} & \text{‘dance’} & \text{na} & \text{‘dancer’} \\
\text{ad} & \text{‘pull’} & \text{ad} & \text{‘puller’} \\
\text{bo} & \text{‘drink’} & \text{bo} & \text{‘drinker’} \\
\text{e} & \text{‘come’} & \text{e} & \text{‘commer’} \\
\text{gan} & \text{‘get’} & \text{gan} & \text{‘one who gets’} \\
\end{array}
\]

-\-nna is actually from -\-nu ‘abstract noun formative’ plus -\-a agentive marker. However this process has now become obsolete.
3.2.1.3.2 Action noun deriving suffixes:

(I) -illa, this refers to action in process. This is not generally added to monosyllabic verbs ending in a vowel. When this suffix is added, the following morphophonemic rules apply:

(a) verb—base vowel—fronting (2.1 above)
(b) verb—bases,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{karə—} & \rightarrow \text{ki—} & \text{optionally;} \\
\text{in—} & \rightarrow \text{iṅd—} \\
\text{karə—} & \text{‘do’} & \text{kerilla} & \text{‘doing’} \\
\text{kirilla} & \\
\text{naṭə—} & \text{‘dance’} & \text{nəṭilla} & \text{‘dancing’} \\
\text{bəni—} & \text{‘scold’} & \text{bə-nilə} & \text{‘scolding’} \\
\text{vəṭe—} & \text{‘fall’} & \text{vəṭilla} & \text{‘falling’} \\
\text{in—} & \text{‘be’} & \text{iṅdilla} & \text{‘being’}
\end{align*}
\]

(II) -ime, referring to action in process can occur as an alternant to -illa. The special morphophonemic rules that apply in the -illa derivation (see I above) apply here as well:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{karə—} & \text{‘do’} & \text{Kirima} & \text{‘doing’} \\
\text{Kirima} & \\
\text{in—} & \text{‘be’} & \text{iṅdima} & \text{‘being, living’} \\
\text{kapə—} & \text{‘cut’} & \text{keπlə} & \text{‘cutting’} \\
\text{vəṭe—} & \text{‘fall’} & \text{vəṭlə} & \text{‘falling’}
\end{align*}
\]

(III) -umə—-mə, these usually refer to action as result. -mə is added to monosyllabic verb-bases ending in a vowel. The following morphophonemic rules apply when these suffixes are added:

(a) verb-base vowel fronting (2.1 above).
(b) verb bases

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{in —} & \rightarrow \text{iṅd —} & \text{umə;} \\
\text{pani—} & \rightarrow \text{pin —} \\
\text{de —} & \rightarrow \text{di —} \\
\text{bo —} & \rightarrow \text{bi —} & \text{mə;}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{e —} & \rightarrow \text{optionally i —}
\end{align*}
\]
(c) verb — base final — 余万元 → —余万元

kəra — ‘do’ keruṃə — ‘doing’
natə — ‘dance’ nəlumə — ‘the dance’
hani — ‘scold’ benumə — ‘scolding’
ka — ‘eat’ kəmə — ‘eating (food)’
e — ‘come’ ēmə — ‘coming’
in — ‘be’ inumə — ‘living’
de — ‘give’ dimə — ‘giving, donation’
bo — ‘drink’ bimə — ‘drinking, drinks’

(IV) -mənə, is added to the past participle stem of the following verbs, and generally refers to action as result:

liyə — ‘write’ liyəmənə — ‘writing; letter’
kiyə — ‘say’ kiyəmənə — ‘saying’
viyə — ‘weave’ viyəmənə — ‘weaving; texture’
vidi — ‘pierce’ vidəmənə — ‘piercing; drilling’
de — ‘give’ dimənə — ‘giving; allowance’
hiŋə — ‘beg’ hiŋəmənə — ‘begging’

(V) -i, is added only to the following verb-bases.

The base - vowels are fronted:

vahi — ‘to rain’ vəhi — ‘rain’
kahe — ‘to cough’ kəhe — ‘cough’
ahi — ‘to scrape’ əhi — ‘that which is scraped off.’

3.2.1.3.3 Abstract noun deriving suffix

-koma, (3.2.1.4 above) can be added to the following quasi-verbs in their adjectival form:

önə — ‘want’ önəkəmə — ‘need’
epa — ‘don’t want’ epəkəmə — ‘unwantedness’
neki — ‘not having’ nekəmə — ‘not-havingness; poverty’
beri — ‘unable’ berikəmə — ‘inability’
(b) -kəmə — is also added to the following aorist verbal bases in their adjectival shapes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>base</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>kəmə derivation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dan</td>
<td>‘know’</td>
<td>danno</td>
<td>dannəkəmə ‘knowing’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaṭi</td>
<td>‘be proper, vaṭina’</td>
<td>vaṭinəkəmə</td>
<td>‘propriety value’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) obi</td>
<td>‘proper’</td>
<td>(h) obi</td>
<td>(h)obinəkəmə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>‘propriety’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.1.3.4 Due—noun deriving suffix

-mənə, is taken by the following verb-bases appearing in their potential participial forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>base</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>‘give’</td>
<td>dimənə</td>
<td>‘allowance’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gan</td>
<td>‘get’</td>
<td>gatəmənə</td>
<td>‘that which must be gotten’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kərə</td>
<td>‘do’</td>
<td>kaləmənə</td>
<td>‘duties, necessaries’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ve</td>
<td>‘be’</td>
<td>uvəmənə</td>
<td>‘need’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.2 Prefixation

Prefixation in noun derivation is not a productive process in current Sinhala, and is restricted only to a limited set of nouns.

These prefixes can be broadly classified under two semantic sets as follows:

(1) Negativising prefixes

These prefixes derive noun-stems which imply the opposite or the near-opposite meaning of that conveyed by the base noun:

(a) a—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>base</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gunə</td>
<td>‘virtue’</td>
<td>agunə</td>
<td>‘bad quality’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>palə</td>
<td>‘use, good’</td>
<td>apalə</td>
<td>‘bad result’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘result’</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kusal</td>
<td>‘merit’</td>
<td>akusal</td>
<td>‘de-merit’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) avə—

magul ‘auspicious ceremony’

pāṭo ‘colour’

nambu ‘fame’

gati ‘nature’

naḍu ‘law-suit’

Avəmagul ‘funeral’

Avəpāṭo ‘bad colour’

Avənambu ‘ill fame’

Avəgati ‘bad nature’

Avənaḍu ‘injustice’

(c) apə—

kirtiya ‘fame’

Apəkirtiya ‘ill-fame’

(d) nə—

When nə— is added to noun—stems beginning with a vowel ( = V₂), o + V₂ → ə₂

miniha ‘man’

hōṅda ‘good’

horda ‘thief’

ugōta ‘learned one’

dēnuma ‘knowledge’

Nominiha ‘bad man’

Nohōnda ‘bad’

Nohorda ‘non-thief’

Niṅgōta ‘one who is not learned’

Nodēnuma ‘ignorance’

(e) ku—

tarke ‘argument’

kaviya ‘poet’

Kutarke ‘false argument’

Kukaviya ‘poetaster’

(f) du—

sirīt ‘manners’

Dusirīt ‘bad-manners’

(II) Qualifying prefixes

These prefixes add a positive quality to the meaning expressed by the noun-stem. There is only one such prefix:

su—

Sirīt ‘manners’

Susirīt ‘good manners’

4. Constituent order of complex stems

A complex noun-Stem can be described as maximally constituted of the following constituents:

\{prefix + base + suffix + suffix + suffix\}

\[1 \quad 2 \quad 3\]
The morphemic selection of the prefixes and suffixes is highly conditioned semantically. Prefixes involve only selection and no ordering. Suffixes involve both selection and ordering.

Accordingly the suffixes can be classified into three fixed order position classes with reference to the base, as follows:

Class I – $a_2, i$ – $vərə, tumə, andi$;
  – $nna, - ilə, -umə, -mə, -məna, mənə$;
Class II – $-ā, -kārə$;
Class III feminine gender deriving suffixes, $-kəmə$.

Consider the following examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ker} & \quad - \quad \text{um} & \quad - \quad \text{a} \quad \text{'an able-person (pretention)'}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ker} & \quad - \quad \text{um} & \quad \text{kārəyə} & \quad \text{'ability'}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ker} & \quad - \quad \text{um} & \quad \text{kārə} & \quad \text{kəmə} \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ker} & \quad - \quad \text{um} & \quad \text{kār} & \quad \text{i} \quad \text{'an able woman'}
\end{align*}
\]

An instance for a complex noun-stem with all the positions filled will be:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{no} & \quad - \quad \text{eṇdun} & \quad - \quad \text{um} & \quad \text{kārə} & \quad \text{kəmə} \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{neṇdununkārəkəmə} & \quad \text{'the fact that one is not the fully recogniser.'}
\end{align*}
\]