ANALYZING TYPES OF AFFIXES IN KHORTHA

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ABSTRACT

The present research work attempts to analyse and identify different types of affixes present in the Khortha language as it is a lesser-known language of India and it has yet to be significantly analysed at its grammatical levels to identify its different grammatical structures. McCarthy (2006) and Herman (2015) state that Affixation is the process for a bound morpheme that is attached or joined before, after or within a base; it means simple structure (as in "happy," the base to which –ness is attached to yield "happiness"), or complex structure (as in "happy", the base to which un- is attached to yield, "unhappiness"). Generally, the affixes are classified into prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. Khortha is an Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in 16 districts of Jharkhand. As per the data of the 2011 Census, Khortha has 8.04 million native speakers and the number of speakers of the Khortha language has been decreasing continuously over time. Prasad and Shastri (1958) consider Khortha to be a variety of Magahi but as per Das (2013) it is a variety of Angika. Khortha has the pattern of SOV and it is a verb-final language. The objectives of the present research are to identify the forms, the meaning and the usage of the affixes used in Khortha. It also investigates how they are equally important for forming the word formation process in Khortha. To achieve the aims of the study, it is hypothesized that affixation is found in Khortha language. For doing research, both primary and secondary sources of data have been used. Primary sources of data have been collected from the Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand and for secondary sources of data, we have consulted books written in Khortha, magazines, newspapers and folktales. The findings of this study reveal the fact that Khortha employs the use of prefixes and suffixes and the use of infixes in the language is rarely seen. The study helps us understand the morphological structure of Khortha language. Moreover, the study contributes something meaningful to the area of linguistic research on lesser-known languages.

Keywords: Affixation, Khortha, Lesser-Known Language, Indo-Aryan Language Family, Morphological Analysis

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1. Introduction

The present research work attempts to analyze and identify different types of affixes present in the Khortha language as it is a lesser-known language of India. It is yet to be significantly analyzed at grammatical levels to identify its different grammatical structures. Khortha language belongs to the Indo-Aryan language family. As per Prasad and Shastri (1958), Khortha is a variety of Magahi but Das (2013) considers it to be a variety of Angika which is the languageof western Jharkhand and Bihar. Khortha language is spoken mainly in 16 districts of North Chotanagpur, Palamu and Santhal Parganas (Ohdar 2021. The geographical location of this language is 23½°58'10" to 25°19'15" north latitude and 83°20'50" to 88°4'40" east longitude (Dangi 2012:19). As per the data of the 2011 Census, Khortha has 8.04 million native speakers but due to socio-economic and some prestige-related issues, the speakers of the language are decreasing gradually. Although Hindi functions as the primary language in Jharkhand, Khortha is spoken in the area as a second language. As Hindi is so widely spoken in the area, Khortha is not used as a primary language. The younger generation prefers to speak and communicate in Hindi and other languages. It is miserable that older members of society do not feel at ease speaking their native tongue. Khortha speakers use it frequently in informal situations or family interactions and are also apprehensive about using it in society.

The study of affixation has drawn the attention of many linguists. Some of those who have significantly contributed to the topic include Syarifatarrahman, W. et al. (2021), Singh, S. & Sarma, V. (2010), Smith, K. (1969), Khan, F. (2020), Nurganah, S. et al. (2018), Kumar, V. (2020), Prathibha, RJ. (2016), Nalalia, S. & Wulandari, T. (2017), Harley, H. (2013), Igaab, Z. & Kareem, I. (2018), Hasanah, A. (2014) and Kumar, R. (2013).

Several scholars have attempted to study the Khortha language. The research work of Priya & Singh (2018) highlights Khortha to be an endangered language and there is an urgency to save it. Further, Aman et al. (2020) examine the phonological features, whereas Kumari (2021) analyzes Ergativity and its agreement in the Khortha language. The latest work on the Khortha language includes research work done by Ray & Kumar (2022) on person agreement in Khortha. The review of the research on affixation reveals that the Khortha language has received little attention and there have been very few attempts to analyze language from a Morphosyntactic perspective.

2. Data and Methodology

Primary and secondary data sources have been used for the data collection. The primary data were collected from the native speakers of the Khortha language. The sample size consisted of 60 people of different age groups. For collecting primary data, we have used a random sampling method. In contrast, secondary data have been taken from an online magazine, competitive books and research work

related to the Khortha laguage. Finally, the primary and secondary data have been analyzed linguistically and the prominent linguistic features have been discussed at length in the following sections.

3. Data Analysis

A morphological analysis of the data was undertaken to study the process of affixation in Khortha. Affixation is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme, an affix, is attached to a morphological base.

3.1. Affixes in Khortha

Affixes are a type of 'bound' morpheme, and the collective term for these types of FORMATIVES can only be used when combined with another MORPHEME (the ROOT OR STEM) (Crystal, 2008). Affixes include prefixes, suffixes, infixes and circumfixes.

3.1.1. Prefixes in Khortha

A prefix is a kind of affix that is usually attached to the beginning of a root. By attaching prefixes, we can create new words. Some examples of prefixes in Khortha are given below.

S. No.	Prefixes	Base	Derived Words	Gloss
1	*nir-*	*lədʒaː*	*nirlədʒəjaː*	shameless
2	*be-*	*maːn*	*beimaːn*	dishonest
3	*an-*	*pətʰaːr*	*anpətʰaːr*	without noticing
4	*ku-*	*krəm*	*kukrəm*	evil doer
5	*bər-*	*joriː*	*bərdʒoriː*	forcefully
6	*nəw-*	*tolaː*	*nəwtolaː*	new colony
7	*ni-*	*dər*	*nidər*	fearless
8	*bʰəir-*	*Pet*	*bʰəirpet*	full of stomach
9	*bin-*	*pəɖʰəl*	*binpəɖʰəl*	illiterate
10	*aðʰ-*	*paːgəl*	*aðʰpaːgəl*	half-mental

Table 1: Prefixes in Khortha

While analyzing the data, we found that in Khortha, most of the prefixes are negative markers and when they are attached to the words, they provide a negative meaning. Some of the prefixes of these types include ***nir-, be-, an-, ni-*** and ***bin-*** in Khortha. When these negative prefixes are attached to words like ***ləjaː, maːn,*** and ***pəθaːr,*** these prefixes derive words that are negative in meaning.

3.1.2 Infixes in Khortha

An infix is usually attached within a base and between words (Bauer, 1983). After analyzing the data, we found no single infix in the Khortha language.

3.1.3 Suffixes in Khortha

According to Lieber (2009: 35), "a suffix is an affix added at the end of base words. Suffixes usually have special requirements for the sorts of bases suffixes can attach to". Some of the examples of suffixes identified in the Khortha language are given in the table given below:

S.No.	Base	Suffixes	Derived Words	Gloss
1	*pəɖʰ*	*-niha:r*	*pəɖʰniha:r*	Studious
2	*dʒʰəgra:*	*-a:ha:*	*dʒʰəgra:ha:*	Argumentative
3	*pi:*	*-akkəɽ*	*pi:akkəɽ*	Tipsificator
4	*oɖʰ*	*-ni:*	*oɖʰni:*	Scarf
5	*oɖʰ*	*-na:*	*oɖʰna:*	Blanket
7	*ləɽ*	*-ait*	*ləɽit*	Fighter
8	*bʰu:t*	*-a:ha:*	*bʰu:ta:ha:*	Haunted
9	*gərəm*	*-wek*	*gərəma:wek*	Warm-ups
10	*a:pən*	*-wek*	*a:pəna:wek*	Adopt
11	*ba:p*	*-auti:*	*bəpəut:*	Legacy
12	*h̃a:θ*	*-wek*	*h̃əθija:wek*	Seizure
13	*kʰet*	*-wəin*	*kʰetwəin*	Farms
14	*kʰa:*	*-na:*	*kʰa:na:*	Food
15	*ga:*	*-ait*	*ga:wit*	Singing
16	*kʰa:*	*-a:il*	*kʰa:il*	Ditch
17	*pəɖʰ*	*-lə*	*pəɖʰəl*	Literate
18	*luiər*	*-gər*	*luiərgər*	Skilled
19	*ðəwa:*	*-wəija:*	*ðəwa:ija:*	Medicines

Table 2: Suffixes in Khortha

The given table provides examples of suffixes such as ***-niha:r, -a:ha:, -akkəɽ, -ni:, -na:, -ait, -wek, -wəin, -a:il, -lə, -gər, -auti*** and ***-wəija:.*** It is also observed that some suffixes change the part of speech or the meanings of the words. For example, ***pəɖʰ*** means 'read,' which is a verb, but when we add a suffix ***-niha:r*** to the word (base), it forms a new word such as ***pəɖʰniha:r***. The suffix attached to the word has not only changed the grammatical category of the word but has also added a new meaning to it.

3.1.3.1 Inflectional Suffixes

Inflectional suffixes are usually the suffixes that are attached at the end of the stems and they are used in the language to show some grammatical relationships like number, gender, past tense, possession, etc.

3.1.3.1.1 Suffixes to Form Plural

In the Khortha language, it has been observed that suffixes like '***-ain***' and '***-ba:***' are attached to the base to make a plural. The plural marker suffixes that have been identified in the language are given below in the table. Consider some examples.

S. No.	Base	Plural Suffix	derived word	Gloss
1	*dʒni*	*-ain*	*dʒniain*	Women
2	*bʰedi:*	*-ain*	*bʰeɽi:ain*	sheep
3	*ləɽki:*	*-ain*	*ləɽki:ain*	Girls
4	*tʃõɽi:*	*-ain*	*tʃõɽi:ain*	Girls
5	*sona:r*	*-ba:*	*sona:rba:*	Jewelers
6	*beta*	*-ba:*	*beta:ba:*	Sons
7	*kita:b*	*-wəin*	*kitəbwəin*	Books

Table 3: **Suffixes to form Plural in Khortha**

3.1.3.1.2 Suffixes to Change Gender

Besides plural marker suffixes, some suffixes are used to change the gender in the Khortha language. In the table given below, the use of three different suffixes can be seen**.** The suffixes like **'-i:' '-ni:'** and **'-a:in'** have been added to masculine words such as **gʰoɽa:, cor, misir** respectively. After adding these suffixes, the grammatical category of the words has been changed from masculine to feminine. Consider the use of such types of suffixes in the table given below:

S.No	Suffixes	Masculine	Feminine	Gloss
1	*-i:*	*gʰoɽa:* *buɖa:*	*gʰoɽi:* *buɖi:*	*Mare* *Oldwomen*
2	*-ni:*	*tʃormor*	*tʃorni:* *morni:*	*Female thief peans*
3	*-a:in*	*bʰəgət* *misir*	*bʰəgəta:in* *misira:in*	*Lady devotee of the lordA* *woman from the Misra* *Caste*

Table 4: **Suffixes to Change Gender in Khortha**

3.1.3.1.3 Suffixes (Inflectional) at the Sentential Level

1. ha:min   *kʰa:*   *hi:*

　we   eat   be

　1.PL.NOM   V   PRS

　　we eat

2. ha:min   kʰa:i   rəhəl   həi

　we   eat   prog   be

　1.PL.NOM   V   PROG   PRS

　We are eating.

The sentences in examples 1 and 2 are in the present tense. The sentence in example 1 is in the simple present tense and the sentence in example 2 is in the present progressive tense. After comparing both sentences, we find that in the first sentence, the word *kʰaː* is in the main verb and no suffix has been attached. Still, in the second sentence, it can be observed that the sentence in the present progressive tense uses '*-i*' as a suffix to the main verb '*kʰaː*' and changes it to '*kʰaːi*'.

3. *haːm̃e*   *kʰəilõ*

   i   eat-PST

   1. SG.NOM   V

   I ate.

4. *tõɲ*   *kʰəilh̃iː*

   you   eat-PST

   2. SG.NOM   V

   You ate.

5. *sohən*   *kʰəilkəi*

   sohan   eat-PST

   2. SG.NOM   V

    Sohan ate.

Further, in examples 3, 4, and 5, it can be observed that the language uses three different types of inflectional suffixes like '*–l̃o', '- h̃iː'* and *'-kəi'* in the past tense depending upon the use of the different pronominals in different persons. When the pronoun is 1st person plural the suffix used is '*–l̃o'* with the verb, whereas the pronoun *'- h̃iː'* is used when the pronoun is in the second person. Further, when the pronoun is third person singular, the suffixes attached to the verb is *'-kəi.'* The above-mentioned examples show that different types of inflectional suffixes are used in the past tense depending upon the use of different pronominals.

3.1.3.2 Derivational Suffixes

Derivational affixes alter the grammatical class of the morphemes to which they are attached (as in SUFFIXATION) (Crystal, 2008).

Derivational Affixes

Class-maintaining   Class-changing
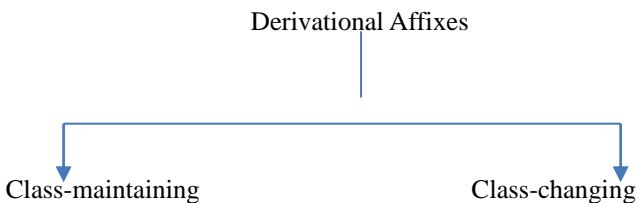
3.1.3.2.1 Class-Maintaining

Class-maintaining affixes create a new form of the word that belongs to the same class as the base or root. The following examples are illustrated below

3.1.3.2.1.1 Noun Forming Suffixes

Some suffixes are also used in the Khortha language to form nouns. The table below shows nominal formation suffixes such as *'-auti'*, *'-a:li:'*, and *'-ri:.'* These suffixes have been added with nouns like *'tʃəiga:,'* and *'buɖʰa:'* and we can see that the derived words are in the category of nouns.

S. No.	Suffixes	Nouns	Nouns	Gloss
1	*-auti*	*ba:p*	*bəputi*	Inherited from Father
2	*-a:li:*	*tʃəiga:*	*tʃẽga:li:*	Childhood
3	*-ri:*	*buɖʰa:*	*buɖʰa:ri:*	Old age

Table 5: Class Maintaining Suffixes to form Nouns in Khortha

3.1.3.2.1.2. Adjective Forming Suffixes

Some suffixes are used in the Khortha language to form adjectives too. The table below shows adjective formation suffixes such as *'-a:il.'* These suffixes have been added with adjectives like *'tʃikən* and *'ba:si:,'* can see in the table that the derived words are in the same category.

S.No.	Suffixes	Adjective	Noun	Gloss
1	*-a:il*	*tʃikən*	*tʃikəna:il*	Smooth
2	*-a:il*	*ba:si:*	*ba:sia:il*	Rancid

Table 6: Class maintaining suffixes to form Adjectives in Khortha

3.1.3.2.2 Class-changing

The class-changing suffixes are the kinds of suffixes that change the category of the words they are attached to. Such types of suffixes are also observable in Khortha. Some of the suffixes that are used in the language are discussed in the table given below:

3.1.3.2.2.1 Adjective Forming Suffixes

It is also observable that the Khortha language uses suffixes like '-*la*' to form adjectives. Here, in examples 1, 2, and 3 in the table given below, we can easily observe the use of the suffix *'-la:'* to form adjectives from verbs like *a:gu:, pa:tʃʰu:, upər*. Here, '-*la:*' can be seen as a derivational suffix as it changes the grammatical category and the meanings of the words.

S. No.	Suffixes	Verb	Adjective	Gloss
1	*-la:*	*a:gu:*	*aigəla:*	The next one
2	*-la:*	*pa:tʃʰu:*	*pitʃlʰa:*	The last one
3	*-la:*	*upər*	*upərla:*	The above one

Table 7: **Class changing suffixes to form Adjectives in Khortha**

3.1.3.2.2.2 Suffixes Forming Adjectives from Nouns

In addition, it is further observable that suffixes like **'-gər** and **wa:r'** are used to form adjectives from nouns. In examples 1 and 2 in the table below, we can easily observe the use of suffixes **'-gər** and **wa:r'** use to form adjectives out of nouns like **'buiɖʰ**and**gos.'**

S. No.	Suffixes	Adjective	Noun	Gloss
1	*-gər*	*buiɖʰ*	*buiɖʰgər*	One who is intelligent
2	*-wa:r*	*Gos*	*goswa:r*	One who is angry

Table 8: Class changing suffixes to form Adjectives from Nouns in Khortha

4. Conclusion

To conclude, it can be said that Khortha uses various affixes. It can be summarized from the analysis of the data that the language uses both prefixes and suffixes to form new words.

Khortha uses ten different prefixes in word formation processes which include **nir-, be-, an-, ku-, bər-, nəw-, bʰəir-, ni**-, **bin-** and **aðʰ-.**

No infixes were observed in the Khortha language.

Thirteen suffixes have been identified in the Khortha language they include **-niha:r, -a:ha:, -akkəɽ, -ni:, -na:, -ait, -wek, -wəin, -a:il, -lə, -gər, -auti**and**-wəija:.**

Suffixes identified in the language are sub-categorized into Inflectional and derivational suffixes.

Derivational suffixes include class-maintaining and class-changing suffixes

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