

The Morphophonemics of Romblomanon

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The phonological shape of morphemes in Romblomanon are often influenced by external factors e.g. affixation, change in meaning or intonation. These result in a change in the phonological shape of a morpheme. The morphophonemic processes occurring in Romblomanon that result in these changes are:

1. Assimilation
2. Syncopation or Vowel Loss
3. Epenthesis
4. Metathesis
5. Morphophonemic Alternation
6. Shift of Vowel Length
7. Contractions Across Word Boundaries
8. Others

Please note that the examples given here are spelt phonemically. Most of the derivatives are formed from verbal affixes. When the conjugated word is a noun it is indicated by **(n)** and when it is a adjective by **(adj)**. No definitions are given of the derivations except in

1. Assimilation

cases where the meanings cannot be deduced from the sense given in the stem and the conjugation of the verbs.

When prefixes that end in the nasal *-ng* e.g. *pang-*, *mang-*, *ging-*, *hing-* are attached to a stem, assimilation of the nasal occurs at the same point of articulation as the word initial consonant of the stem. In the case of the instrument affix *pang-*, assimilation does not occur.

a. The following are examples of verbs formed from the plural affix *pang-*. The use of this affix generally indicates **plurality or intensity**. Please note that the derived forms are all in the **Completed Aspect** and **Agent Focus** with exceptions for the purpose of simplicity.

Stem	Definition	Derivative
bakay	<i>to buy</i>	nagpamakay
saka	<i>to climb</i>	nagpanaka
pukut	<i>fishing net</i>	nagpamukut
kusug	<i>strong</i>	nagpangusug
tahì	<i>to sew</i>	nagpanahì
dagat	<i>sea</i>	nagpanagat

In the following examples, assimilation does not occur:

Stem	Definition	Derivative
nunut	<i>to follow</i>	nagpangnunut
langgariti	<i>type of fishing</i>	nagpanglanggariti
asawa	<i>spouse</i>	nagpangasawa
isdà	<i>fish</i>	nagpangisdà
ungà	<i>child</i>	nagpangungà
balayi	<i>to betroth</i>	nagpamalayi

b. The **mang-** affix functions as a verb affix and denotes **Actor Focus** in the **future** aspect. Its completed form is **nang-**. **Mang-** also functions as a nominalizer to depict occupation. In this case the first syllable of the stem is reduplicated as is seen in **manluluko**. If the stem begins with a vowel the nasal **ng-** and the initial vowel of the stem is reduplicated as seen in **mangingisdà**. This form is probably a borrowing from Tagalog. In both forms assimilation occur as follows: (Note that the suffix **-an** denotes **Location Focus**).

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>suwildu</i>	salary	<i>manuwildu</i>
<i>sandig</i>	to lean	<i>manandigan</i>
<i>luku</i>	to cheat	<i>manluluku</i> (n)
<i>isdà</i>	fish	<i>mangingisdà</i> (n)
<i>pamuhunà</i>	to ask permission	<i>mamuhunà</i>
<i>pangamuyò</i>	to petition/pray	<i>mangamuyò</i>
<i>pangutana</i>	question	<i>mangutana</i>
<i>pangayò</i>	to request for s.t.	<i>mangayò</i>

In the examples marked with an asterisk, the only change that occurs at the stem when **mang-** is added seems to be that the initial consonant is replaced by the nasal **m**.

c. The verb affix **ging-** denotes **Object Focus** in the **Completed Aspect**. In this case the nasal **-ng** of the affix alternates between **-n** and **-ng** at the point of articulation of the word initial consonant of the stem but assimilation of the initial consonant does not occur. There does not appear to be any pattern involved and could be due to variations in pronunciation. **n** and **ng** also alternates in word initial position of some stems. For example the word **gani** (*therefore*) is sometimes pronounced as **ngani**. The following are examples: of words with the affix **ging-** (Ref Newell's text).

Stem	Definition	Derivative	Ref
<i>irat</i>	look disapprovingly	<i>giniratan</i>	15904.009
<i>tan-aw</i>	to see	<i>gintinan-aw</i>	15904.019
<i>balayi</i>	to betroth	<i>ginpamalayi</i>	15904.029
<i>bunyag</i>	to baptise	<i>ginbunyagan</i>	15934.007
<i>sakit</i>	sick	<i>gingsakitan</i>	521118.038
<i>buyung</i>	medicine	<i>gingbuyung</i>	521118.038
<i>làgà</i>	to boil	<i>ginglàgà</i>	521118.038
<i>gamit</i>	to use	<i>ginggamit</i>	22601.006

d. ***hing-*** not sure yet the function of this affix

Stem	Definition	Derivative	Ref	Definition
<i>pulsu</i>	pulse	<i>makahimulsu</i>	521118.057	able to take pulse
<i>abut</i>	to arrive	<i>naghingabut</i>	521118.057	planned
<i>patay</i>	to die	<i>nahimatay</i>		faint

e. the affix ***kasing-*** which denotes *similarity* is a Tagalog borrowing and is very uncommon. Assimilation also occurs when it is attached to a Romblomanon word e.g.

Stem	Definition	Derivative	Definition
<i>banwa</i>	town	<i>kasimanwa</i>	townmate (n)

2. Vowel Loss or Syncopation

The loss of vowel/vowels from the final syllable of a stem in derivatives occur frequently. This is known as **Syncopation**. Sometimes two processes are happening simultaneously e.g. in words ending with a vowel, suffixation causes the loss of the final vowel which is **replaced by a hyphen (-) or glottal (marked by apostrophe (´) on top of the vowel)** in a process called **Epenthesis**. The following are examples:

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>suba</i>	excess	<i>subhan</i>
<i>sugà</i>	to burn	<i>sughan</i>
<i>bayà</i>	to leave, ignore	<i>pabay-an</i>
<i>daya</i>	to bring	<i>day-un</i>
<i>huyà</i>	shame	<i>mahuy-anun</i> (adj)
<i>salà</i>	wrong	<i>kasal-anan</i> (n)
<i>ta-u</i>	to give	<i>nagtinaw-anan</i>
<i>kilaya</i>	to know	<i>nagkinilay-an</i>

<i>dakup</i>	to catch	<i>dakpun</i>
<i>tu-un</i>	learn	<i>tun-an</i>
<i>bu-uy</i>	to take	<i>buy-un</i>
<i>bunut</i>	coconut husk	<i>buntan</i>
<i>nunut</i>	to follow	<i>panunta</i>
<i>bakay</i>	to buy	<i>balakyanun</i> (n)

In the case of those marked with an asterisk, the vowel in a closed ultimate syllable is lost with the addition of the suffix *-an*. In *balakyanun* epenthesis has also occurred introducing the syllable *-la-* after the first syllable. This particle may indicate **plurality** and is not very common. In the word **bu-uy** another process has happened whereby the **glottal** shifts to the initial position of the last syllable of the derivative. In *kilaya* a **glottal** is inserted before the affix *-an* after the vowel *-a-* has been dropped from the closed final syllable of the stem.

In the case of **ta-u** morphophonemic alternation has also occurred replacing the vowel **o** with the consonant **w**.

3. **Epenthesis** refers to the addition of one or more phonemes that do not belong to either the stem or affix. Usually this happens when a stem ending with a vowel is suffixed by an affix beginning with a vowel. This results in a vowel sequence in the final syllable of the derivative. Because Romblomanon syllable structure does not allow for vowel sequences, a consonant **h**, **n** or a **glottal** is inserted between the vowels sometimes resulting in the loss or syncope of the final vowel of the stem. The following are examples:

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>iba</i>	together	<i>ibhan</i>
<i>unu</i>	how	<i>unhun</i>
<i>suba</i>	excess	<i>nasubhan</i>
<i>sara</i>	door	<i>sarhan</i>
<i>basa</i>	to read	<i>basahun</i>
<i>diskarga</i>	to unload	<i>diskargahan</i>
<i>itsa</i>	throw s.t. upwards	<i>itsahan</i>
<i>abri</i>	to open	<i>abrihan</i>
<i>gustu</i>	like/want	<i>nagustuhan</i>
<i>uyu</i>	head	<i>uyunan</i> (n)

4. **Metathesis** or reversal of phonemes sometimes happen when a stem is attached to a suffix e.g. in the following when the location suffix *-an* is attached:

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>ngilit</i>	to smile	<i>ngitlan</i>

In the above example, *t* has changed places with *l* with the loss of the vowel *i* when the suffix **-an** is attached to the stem.

The **-in-** infix denoting plurality is reversed in certain words to become **-ni-**.

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>riklamu</i>	to complain	<i>nagniriklamu</i>

5. **Morphophonemic Alternation** - in some cases, when a verbal affix e.g. **-un** denoting **Object Focus** is attached to a stem, the final consonant of the stem is replaced by another consonant e.g.:

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>hawid</i>	to hold	<i>hawirun</i>
<i>buyad</i>	to dry	<i>buyarun</i>
<i>utud</i>	to cut	<i>uturun</i>
<i>sugid</i>	to search	<i>sugirun</i>

6. **Shift of Vowel Length** - for more information about this please see Phonology paper. (Note: lengthened vowel highlighted in bold).

Stem	Definition	Derivative	Ref
<i>dayun</i>	to stopover	<i>dinayuhan</i>	17516.058
<i>kaun</i>	to eat	<i>kaunun</i>	24908.102

7. **Contractions and Attachment across Word Boundaries.**

Stem	Contraction	Definition
<i>igwa + ning</i>	<i>igwa-y</i>	have something
<i>adtu + nga</i>	<i>adtung</i>	that + particle
<i>ini + nga</i>	<i>ining</i>	this + particle
<i>lang + da</i>	<i>landa</i>	only + particle

8. **Others**

In some cases, the initial consonant of a stem is replaced by the nasal **m** when it is prefixed by **ka-** (pl, past affix) or **na-** (past, unintentional affix). This seems to happen with bilabials **p** and **b**.

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>patay</i>	to die	<i>nagkamatay</i>
<i>bag-u</i>	new	<i>namag-uhan</i>

In some cases the first syllable of the affix is dropped. For example in the affix *naga-* **which denotes** Incomplete Aspect and **Agent Focus** *na-* **is sometimes dropped**. There is no particular rule involved here but simply an indication of speech contraction e.g.

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>laya</i>	to <i>weave</i>	<i>galaya</i>
<i>languy</i>	to swim	<i>galanguy</i>

Speech contractions also occur in whole words for example the following where the first syllable is dropped:

Stem	Definition	Contraction
<i>wayà</i>	negative word	<i>yà</i>

Another example indicative of speech variation is a vowel being dropped when a suffix such as *-an* is added to the stem. This occurs in the speech of older people around forty and above. It is probably a form of **syncopation** that is no longer evidenced in the speech of people younger than forty. E.g.,

Stem	Definition	Derivative
<i>limut</i>	to forget	<i>nalimutan</i> > <i>nalimtan</i>