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Derivation of Feminine Nouns in Rangri: A Word-and-Paradigm Analysis

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Abstract

The present study tries to analyze the derivation of feminine nouns from the masculine base forms in Rangri language using the Word-and-Paradigm Morphology of Haspelmath and Sims (2010) as a theoretical guide. It is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in different regions of Punjab and Central Sindh of Pakistan. It is a marker of Rangar identity of mostly the Rajput clans that migrated from the Haryana region of India during the Partition in 1947. The data were collected in the form of recordings of interviews with old rural men and women from Sanghar, Nawabshah and Matiari districts of Sindh. The derivation of feminine nouns from masculine base forms is reasonably regular. Most of the nouns ending with the regular masculine marker /a/ are converted into feminine nouns by removing the masculine marker and then attaching the regular feminine marker /i/, and the masculine nouns ending with the marker /i/ are converted into feminine by the addition of the formative /æŋ/ in place of the masculine terminal phoneme. The nouns ending with consonants usually take /ʌn/ or /nĩ/ as the feminine marker to derive the feminine nouns. The efficacy of the Word-and-Paradigm



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Morphology as a theoretical framework for derivational processes was proved as successful as for inflectional processes.

Keywords: Rangri Language, Morphology, Indo-Aryan Languages, Word-and-Paradigm Morphology

1. Introduction

The present study tries to analyze the processes of deriving feminine nouns from their masculine counterparts in the Rangri language by using the Word-and-Paradigm morphology (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010) as the theoretical framework. The Rangri language exhibits interesting derivational characteristics viz-a-viz the derivation of feminine nouns from masculine ones. In most Indo-Aryan languages masculine nouns are considered roots, whereas feminine nouns are derived from them by the attachment of some derivational morphemes (Mangrio, 2016). The processes of derivation in Rangri are quite regular and offer a reasonable amount of predictability (Raza-E-Mustafa & Mangrio, 2019). Therefore, the Word-and-Paradigm (henceforth WP) morphology has been selected as the theoretical framework given its advantage in analyzing the morphologically complex agglutinative and fusional Indo-Aryan languages like Urdu, Hindi and Punjabi etc. (Raza-E-Mustafa, 2020).

Rangri is an Indo-Aryan (NIA) language, predominantly spoken in the Sindh and Punjab regions of Pakistan (Raza-E-Mustafa, 2020). The language acquired its nomenclature due to its association with the Rangar community which migrated to Pakistani areas of Punjab and Sindh from the Haryana region of India during the partition of the Indian Sub-Continent in 1947 (Madan, 1995). It is a descendant of the Haryanvi language in India and is known as a marker of the identity of the Rangar Rajput clans in Pakistan (Raza-E-Mustafa, 2020, Sohdarvi, 2014). A very conservative estimate of its speaker by Aslam (2015) puts the number to above one hundred thousand speakers; however, in the absence of any kind of data, the number may be much higher.

The language has a number of dialects, but the most well-known among them are the Ambalvi and Karnalvi dialects which are based on the location in India from where the speakers had migrated in 1947. Both these dialects share a high level of mutual intelligibility, but due to the geographical proximity of Ambala district with Indian Punjab, the Ambalvi dialect shares a greater number of lexical and morphological features with the Punjabi language, whereas, the Karnalvi dialect is lexically and morphologically more distinct (Raza-E-Mustafa, Anwar & Rasool, 2021). Table 1 shows the lexical differences between Ambalvi and Karnalvi dialects as compared to the Punjabi language.

Table 1: Nominal Roots in Ambalvi and Karnalvi Dialects

Words	Punjabi Language	Ambalvi Dialect	Karnalvi Dialect
Sugarcane	/kəmə:d̪/	/kəmə:d̪/	/e:k ^h /
Tablet	/go ɪ/	/go ɪ/	/bʌt.tɪ/
Ewe	/le.lə/	/le.lə/	/g ^h e.ta/
Husband	/bʌn.d̪ə/	/bʌn.d̪ə/	/log/

Table 1 indicates that the Ambalvi dialect shares greater lexical similarity with Punjabi language, whereas the Karnalvi dialect is lexically distinct. The present study, therefore, has selected the Karnalvi dialect for the analysis of the derivational processes of Rangri feminine nouns from the masculine ones.

Rangri nouns possess a rich morphological structure. Inflectionally, they inflect for number and case marking, whereas, derivationally, feminine nouns can be derived from the masculine nouns. This is an interesting phenomenon. Like other Indo-Aryan languages like Punjabi (Iqbal, 2016) and Urdu (Mangrio, 2016), Rangri nouns have a default masculine form which can be used to derive feminine forms with the help of different formatives (Raza-E-Mustafa, 2020). While the inflectional properties of the Rangri nouns have been analyzed by Raza-E-Mustafa, Anwar and Rasool (2021), the present study tries to analyze the derivational processes of Rangri feminine nouns by using the WP approach to morphology as the theoretical framework.

1.1 Research Objectives

The objective of the present study is to analyze the derivational processes in Rangri language. It specifically aims at analyzing the derivational processes of feminine nouns from masculine nominal bases in the Rangri language.

1.2 Research Question

1. How are the feminine nouns derived from masculine nominal bases in the Rangri language?
2. What are the processes involved in the derivation of feminine nouns from their masculine counterparts?

2. Literature Review

Morphological analysis has been treated as an important part of linguistic analysis (c.f. Aronoff, 1976; Bauer, 2003; Aronoff, 2007; Blevins, 2014; Ackerman & Malouf, 2016). Chomsky (1970; 1979) suggested that the morphological level of language exists between phonological and syntactic levels and was therefore, important level of analysis. Morphological analysis provides important information about the phonological and syntactic environments of a word (Bauer, 2003). It also offers information about the internal structure of a language.

The derivational morphology lies between inflectional and lexical elements of a language (Bybee, 1985). It resembles the lexical elements due to its restrictive applicability and idiosyncraticity in formation or meaning and inflectional elements due to combination of two morphemes into a single word. The following distinction between inflectional and derivational morphology has been created by Plag (2002).

Derivational Morphology

- encodes lexical meaning
- is not syntactically relevant
- can occur inside derivation
- often changes the part of speech
- is often semantically opaque
- is often restricted in its productivity
- is not restricted to suffixation

Inflectional Morphology

- encodes grammatical categories
- is syntactically relevant
- occurs outside all derivation
- does not change part of speech
- is rarely semantically opaque
- is fully productive
- is always suffixational (in English)

Plag (2002, p.22)

Most language researchers are interested in the analysis of inflectional characteristics of the languages due to its relevance with syntax and packaging of morphosemantic information (Bauer, 2003; Booij, 2005). The derivational morphology, however, has largely been ignored despite the fact that it provides greater information about the semantic and lexical features of a language. The present study, therefore, tries to analyze the derivational processes of Rangri feminine nouns from their masculine counterparts with the help of the WP morphology.

There has been a limited study of the morphological structure of the Indo-Aryan languages. Among the few studies carried out to describe the morphological structure of the IA languages include Mangrio's (2016) study of morphology of Urdu loan

words; Iqbal's (2016) study of Punjabi nouns and Muhabat's (2016) study of exocentric compounds in Punjabi. Earlier, Magier (1983) had studied the morphology of Marwari; Singh and Agnihotri (1997) had studied the morphology of Hindi, and Ramasamy (2011) studied the morphology of Tamil language for machine translation purpose. Raza-E-Mustafa and Mangrio (2019), Raza-E-Mustafa (2020) and Raza-E-Mustafa, Anwar and Rasool (2021) have described the different morphological features of Rangri language. The present study is an attempt at describing and analyzing the derivational processes of Rangri feminine nouns from masculine nouns. For this purpose, the study uses the Word-and-Paradigm morphology of Haspelmath and Sims (2010) as the theoretical framework.

3. Theoretical Framework

The Word-and-Paradigm morphology, which is based on the word-based approach, is one of the oldest approaches to morphological analysis having its roots in the Greek grammatical traditions (Blevins, 2013). The theory is based on the assumption that "word" should be treated as a unitary whole instead of breaking it down into smaller elements like morphemes and clitics etc. as is done in the morpheme-based approaches to morphological analysis. Most of the morpheme-based approaches treat word as having morphemes strung in a linear fashion in which each morpheme contributes a meaning component to the word (Selkirk, 1982). These approaches work well with purely agglutinative languages which have a direct form-meaning relationship, but they meet different roadblocks, especially those of allomorphy and suppletion when it comes to the analysis of complex fusional languages like the Indo-Aryan languages of which Rangri is one. The Lexeme-based approach, on the other hand, treats words to originate from the lexemes which are the abstract representations of the words, and the inflections and derivations are the results of the projection of those basic units (Aronoff, 1976). This approach also finds it hard to analyze different types of exponence especially those in the inflectional analysis.

The WP approach, on the other hand treats each word form to have a separate lexical entry in the lexicon. Since each wordform is treated as a separate lexical and morphological unit, it accounts for a better understanding of the morphologically problematic issues of different types of allomorphy and portmanteau morphs. Since each word is considered as a basic unit, and other word forms can be achieved through the process of analogy, it offers a greater explanatory adequacy. Following are the basic postulates of the WP theory:

3.1 Difference between words and formatives

Unlike the constructivist approaches to morphology in which each new word is "constructed" out of the existing base morphemes by adding morphemes to create

words like beads on a string, the WP morphology is realizational in nature as it “realizes” the new word forms from the existing words, and each word form is distinct and carries a separate lexical entry in the lexicon (Stump, 2001). These word forms differ from each other in the form of the terminal markers that are attached with each word (Bickel & Nichols, 2001). These terminal markers are called formatives in the WP morphology and are different from the morphs as they do not carry a one-on-one form-meaning correspondence. This distinction between a morph and formative is important for the success of the WP analysis as it allows the attachment of the formatives with the existing words to create new words without the formatives contributing any meaning content. This is important for analyzing different types of exponence.

3.2 Lexical Integrity Hypothesis

WP morphology treats the internal structure of the word as non-interruptible and non-accessible during syntactic analysis. According to Anderson (1992), “The syntax neither manipulates nor has access to the internal structure of words” (p. 84). This concept is called Lexical Integrity Hypothesis (LIH) which is an important element of the WP morphology. It helps treat the word as an autonomous unit instead of being analyzable in smaller components.

3.3 Inflectional Classes

Inflectional classes are the sets of words which undergo a morphological process in the same form and take the same formative at the end. According to Haspelmath and Sims (2010) “Words are assigned to inflection classes based on phonological, semantic or morphological criteria” (p.160). In the present study, however, the term declension is used to avoid confusion of using the term inflectional in a derivational study.

3.4 Word Schemas

Word schemas are an important part of the WP analysis. They provide phonological, syntactic and semantic information about a word in a paradigm (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010). The word schemas are an integral part of the WP analysis as they carry information about the morphosemantic features of a whole word instead of breaking it down for analyzing each feature separately with reference to each formative. In the WP analysis, the word schemas are first created based on the lexical entries of the words and then, the whole paradigm of a word is realized.

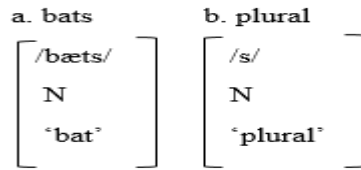
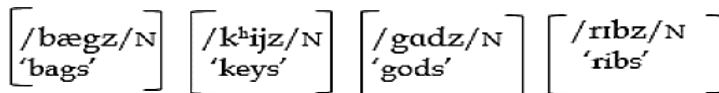


Figure 1: Lexical Entry

Lexical entries provide morphosemantic information about a word undergoing a morphological process. The systematic relations among the words are then represented through word-schemas. A word schema shows how different words undergo a morphological process in the same way.

a. Words: *bags, keys, gods, ribs*

b. Lexical entries for words



c. Word-schema

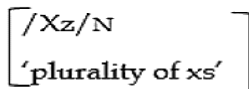


Figure 2: Word-schema (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010)

The word-schemas as represented in Figure 2 are an important source of information as to how a word undergoes a certain morphological process. In Figure 2c the Xz refers to the base word and the addition of the formative for the purpose of pluralization. This shows the process of pluralization in a more detailed way.

4. METHODOLOGY

The data for the present study were collected during PhD research. The data were collected from the rural areas of the Central Sindh in Pakistan as the Karnalvi dialect of Rangri is mostly spoken in that region. The sample were selected on the basis of slightly modified NORM (non-moving, old, rural, men) criteria designed by Chambers and Trudgill (1998). These criteria was slightly modified to include non-moving, old

rural women also in the sample as it was decided that a non-moving, old rural woman was a better source of data as compared to a younger but moving male. The data were collected in the form of recordings of face-to-face conversations with twenty-four mostly old respondents out of which thirteen were male and eleven females. The data were then transcribed using the FAAV Project (2011) guidelines and were analyzed using the Word-and-Paradigm morphology (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010).

5. DATA ANALYSIS

Rangri nouns exhibit interesting morphological characteristics in terms of their gender marking. They have two genders: a grammatical gender and a natural gender. The natural gender does not only refer to the sex of the objects, but also at times to the size. So, most of the augmented nouns are masculine and their diminutive counterparts are feminine. Like most of the IA languages, the default form of an unmarked Rangri noun is masculine, whereas, the feminine nouns are derived from those masculine bases. The following patterns are found in the derivation of feminine nouns from the masculine base forms in Rangri language.

ɪ-Declension

It is the most commonly occurring process of derivation of feminine nouns. The regular terminal phoneme (henceforth TP) of the masculine nouns is /ɑ/ and that of the feminine nouns is /ɪ/. Take into account, for example, the following word schema for the nouns *chhori*, *chachi* and *gheti* (girl, aunt and female ewe respectively):

- a. Words: *chhori*, *chachi*, *gheti*
b. Lexical entries for words

$\left[\begin{array}{l} /tʃɔɪ/N \\ \text{'girl'} \end{array} \right]$	$\left[\begin{array}{l} /tʃatʃɪ/N \\ \text{'aunt'} \end{array} \right]$	$\left[\begin{array}{l} /g^bɛtɪ/N \\ \text{'ewe'} \end{array} \right]$
------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------

- c. Word schema

$\left[\begin{array}{l} /Xɪ/N \\ \text{'feminine of X'} \end{array} \right]$

Figure 3: ɪ-Declension

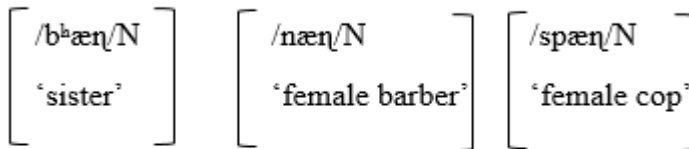
The feminine nouns in the above schema have been derived from their masculine bases chhora, chacha and ghetta (boy, uncle and ewe) respectively by undergoing two processes: firstly, the masculine TP /a/ is removed and then the feminine TP /i/ is attached. This is the most regularly occurring morphological phenomenon. Through the same analogy, other words can also be derived by using the same morphological operations.

The same morphological process is also used while deriving the diminutive nouns from the augmented nouns. Therefore, the word dendka is a big stick whereas, dendki is a small stick; similarly, the word degcha is a big cauldron and degchi is a small cauldron.

æŋ-Declension

This an irregular morphological process as in this case, the masculine nouns ending with other TPs than the regular masculine TP /a/. Most of the masculine nouns undergoing derivation through this pattern end with the TP /i/ which is basically a feminine morpheme. The following word-schema explains the process in greater detail.

- a. Words: bheN, naeN, spehN
- b. Lexical entries for words



- c. Word schema

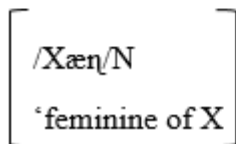


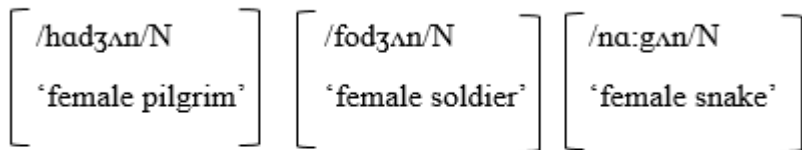
Figure 4: æŋ-Declension

As is apparent from the above schema, the masculine nouns ending with the TP /i/ generate the feminine nouns by removal of the TP and then reattachment of the feminine formative /æŋ/. This pattern is only available with the masculine nouns ending with /i/ as the final formative.

ʌn-Declension

In this declension, the masculine nouns ending either with the terminal phoneme /i/ or with other formatives generate feminine forms with the addition of the formative /ʌn/. The following word-schema explains the process in greater detail.

- a. Words: *hajan*, *foujan*, *naagan*
- b. Lexical entries for words



- c. Word schema

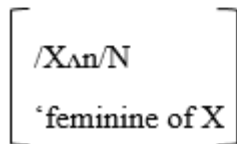


Figure 5: ʌn-Declension

The word schema in shows that if a masculine noun carries a terminal phoneme /i/, it is replaced with the feminine formative /ʌn/; whereas, if there is a consonantal terminal phoneme as in the word *naag* (snake), the feminine formative is attached without any other morphological process necessary before the attachment.

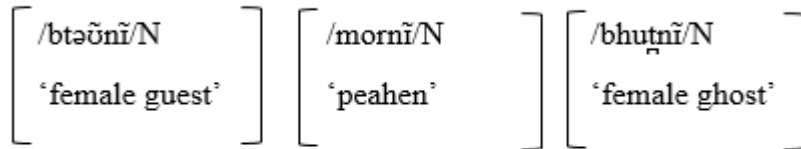
nĩ-Declension

Most of the masculine nouns ending with consonant sounds usually take a nasalized formative /nĩ/ for deriving the feminine nouns. Unlike the nouns ending with a vowel having an embedded masculine marker, the nouns ending with consonants do not have

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masculine marker embedded into them. They are intuitively masculine, and the feminine nouns are derived by attaching the feminine marker /nĩ/ with them. The following word schema explains this morphological process in a greater detail.

- a. Words: bteuni, morni, bhootni
- b. Lexical entries for words



- c. Word schema

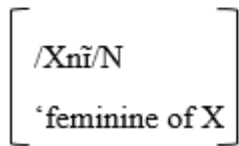


Figure 6: nĩ-Declension

As the above figure shows that the nouns ending with a consonantal sound take /nĩ/ as a feminine marker with no other process required. This is a very common pattern for the derivation of feminine nouns from their masculine counterparts.

Table 2: Feminine Derivational Paradigm

Class	MAS	FEM	Gloss
Class 1	/gʌd̪ʰɑ/	/gʌd̪ʰi/	Donkey
Class 2	/bʰɑɪ/	/bʰæŋ/	Brother
Class 3	/t̪elɪ/	/t̪elʌn/	Oilman
Class 4	/mor/	/mornĩ/	Peacock

The final paradigm as realized in Table 2 shows that there are four basic patterns of derivation of feminine nouns from the masculine ones and each pattern has a separate feminine formative associated with it.

6. Conclusion

It is concluded from the above analysis of the data that nominal derivation of feminine nouns from their masculine roots is rather systematic. There are certain repeatable patterns, and those patterns can be used to derive more nouns using the same morphological processes through the mechanism of analogy. Most of the masculine nouns ending with their default masculine marker /a/ are converted into feminine by the removal of the masculine marker and then reattaching the feminine marker /i/ in its place. On the other hand, the irregular masculine nouns ending with /ɪ/ as a TP are converted into feminine nouns by first removing the atypical masculine marker and then attaching the feminine marker /ʌn/. For masculine nouns ending with consonant sounds, the feminine nouns can be derived by just attaching the feminine marker /nĩ/ or /æŋ/. It is also concluded that the Word-and-Paradigm morphology works well for analyzing the derivational processes for the analysis of inflectional characteristics of a language.

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