



Morphological Description of Affixation Process in The Dayak Bentian Language

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Abstract

This paper presents a brief morphological description of the affixation processes in the Dayak Bentian Language (DBL), a minority language at risk of extinction in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. To this end, the paper explores the affixation processes, including the form, function, and meaning of affixes and their morphophonemic processes. The data for this research consists of recorded oral language samples from the Dayak Bentian ethnic group in audio and video formats, which are then transcribed orthographically and phonemically with the assistance of native speakers through the use of ELAN and FLEX software. The annotated data was analyzed qualitatively to identify and categorize affixes, as well as to examine their attachment patterns and grammatical roles within sentences. The findings reveal that affixes in DBL include prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and compound affixes. Several prefixes and their allomorphs identified in DBL include {Nə-}, {mə-}, {sə-}, {bə-}, {bəka-}, {pə-}, {kə-}, {də-}, and {tə-}. The language also features two infixes, {-ən-} and {-ər-}, as well as three compound affixes: {pə-+ən-}, {kə-+ən-}, and {tə-+ən-}. Additionally, there is one suffix, {-an}. These affixes are generally categorized as inflectional and derivational, with the prefix {bə-} and the suffix {-an} being specifically derivational. The inflectional affixes are related to verb affirmation, reciprocal actions, passivation, and imperatives without altering the linguistic identity of the modified words. The phoneme changes resulting from morpheme junctions in DBL are limited to a few processes, primarily regressive nasal assimilation, phoneme retention, elision, insertion, and phoneme weakening through palatalization.

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Keywords: Affixation, Dayak Bentian Language, East Kalimantan, Language Documentation, Morphophonemic.

Introduction

Dayak refers to one of the major ethnic groups inhabiting the island of Kalimantan. According to Aloy (2019), the Dayak ethnic group consists of seven main tribes: Ngaju, Apokayan, Iban, Bidayuh, Murut, Punan, and Ot Danum. These tribes dispersed to find suitable places to live. The challenges of transportation and

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communication between the main tribes and their subgroups, which lasted for years, led to the emergence of sub-ethnic groups. These sub-ethnic groups still share characteristics, customs, and traditions with their parent tribes, although they have differences, including in language. One of the Dayak sub-ethnic groups was related to the Bentian Dayak language (DBL). The Bentian ethnic group belongs to the Lawangan sub-ethnic group (Eberhard, Gary, & dan Charles, 2023; Smith, 2017; Soriente & Inagaki, 2012), originating from the Ngaju tribe. DBL speakers are generally found in Bentian Besar District, West Kutai Regency. The DBL coexists with the Tunjung and Benuaq Dayak languages in this administrative area.

Based on the notes of Eberhard et al. (2023) and the researchers' observations in the region, DBL, as part of Dayak Lawangan, is classified as endangered. Given that the DBL-speaking area is surrounded by speakers of the Benuaq and Tunjung languages, widely spoken in West Kutai, the use of DBL has started to decline. This situation poses a threat to the survival of DBL in its region. The presence of *cultural assimilation* (Crystal, 2003), where the dominance of other ethnic cultures has led to the loss of certain traditional ceremonies and folklore in the area, has resulted in the adoption of other ethnic cultures. The endangerment faced by DBL is evident from the decreasing number of young speakers. Currently, according to information from several community leaders, the number of DBL speakers is approximately 3,000 individuals. According to Fauntgil (Mantiri & Iwong, 2023), a speaker population of this size falls under the category of "somewhat endangered," with an estimated survival period of 30–40 years.

DBL is slowly being abandoned by its speakers due to pressure to adopt languages that are more socially or economically dominant, such as Benuaq, which is commonly used as the regional language in the area, and Indonesian as the national language. The lack of intergenerational transmission, with parents no longer introducing DBL to their children, stems from the belief that DBL has little or no economic value to support their children's future livelihoods. The job market around them predominantly uses Indonesian. This situation is exacerbated by feelings of embarrassment or inferiority when using DBL among Benuaq and Tunjung speakers, as their language is considered strange or humorous by other language speakers. As a result, DBL speakers tend to avoid using DBL in public settings.

A critical activity that can be undertaken to maintain and revitalize endangered or dying minority languages is through linguistic work and its description (Ado & Bidin, 2017). More recordings or documentation related to the Bentian Dayak language in West Kutai Regency must be made. Documenting and recording DBL is urgently needed, whether done conventionally or digitally. Research is one way to record and document this language. By doing so, these languages can be preserved and become more widely known, easily accessible, and frequently used in various linguistic domains. The documentation of the linguistic system and the inventorying of DBL, followed by their transformation into books or dictionaries as learning and study materials, is urgently needed as an effort to preserve and develop the language. This effort for DBL, however, has yet to be undertaken.

As a language that has never been studied by researchers, this research becomes crucial to undertake. In the context of endangered languages, documenting the affixation system is a priority because this process is often more complex and plays a more significant role in conveying grammatical information than independent words. If the affixation system is not thoroughly documented, the lost information will be more difficult to understand or recover in the future. According to Bloomfield (1995), the characteristics of a language lie more in its morphology than in its syntax. Analyzing morphology requires different approaches depending on the type of language being analyzed.

Therefore, this study focuses on morphological issues related to the affixation process, including the forms, functions, and meanings of affixes and the morphophonemic processes involved in the word formation of DBL. These linguistic processes are related to the inherent human cognitive ability (intentional relational capacity) that leads to the content of speech (Sudaryanto, 1985). Hence, this paper aims to explore and describe how words are formed and derived through the affixation process and the occurrence of morphophonemic processes in DBL as spoken in Bentian Besar District, West Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan Province.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Broadly speaking, this research employs the concept of structural linguistics. Chaer (2008) asserted that a language is described based on its distinctive characteristics in structural linguistics. Crystal (2003) posits that structuralism is a term used in linguistics, referring to an approach for analyzing language in which linguistic features are described as a structure and system. Matthews (2014) explains that structural linguistics is a theory where language is understood as a system that governs itself, with its elements defined by their relationships. Based on the structural approach, complex words derived from morphological processes are considered structures or constructions composed of free and bound morphemes. Thus, a complex word, according to its structure, consists of at least one free morpheme and one bound morpheme, one free morpheme and another free morpheme, or one bound morpheme and one free morpheme, or one bound morpheme, one free morpheme, and another bound morpheme (Bunau & Yusof, 2018).

In affixation, sound or phoneme changes commonly occur due to the interaction between morphemes, known as morphophonemic processes. The analysis of morphophonemics lies at the intersection of phonology and morphology. Morphophonemics is therefore a subsystem that connects morphology and phonology. It examines how morphemes are realized at the phonological level. The morphophonemic process is a phonological event due to the interaction between morphemes. The phoneme changes that result from this interaction can be classified into ten processes: phoneme emergence, phoneme preservation, phoneme emergence and preservation, phoneme shift, phoneme change and shift, phoneme deletion, phoneme reduction, historical phoneme insertion, phoneme emergence based on foreign language patterns, and source language phoneme variations (Arifin & Junaiyah, 2007; Chaer, 2008; Darwis, 2012; Kridalaksana, 2007; Ramlan, 2012; Soeparno, 2002; Suhardi, 2012). Based on these views, the processes occurring in DBL affixation can be described.

In the morphological process, one of the critical discussion centers around inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes (derived morphemes). Inflectional morphemes are not used to create new words but rather to indicate the grammatical functions of a word. On the other hand, derivational morphemes can change the grammatical category of a word. In other words, bound morphemes are used to create new words or to form words with a grammatical category different from the stem (Schmid, 2015; Yule, 2014). Regarding the classification, morphemes can be considered based on various characteristics. Typologically relevant criteria include their occurrence as bound or free, their position relative to the stem, and their grammatical function, which can correlate with their semantic classification (Veselovská, 2018).

When discussing the grammatical processes of derivation and inflexion, one must recognize the formation of words involving various aspects of affix productivity (Nishikawa & Nakamura, 2004). According to Matthews (2014), affixation is defined by two characteristics. Firstly, the form that results from the operation—what we may call the derived form—will consist of the base, the form to which the operation is applied, plus an additional morpheme. Secondly, the added form (the affix) will remain constant, regardless of the particular base to which the operation is applied.

Affixation is a morphological process that involves the addition of an affix (i.e., a bound morpheme) to a morphological base. Cross-linguistically, it is the most common process used by human languages to form new lexemes (derivational affixation) or to adapt the form of a word to its morphosyntactic context (inflectional affixation). Suffixes (i.e., bound morphemes following the base) and prefixes (i.e., bound morphemes preceding the base) are the most common affixes, with suffixation being more frequently recorded in the world's languages than prefixation. Minor types of affixation include circumfixing (a single affix placed at both the beginning and the end of the base) and infixation (a bound morpheme inserted in the middle of the base) (Van Goethem, 2020). Meanwhile, Matthews (2014) proposed three types of affixation processes: prefixation, suffixation, and infixation. According to this view, affixes are elements that can be attached to other forms to create words, thereby altering the meaning and function of those words. In general, affixes consist of one syllable and their number is not as large as that of words.

DBL, which coexists with the Tunjung and Benuaq languages in the West Kutai Regency, has never undergone any linguistic study. As a result, it is not easy to find references related to this language, except for aspects of its Dayak Bentian sociology and culture, as found in a few studies by Sillander (2004, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2015). Other research related to Dayak languages conducted in West Kutai includes Wijaya (2012), which compiled a dictionary of the Dayak Benuaq language; Hadibrata (2017), which described the morphological processes of the Dayak Tunjung language; Lia, Mulawarman, & dan Hefni (2018) described personal pronouns in the Benuaq language; Bety (2019), described adjectives in the Benuaq language; and Bety (2021), described vowel and consonant sequences in the Tunjung language.

The Dayak ethnic group consists of seven main groups with various sub-groups, each having its own distinct language. Literature reviews related to the affixation studies of several Dayak sub-ethnic languages have been conducted by researchers such as Pramana (2023), analysed the Dayak Lundayeh and Dayak Punan languages; Novelia, Sunarsih, & Oktavia (2020), studied the Dayak Ahe language; Koni (2020), wrote about the Dayak Bakati language; Astonis, Simanjuntak, & Seli (2018), described the Dayak Kanayatn language; Pratama (2016), detailed the Dayak Linoh language; Mery, Simanjuntak, & Hanye (2015), researched the Dayak Mualang language; Tyas et al. (2022), described the Dayak Hibun language; Stevani, Mulawarman, & Rijal (2021), explained the Dayak Kenyah Lepo Jalan dialect; Juliarsa, Saman, & Hanye (2014), studied the Dayak Keninjal language; and Alessander & Yanti (2020), described the morphological processes of the Dayak Ba'dameo language. These data indicate that research on Dayak languages in Kalimantan has increased significantly in the past decade.

However, no significant study has taken place to understand the affixation system of DBL, as it is still used orally and passed down from generation to generation through daily activities. A study on DBL, can therefore provide insights into its linguistic complexity and how speakers encode information in various word forms (Aldridge, 2021). Moreover, like other Dayak languages, the linguistic practices of DBL are also important to study, as there has yet to be a recording, description, or documentation of the DBL. This study explores and describes the morphological processes involved in DBL word formation, which has not been

undertaken previously. This study also explores how words are formed or derived through the process of affixation in DBL, framed within the theoretical framework of affixation processes by Matthews (2014), Verhaar (1999), and Yule (2014). As part of the focus of this paper, the author briefly outlines the definition of morphophonemics and the types of changes that arise during morphophonemic processes. Some affixation processes involve variations in forms or allomorphs that emerge after being attached to bound forms. Phonological conditions cause these phenomena. Such conditions may lead to changes in the attached affixes, while in other cases, no changes occur.

Method

Research Design

The study adopted a qualitative research design to collect data that primarily described the discovery of affixation and morpheme-phonemic processes in DBL. A qualitative approach ideally suits a study that examines morpheme-phonemic patterns in affixation, and one which categorizes variations in affix forms in the morpheme-phonemic processes of the Moronene language. The usage of affixes in sentences can be well analyzed when a content analysis is done when speakers use these affixes (Matthews, 2014).

Research Setting

The research was conducted in the region inhabited by the Dayak Bentian ethnic group. Most Dayak Bentian people live in Bentian Besar District, Kutai Barat Regency, East Kalimantan Province. Overall, there are seven villages in Bentian Besar, with the majority of the population being Dayak Bentian, namely Kampung Dilang Puti, Suakong, Jelm Sibak, Sembulan, Sambung, Tende, Randa Empas, and Tukuq. The three research sites were Kampung Dilang Puti, Suakong, and Sambung. These villages were selected because they still have Lamin, traditional Dayak Bentian houses, which serve as centers for cultural activities.

Sampling

The sample of this study comprised Dayak Bentian individuals, both male and female, aged 15 to 60 years, who have no issues with speech production or possess complete speech apparatus. The eligibility criteria also included that the sample, who were all DBL speakers, must be familiar with transcribing the recordings, to produce natural language output and capture phenomena of spoken language. These fieldwork sessions were conducted with linguists and local language experts to ensure accurate transcription and data annotation (Borges & Faria, 2023). Data collection was conducted in July–August 2023 and continued in July 2024.

Data Collection

The data collected for this research consisted of examples of linguistic practices (communicative events) within the Dayak Bentian ethnic group. Data was collected using language documentation techniques through recording, transcription, translation, and editing. The primary data sources in this research were spoken language samples obtained through fieldwork and a recorded linguistic corpus (Kessler, Marino, & Liska, 2023; Kessler & Polio, 2023). These samples included recordings of folk tales, biblical stories, and everyday conversations, representing diverse language use in DBL. Initial recordings focused on language use in ceremonial contexts and procedural texts, resulting in 15 hours of recordings from one research location. To ensure high-quality recordings, recorders with external microphones were chosen.

Data Analysis

The audiovisual recordings were transcribed and translated into Indonesian and English, following the methodology of Sneddon (1996) and Alfraidi et al. (2022). The recorded data were transcribed orthographically, phonetically, or phonemically. ELAN and Flex computer software tools achieved high-quality transcription and formatting. ELAN is used because it can display audio and video along with its annotations. Flex can mark affix boundaries, gloss morphemes, and document-related grammatical functions (Matan & Velvizhy, 2024). Thus, annotation allows for identifying and categorizing affixes within the corpus. The annotated data are then analyzed qualitatively, including verifying affix data, binding patterns, and sentence grammatical roles. This study considers various linguistic features, including tense, aspect, mood, diathesis, and valency-changing operations, to gain insights into the multifaceted nature of affixation in DBL (Arkadiyev, 2020; Haspelmath, 2021; Inglese, 2022).

The data analysis was conducted in several stages: describing affix forms, describing affix functions, describing affix meanings, and describing morphophonemic processes in DBL affixation. Techniques such as expansion and mark reading methods were employed to analyze the data transcripts (Sudaryanto, 2015). Free morphemes or root words were expanded by adding affixes to observe the phoneme realizations resulting from the morpheme-morpheme interactions. The mark reading technique was also utilized to deepen the data analysis. This technique is used to sort or classify data based on characteristics, properties, and descriptions of affixation and morpheme-phonemic processes in DBL.

Results

Specifically, the study adopted four stages to analyze the affixation data in DBL as extracted from data transcripts. The first stage involved description of affix forms in terms of categorizing the positions of affixes as prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes. At this stage, the morphological characteristics of each type of affix were explained, such as the patterns of affix addition to the base and the phonological patterns related to sound changes. This analysis allows for the identification of productive affix types in DBL and the forms of these affixes when attached to the base. In the second stage, description of affix functions focuses on the grammatical roles played by affixes in sentences. Affixes can serve various functions, such as forming verbs from nouns. To support this analysis, examples of the use of each affix in sentence contexts are provided to illustrate their functions. The third stage involved description of affix meanings aiming to identify and explain the changes in meaning that occur when an affix is added to a base. In this process, affixes that have the same form but different meanings when attached to a base are identified. Finally, the description of morphophonemic processes in affixation refers to the changes that occur in sounds (phonemes) when affixes are added to a base. At this stage, the phonological changes and variations in forms (allomorphs) that occur during the affixation process in DBL are documented.

This section presents the DBL's analysis of the forms, functions, meanings, and morpheme-phonemic processes for each affix. Affixes are classified as bound morphemes, meaning they cannot stand alone and are highly dependent on other morphemes to fulfil their functions and meanings. In DBL, the identified affixes include prefixes, infixes, circumfixes, and suffixes. Detailed explanations of the forms, functions, and meanings of prefixes, infixes, circumfixes, and suffixes in DBL are also provided

Prefixes in the DBL

Prefixes are bound morphemes attached at the beginning of a base form. Generally, prefixes are more numerous compared to other affixes. Consequently, morphological processes are more extensively discussed in the context of prefixes. Not all prefixes have allomorphs, which are variations in the form of a morpheme caused by the influence of its phonological environment. A number of prefixes were analyzed in this study.

Prefix {Nə-}

The symbol "N" in the prefix {Nə-} represents a nasal sound that is adjusted to the following consonant, such as [n], [ŋ], or [ɲ]. Thus, the sound /N/ in the affixation process indicates an allomorphic change due to phonological adaptation in a specific morphological context. A base word that receives the prefix {n-} can become an active verb. The meaning of this prefix is to perform an action in accordance with the meaning of the base word. The prefix {Nə-} has several allomorphs, namely /n-/, /ŋə-/, /ŋ-/, and /ɲ-/. The prefix {Nə-} when attached to a base word that begins with the phoneme /t/ changes the initial phoneme of the base word to /n/ and deletes one phoneme /ə/. Observe the following examples and the sentences in which the prefix {Nə-} is used:

- (1) {Nə-} + təmək 'shoot' → nəmək 'to shoot'
- (2) {Nə-} + təmpəq 'pound' → nəmpəq 'to pound'
- Ohaq **nemek** tulən ohaq bakoy. (He shot because he returned empty-handed.)
- Setelah **nempeq** bayuq epuq jadi tepukng. (After pounding, it becomes flour.)

The main process occurring in this case is consonant assimilation, where the consonant /t/ in the base word undergoes nasalization, changing to /n/ after affixation. This assimilation allows the consonant /t/ at the beginning of the base word to change into the nasal consonant /n/ when adjacent to other nasal sounds or within a specific phonological environment. The loss of the phoneme /ə/ in this case is related to vowel absorption or reduction due to the presence of the same vowel in sequence. This is intended to avoid vowel repetition or create a shorter, more easily pronounced form.

When the prefix {Nə-} is attached to a base word that begins with the phonemes /d/, /l/, /j/, or /r/, it becomes /ŋə-/ without altering the base form. For example:

- (3) {Nə-} + dela 'lick' → ŋədəla 'to lick'
- (4) {Nə-} + lamen 'prohibit' → ŋəlamen 'to prohibit'
- (5) {Nə-} + jaba 'give birth' → ŋəjaba 'to give birth'
- (6) {Nə-} + rongo 'deceive' → ŋərono 'to deceive'
- Ko **ngedela** empe ap lulus. (You licked until I graduated.)
- Boteq aser ulutn tuhaq kan **ngelamen**. (Do not let the elders prohibit [you].)
- Sie bulan Mariam **ngejaba** tiaq sookng. (Nine months later, Mariam gave birth to a son.)
- Belis empet la dali dueq **ngerongo** dali dueq. (The devil came to both of them, deceiving both of them.)

The change from /Nə-/ to /ŋə-/ is the result of epenthesis and assimilation processes to facilitate more straightforward pronunciation and ensure a smooth transition between the prefix and the base word in DBL.

The nasal consonant /N/ changes to /ŋ/ to align with the following consonant. This nasalization often occurs to maintain smooth articulation and ease of pronunciation. The prefix {Nə-} transforms into /ŋ/ when attached to a base word that begins with the vowel phonemes /a, i, u, ə, o/ without altering the base form. However, the vowel /ə/ in the prefix is elided. The prefix {n-} undergoes the following transformations when attached to base words in these examples:

- (7) {n-} + ajər (teach) → ŋajər (to teach)
- (8) {n-} + ənsaq (cook) → ŋənsa? (to cook)
- (9) {n-} + ilaq (stay) → ŋila? (to stay)
- (10) {n-} + uhau (wash) → ŋuhau (to wash)
- (11) {n-} + oit (bring) → ŋoit (to bring)
- Ohaq **ngajer** ulutn deoq. (He/She teaches many people.)
- Aser ko epuq antekng **ngensaq** bayuq ko **nguhau**. (After you finish cooking, then you wash)
- Ap kakatn **ngilaq** segala yeq daat. (I want to leave everything that is bad.)
- Ohaq beau moyu **ngoit** yeq daat. (He/She does not want to carry anything bad.)

In this process, there is a tendency to eliminate the weak vowel /ə/. As a result, when it is adjacent to a stronger vowel, as shown in the data above, the vowel /ə/ in the prefix {Nə-} tends to be dropped. This simplification occurs to ease pronunciation and make the word more concise. Additionally, the vowel /ə/ is removed to avoid a hiatus, which is the occurrence of two vowels in consecutive syllables without an intervening consonant, thus producing a form that is easier to pronounce. The prefix {Nə-} changes into the velar nasal /ŋ-/ when it encounters velar phonemes /k/ and glottal phonemes /h/. In this process, the vowel /ə/ in the prefix is elided as seen in the following examples.

- (12) {n-} + kumpur (gather) → ŋumpur (to gather)
- (13) {n-} + hukupm (punish) → ŋukupm (to punish)
- Lipēs istirahat bo **ngumpur** pesua song oto. (After resting, they gather things into the car.)
- Ohaq antekng **ngukupm** senarikng oit danum solai punikng dunia. (He/She will punish mankind with a great flood that fills the world.)

The process described in the data above is referred to as nasalization and consonant elision. In the given examples, the prefix /N/ changes into /ŋ-/ and the initial phonemes of the base words (namely /k/ and /h/) undergo elision, meaning they disappear in the derived word. This process occurs to avoid phonetic obstruction caused by two adjacent consonants, resulting in a smoother flow of sound. The prefix {Nə-} also changes into /ŋ-/ when attached to a base word that begins with the consonant /s/, as shown in the following examples:

- (14) {n-} + suru (burn) → ŋuru (to burn)
- (15) {n-} + siək (strangle) → ŋiək (to strangle)
- Bansa erai bulan boh bayuq nyawa **nyuru**. (After about a month, you will burn it.)
- Ohaq iro kawa atiq on **nyiek** senarikng. (He/She can strangle a person.)

In this process, nasalization occurs, where the prefix {Nə-} transforms into /ŋ-/ when it precedes a base word that starts with the phoneme /s/. The elision of the phoneme /s/ happens to avoid the direct contact of two consonants, ensuring a smoother transition in pronunciation. This change results from a regressive nasal assimilation process, which leads to the elision of the phoneme /s/ and its adjustment to the nasal palatal sound [ɲ] for smoother articulation.

Prefix {mə-}

When the prefix {mə-} is attached to a base word, it transforms the word into an active verb. The meaning of this prefix is to perform an action in accordance with the meaning of the base word. The prefix can create verbs from both noun classes and active verbs. The prefix {mə-} has an allomorph /m-/. When {mə-} is attached to a base word that begins with the phonemes /l/ and /r/, it does not undergo any phonological changes. Consider the following examples:

- (16) {mə-} + lolos (give birth) → məlolos (to give birth)
- (17) {mə-} + roya (sound) → məroya (to make sound)
- Kira-kira sie bulan mariam **melolos**. (Approximately nine months later, Mariam gave birth.)
- Aser piariq dingaq esaq yeq **meroya**. (If you hear something making a sound.)

The prefix {mə-} undergoes phonological changes when affixed to base words that begin with a vowel, as illustrated in the following examples:

- (18) {mə-} + ahan 'to get' → mahan 'to obtain'
- (19) {mə-} + alaln 'to walk' → malaln 'to walk'
- (20) {mə-} + əŋkət 'to lift' → mənəkət 'to lift'
- Aser ko epuq **mahan** antai" (If you have already obtained a place)
- On kakatn **malaln** la Samarinda kan" (Do you want to walk to Samarinda?)
- Bayuq ohaq epuq **mengket**" (Only then did he lift it)

In these cases, the weak vowel /ə/ is often eliminated while the strong vowel is retained. This helps avoid the occurrence of two vowels in different syllables without an intervening consonant, thereby facilitating easier pronunciation. When the prefix {mə-} is added to base words that start with the phonemes: /p/ and /b/, the initial phoneme of the base word undergoes elision, as shown in the following examples:

- (21) {mə-} + pasəŋ 'to install' → masəŋ 'to install'
- (22) {mə-} + boli? 'to buy' → moli? 'to buy'
- (23) {mə-} + pote? 'to break' → mote? 'to break'
- (24) {mə-} + buke 'to open' → muke 'to open'
- (25) {mə-} + pupuk 'to hit' → mupuk 'to hit'
- Ohaq **maseng** oliq bayuq naan senarikng lalo. (He installed a new song and someone passed by.)
- Beau kasaq **molig** motor" (Do not buy a motorbike)
- Singso **moteq** segala kayu jango" (Singso cuts all types of wood)
- Ohaq yeq epuq **muke** takaq eke iket belis" (He who has opened us from the snares of the devil)
- Ohaq yeq **mupuk** anindaq empe mate" (He who hit his sibling until death)

The morphophonemic process observed in this data involves nasal assimilation and the elision of consonants. The consonant /m/ is a bilabial nasal. When it is added to a base starting with the phoneme /p/ (bilabial plosive) or /b/ (bilabial fricative), assimilation occurs where the /m-/ consonant adjusts to the place of articulation of the following phoneme. Since both initial phonemes /p/ and /b/ are bilabial, the /m/ in the prefix {mə-} remains unchanged, but the initial phoneme /p/ or /b/ is elided or disappears. This elision facilitates pronunciation and the transition between the prefix and the base.

Prefix {sə-}

The prefix {sə-}, when attached to verb base words, reinforces the identity of the base word as an active verb without changing the word class. In the morphophonemic process, this prefix forms active verbs. Its allomorph is /sək-/. When {sə-} is affixed to a base word starting with a consonant, the derived verb does not undergo phonological changes. However, when {sə-} is attached to a base word starting with a vowel, it changes to /sək-/. Examples include:

- (26) {sə-} + kukup 'to ferment' → səkukup 'to ferment'
- (27) {sə-} + bagi 'to share' → səbagi 'to share'
- (28) {sə-} + awikŋ 'work' → səkawikŋ 'to work'
- (29) {sə-} + elo 'to search' → səkelo 'to search'
- Ko sekawikng yen ohaq. (You work for him/her.)
- Kawa senarikng sekelo seluakng. (One can search for seluang fish.)

The morphological and phonological process occurring in the data is the insertion of an epenthetic consonant (epenthesis of a consonant). Epenthesis is the process of adding a phoneme into a word to facilitate pronunciation or adhere to a language's phonotactic rules. In this case, the consonant /k/ is inserted between the prefix {sə-} and the base that begins with a vowel. This insertion is done to prevent the occurrence of two adjacent vowels without a separating consonant, which could make pronunciation difficult. The prefix {sə-} not only forms verbs but can also create adverbial expressions from adjectives and adverbs. It conveys the meaning of time. Additionally, when attached to nouns, this prefix can indicate the concept of "one" or "a certain quantity." Consider the following examples:

- (30) {sə-} + epuq → səəpu? 'after'
- (31) {sə-} + ola → səola 'during'
- (32) {sə-} + karuŋ → səkaruŋ 'a sack'
- **Seepuq** Noh erai abetn suang alur. (After Noah and his family boarded the boat.)
- Te aroq takaq bolupm **seola** yeq. (Over there, we live forever.)
- Maka mahan kan bansa **sekarung** dueq karung. (And then get about a sack and two bags.)

Prefix {bə-}

The prefix {bə-} is used to form verbs from adjectives, nouns, and numerals. This prefix does not have allomorphs. Combining this prefix with its root can result in several meanings, as illustrated by the following data. The prefix {bə-} can mean "to have" or "to do", which is expressed by the base. For example:

- (33) {bə-} + səŋat 'breath' → bəsəŋat 'to breathe'
- Aser keneq dela beau kawa **besengat**. (If bitten, [one] cannot breathe)

The prefix {bə-} can also mean "to become" or "to take on the characteristics of" what is expressed by the base, as shown in the following data:

- (34) {bə-} + gamat 'slow' → bəgamat 'to be careful'
- (35) {bə-} + tunak 'old' → bətuŋak 'to become old'
- **Begamat** ko deh ap uli aser nget iro deh. (Be careful when you return home like that.)

- Empe agak lelemit **betunak** bayuq ma ka ensaq. (Until it becomes somewhat yellowish and old, then we cook.)

The prefix {be-} indicates a quantity specified by the base. For example:

- (36) {bə-} + duəq 'two' → bəduəq 'in pairs'

When this prefix is added to a root word, no phonological changes occur in the derived form.

Prefix {bəka-}

This prefix attaches only to verbs and does not change the word class of the derived form. The prefix {bəka-} conveys a meaning of reciprocal action or mutual interaction. When this prefix is added to a base beginning with a consonant, the form of the derived word remains unchanged. Consider the following examples:

- (37) {bəka-} + kakatn 'to desire' → bəkəkakatn 'to mutually desire'
 (38) {bəka-} + sogət 'to love' → bəkəsogət 'to mutually love'
 - Kelamen **bekekakatn** atau kakatn saotn ulutn bali. (Prohibited to mutually desire or desire someone else's wife.)
 - Lakutn takaq yeq beau **bekesoget** la yeq iro pedarek ohaq. (Our behaviour of not mutually loving hurts him.)

When the base begins with a vowel, the prefix {bəka-} becomes /bəkək-/. For example:

- (39) {bəka-} + əta? 'to lie' → bəkəkəta? 'to lie to each other'

In the above example, assimilation occurs, a process where a phoneme changes to become more similar to or the same as a neighboring phoneme. Here, the change from {bəka-} to /bəkək-/ happens because the prefix adapts to the vowel at the beginning of the base. The vowel in the base affects the final phoneme of the prefix, resulting in the doubling of the final consonant to make pronunciation easier and sound more natural.

Prefix {pə-}

The prefix {pə-} can attach to bases that are adjectives and verbs. The combination of the prefix {pə-} with a base can change adjectives and verbs into nouns. Additionally, it can form active verbs. The prefix {pə-} does not undergo phonological changes when attached to bases beginning with a consonant phoneme. The prefix can form active verbs and carries the meaning of performing or making something according to the base. Consider the following examples:

- (40) {pə-} + bolupm 'live' → pəbolupm 'to make live'
 (41) {pə-} + darək 'hurt' → pədarək 'to inflict pain'
 (42) {pə-} + lehei 'recover' → pələhei 'to heal'
 (43) {pə-} + sua 'enter' → pəsua 'to insert'
 - Yesus **pebolupm** ulutn mate. (Jesus made the dead live.)
 - Yeq beau loloh la yeq iro **pedarek** ohaq. (The one who is disobedient is the one who causes him pain.)
 - Takaq kiteq yesus **pelehei** ulutn posa. (We saw Jesus heal the blind.)
 - Lipes **pesua** la oto iro oit oliq oto iro malatn (After inserting it into the car, the car started moving again.)

The prefix {pə-} can also form imperative meanings. Observe the following examples:

- (44) {pə-} + dolui 'lower' → pədolui 'lower it'
 (45) {pə-} + sua 'enter' → pəsua 'insert'
 (46) {pə-} + kalək 'lose' → pəkalək 'to defeat'
 (47) {pə-} + lalo 'pass' → pəlalo 'pass over'
 (48) {pə-} + sampur 'mix' → pəsampur 'mix it'

Specifically, regarding phonological changes, in the case of bases beginning with the phoneme /m/, the attachment of the prefix {pə-} results in a phonological change where the phoneme /m/ transforms into /k/. Thus, the variation formed is /pək-/ as seen in the example.

- (49) {pə-} + mate 'dead' → pekate 'to kill'
 - **Pekate** ulutn iro dosa (To kill a person is a sin)

The process occurring in this case is regressive nasalization. Regressive nasalization is a process where a nasal consonant (in this case /m/) changes into a non-nasal consonant (in this case /k/) due to the influence of the following consonant or the prefix preceding it. The prefix {pə-} affects the initial phoneme /m/ in the base, causing it to change into /k/, thus forming the prefix /pək-/. The prefix {pə-} becomes /pəŋ-/ when attached to bases beginning with a vowel phoneme. In the following data, the prefix {pə-} forms nouns and has the meaning of an agent of the action expressed by the base.

- (50) {pə-} + ətaʔ 'lie' → pəŋətaʔ 'liar' (51) {pə-} + oit 'bring' → pəŋoit 'carrier'
- Dosa yeq bali iro lai seperti **pengetaq**. (Other sins are like liars.)
 - Ohaq **pengoit** sawit eheq. (He is the carrier of this palm oil.)

The process occurring in these cases is the insertion of a consonant, or more specifically, phonological reinforcement. In these cases, the addition of the consonant /ŋ/ occurs to facilitate pronunciation and maintain clarity of articulation when the prefix {pə-} meets a base beginning with a vowel. This process aims to avoid the encounter of two consecutive vowels, which could make pronunciation more difficult or less clear. By adding the consonant /ŋ/, the prefix {pə-} changes to /pəŋ-/, making the combination of the prefix and base easier to pronounce and sound more natural.

Consider the following data, which presents a different case from the previous examples. Although the base begins with a vowel, the phonological change observed is the addition of the phoneme /k/ between the prefix and the base. Consequently, this results in the prefix variation /pək-/.

- (52) {pə-} + iŋət 'remember' → pəkŋət 'to remind'
- Salib **pekinget** takaq oit Yesus. (The cross reminds us of Jesus)

The phonological change in this case is dissimilation, a phonological process where two similar or identical phonemes become different from each other to ease pronunciation and avoid excessive similarity. In this case, the change from the prefix {pə-} to /pək-/ before the base starting with the vowel /i/ aims to avoid similarity between the prefix and the base and to make pronunciation easier and clearer.

Prefix {kə-}

The prefix {kə-} can form imperative verbs from either verbs or adjectives. The meaning conveyed when this prefix is attached to a base form is to perform the action mentioned in the base. When combined with a base that begins with the consonant phonemes, /b/ and /d/, the derived word does not undergo any phonological changes, as seen in following examples.

- (53) {kə-} + buəiʔ 'good' → kəbuəiʔ 'improve'
- (54) {kə-} + dingan 'listen' → kədiŋan 'listen (imperative)'

Additionally, the prefix {kə-} can be attached to base that belong to the nominal and adjectival classes to form nouns. The use of this prefix will convey a state as expressed by the base. Furthermore, when the prefix {kə-} is combined with words from the numeral class, it will indicate an ordinal form corresponding to the number of the base. If attached to a word that begins with a vowel, the derived form does not undergo any phonological changes.

- (55) {kə-} + opat 'four' → kəopat 'the fourth'
- Gambar yeq **keopat** eheq takaq kiteq senarikng sookng. (This fourth picture shows a male human figure.)

The prefix undergoes phonological changes when attached to a base beginning with the consonant /s/. The allomorph of this prefix is /kəp-/ and the initial phoneme /s/ of the base is elided. The following is an example of the use of this allomorph:

- (56) {kəp-} + səroʔ 'unlucky' → kəpəroʔ 'misfortune'
- Boteq takaq terengo takut suang segala suseh **kenyeroq**. (Let us not be too afraid of all difficulties and misfortunes.)

In this process, palatalization occurs. The consonant /s/ is a nasal fricative that can be difficult to pronounce when followed by a vowel that influences its articulation. To avoid phonological confrontation or incompatibility, /s/ is palatalized to /ɲ/, which is more compatible with the following vowel. A phoneme will adapt to the influence of surrounding phonemes to create a smoother sound transition.

Prefix {də-}

The prefix {də-} attaches to verbs to form passive verbs. When this prefix is combined with a base that begins with a consonant phoneme, it does not affect the derived word. For example:

- (57) {də-} + lubəkŋ 'bury' → dəlubəkŋ 'buried'
- (58) {də-} + rahan 'reach' → dərahan 'reached'
- Epuq **delubekng** sua lubekng luang batuq. (Already buried in the stone hole grave.)
 - Beau murah poteq takut atiq **derahan** meong. (Not easily broken for fear it will be reached by the cat.)

When this prefix is attached to a base that begins with a vowel phoneme, the derived word undergoes a phonological change involving the deletion of the vowel sound.

- (59) {də-} + ənəʔ 'make' → dənəʔ 'made'
- Aser epuq solukng **deneq** suang kelengkikng. (If it has already been made into the rice barn.)

In the above case, the vowel sound in the prefix undergoes elision. In affixation, the deletion of the phoneme /ə/ can facilitate the transition between the prefix and the base, avoiding the meeting of vowels, which can make pronunciation more difficult or awkward.

Prefiks {də-}

The prefix {tə-} does not have any allomorphs. This prefix functions as an affix that forms passive verbs. The use of this prefix with a verb base conveys the meaning of performing an action as indicated by the base form. Here are some examples of the prefix {tə-}:

- (60) {tə-} + okan 'makan' → təokan 'eaten (accidentally or unintentionally)'
 (61) {tə-} + diŋa? 'hear' → tədiŋa? 'heard'

Infixes in the DBL

An infix is an affix placed in the middle of a base. In the DBL, only two infixes are found: {-ən-} and {-ər-}. The addition of an infix to a base does not change the word class. In terms of meaning, these infixes indicate the grammatical aspect of the word. The placement of these infixes occurs after the initial phoneme of the word.

Infix {-ən-}

The infix {-ən-} can attach to verb classes and forms passive verbs. This infix is considered productive. The meaning of this prefix when attached to the base denotes an action as expressed by the base.

- (62) gusir 'chase away' + {-ən-} → gənusir 'chased away'
 (63) sanga 'fry' + {-ən-} → sənanga 'fried'
 (64) suru 'burn' + {-ən-} → sənuru 'burned'
 (65) kumpur 'gather' + {-ən-} → kenumpur 'gathered'
 (66) tontokŋ 'fetch' + {-ən-} → tenontokŋ 'fetched'
 (67) tarik 'pull' + {-ən-} → tənarik 'pulled'
 (68) tempe? 'pound' + {-ən-} → tənempe? 'pounded'
 (69) pakei 'wear' + {-ən-} → pənakei 'worn'
- Lipes esaq iro **genusir** kan bayuq kawa mate ohaq. (After something has been chased away, only then can it die.)
 - Kadang **senangaq** lei tapi senampur daon leyeq. (Sometimes it is just fried, mixed with ginger leaves.)
 - Aser epuq **senuru** aru soya jadi ngoa benyuru. (Once it is burned and charred, it then becomes necessary to clean the burnt remnants.)
 - Lipes iro **kenumpur** te dirikng alatn oliq. (After that, it is gathered by the side of the road again.)
 - Supaya neq sama-sama **tenontokŋ** Yesus dan selamat. (So that later, we are all fetched by Jesus and saved.)
 - Beheq eheq **tenarik** suseh parah. (That goat was pulled with great difficulty.)
 - Bayuq **tenempeq** sua tolaakng neq empe lonyeq. (It was pounded inside bamboo until soft.)
 - Iya **penakei** ongoq kala. (That item is worn for a special occasion.)

Infix {-ər-}

The other infix in DBL is {-ər-}. This infix is not very productive. The meaning it conveys when attached to a base is to clarify or emphasise what is expressed in the base. Based on the following data, it is known that the infix {-ər-} can form nouns.

- (70) gunum 'mumble' + {-ər-} → gərunum 'indistinct mumble'
 - **Gerunum** kenedinga takaq. (An indistinct mumble that we can barely hear.)

Double Affixes in the DBL

Double affixes, also known as combined affixes (some refer to them as circumfixes), are affixes that do not appear simultaneously or concurrently in the morphological process. In DBL, several double affixes combine prefixes and infixes. For instance, consider the derived word /pənədolui/ (lowered). This word originates from the root /dolui/, which first receives the imperative prefix {pə-} and then the infix {-ən-}, resulting in /pənədolui/ 'lowered'. Such affixal forms cannot be classified as circumfixes because their occurrence is not simultaneous. Below are some examples of double affixes in DBL.

The Double Affix {pə-+ən-}

The double affix {pə-+ən-} functions to form passive verbs that express a causative meaning. This affix does not change its form when combined with a base that begins with a consonant phoneme. Typically, the infix is inserted after the initial phoneme of the base. For examples:

- (71) {pə-} + dolui 'descend' → pedolui 'cause to descend' + {-ən-} → pənədolui 'was caused to descend'
 (72) {pə-} + sua 'enter' → pəsua 'cause to enter' + {-ən-} → pənəsua 'was caused to enter'

- (73) {pə-} + kalək 'defeat' → pəkələk 'cause to be defeated' + {-ən-} → pənəkələk 'was defeated'
 (74) {pə-} + lalo 'pass through' → pəlalo 'cause to pass through' + {-ən-} → pənəlalo 'was passed through'
 - Jadi **penedolui** erai-erai bayuq nimekng. (So they were lowered one by one before being weighed.)
 - Ongoq **penesua** suang oto. (For it to be put into the car.)
 - Takaq epuq **penekalek** anak ro. (We have been defeated by that child.)
 - Tapi ya iro yeq **penelalo** ko bencana alam. (But it is the natural disaster that passed you by.)

In certain cases, the double affix {pə-...-ən-} exhibits variations in form depending on the initial phoneme of the base to which it is attached. Observe the following cases.

- (75) {pə-} + mate 'die' → pəkate 'to kill' + {-ən-} → penenəkate 'was killed'
 (76) {pə-} + uyo? 'expel' → pəuyo? 'to expel' + {-ən-} → penenəkuyo? 'was expelled'
 - Ohaq **penengkate** iro, ohaq jadi alatin takaq lepes eke hukupm. (He was killed, and that became our way out of punishment.)
 - Dali dueq **penengkuyoq** eke kebon eden iro. (The two of them were expelled from that garden.)

In data (75), when this double affix is added to a base that begins with the phoneme /m/, the derived form undergoes nasalization, resulting in the insertion of the nasal sound /ŋ/ after affixation, and the initial phoneme of the base changes to /k/. In addition to nasalization, dissimilation also occurs, a process where similar or identical phonemes become different. The initial phoneme of the base word /m/ changes to /k/ to avoid similarity with the added nasal sound /ŋ/. This change facilitates pronunciation and clarifies the distinction between the prefix and the base.

In data (76), a change occurs in the derived form when the base begins with a vowel phoneme. The double affix changes to /pənən-/, and a /k/ phoneme is inserted before the base. In addition to nasalization, this process also involves epenthesis, which is the addition of a phoneme into a word to facilitate pronunciation or to comply with the phonotactic rules of the language. The /k/ phoneme is added before the base that begins with a vowel to avoid the juxtaposition of two consecutive vowels, which can make pronunciation difficult or unnatural.

Double Affix {kə-+-ən-}

The double affix {kə-+-ən-} is one of the affixes used to form passive verbs. The meaning of this affix is to perform an action in a manner akin to the base. When it combines with a base that begins with the consonant /b/ and /d/, the derived word does not undergo any phonological changes, as shown in following examples:

- (77) {kə-} + buai? 'baik' → kəbuai? 'improve' + {-ən-} → kənəbuai? 'be improved'
 (78) {kə-} + dingan 'dengar' → kədingan + {-ən-} → kənədingan 'be listened to'
 - Senarikng yeq daat seniyu epuq kenebueiq tuhan. (All the wicked humans have already been improved by God.)
 - Ohaq ngerodoi aweq na kenedingan. (He shouted but still wasn't listened to.)

Double Affix {tə-+-ər-}

The double affix {tə-+-ər-} does not have allomorphs. This prefix can only combine with verbs and does not change the word class. When applied to a verb, this prefix conveys a meaning that indicates an unintended result of the action expressed by the base. Below are some examples of the usage of {tə-+-ər-}.

- (78) {tə-} + okan 'eat' → təkəkan 'be eaten' + {-ər-} → tərəkəkan 'be inadvertently eaten'
 (79) {tə-} + diŋa? 'hear' → tədīŋa? 'be heard' + {-ər-} → tərədīŋa? 'be inadvertently heard'
 - Beau **tereokan** perenget aser deneq serauq deoq parah.
 - (It won't taste salty even if a lot of salt is used.)
 - **Teredingaq** iro dali gembala terus malatin elo Yesus.
 - (It was heard by the shepherds who then walked to find Jesus.)

Suffix {-an}

There is only one suffix found in DBL, namely, {-an}. This suffix is believed to be borrowed from Indonesian. The suffix {-an} can change the word class when added to a base. For example, when attached to a verb base, it typically converts the verb into a noun. It functions as a nominalising affix. See the following examples:

- (80) adon 'mix' + {-an} → adonan 'dough'
 (81) turun 'descend' + {-an} → turunan 'descendant'
 - Bayuq maka ohaq **adonan** aroq ideh denseq sua daon jeloq.
 - (Only then was the dough sprinkled in the banana leaf.)
 - Ohaq aroq **turunan** kakah War.
 - (He is a descendant of Grandpa War.)

This process is known as nominalization, where the suffix {-an} transforms a verb into a noun, thereby changing the word class.

Discussion

DBL is in a threatened position due to social, economic, political, and cultural factors. The social pressures faced by DBL stem from surrounding majority local languages, such as Benuaq and Tunjung. Additionally, the national language, Indonesian, dominates communication activities across various fields. DBL speakers are compelled to adapt by mastering these languages, which marginalizes their mother tongue in everyday interactions and leads to its potential abandonment. Furthermore, the attitudes of DBL speakers toward their language, viewing it as lacking prestige and economic value due to the surrounding social conditions, further exacerbate this issue. Consequently, cultural events related to DBL are no longer conducted in their language but instead use other languages, such as Benuaq and Indonesian. Thus, through this research as part of the documentation of DBL, the researcher examines one linguistic aspect, namely affixation.

Based on the findings of this study, it can be stated that the word formation process in DBL (a hypothetical Dayak language) through affixation consists of prefixes, infixes, compound affixes, and suffixes. This differs slightly from the views of [Van Goethem \(2020\)](#) and [Matthews \(2014\)](#), who categorize affixation into prefixation, suffixation, infixation, and simulfiks. In DBL, no simulfiks were found; instead, there are only multiple affixes that have different formation processes. Prefixes in DBL exhibit more forms compared to other affixes. This is also commonly found in other Dayak languages. These prefixes include {Nə-} with allomorphs /nə-/ , /ŋə-/ , and /pə-/ ; {mə-} with the allomorph /m-/ ; {sə-} with the allomorph /sək-/ ; {bə-} ; {bəkə-} with the allomorph /bəkək-/ ; {pə-} with allomorphs /pək-/ and /pəŋ-/ ; {kə-} with the allomorph /kəp-/ ; {də-} ; and {tə-} . In DBL, there are only two infixes, namely {-ən-} and {-ər-} . There are three compound affixes found: {pə-+ən-} , {kə-+ən-} , and {tə-+ən-} . Lastly, there is only one suffix, {-an} , which is likely a borrowed affix from Indonesian. The phenomenon of sound variation in affixation is often found in Austronesian languages, including Indonesian, where sound changes occur as part of word morphology.

The phoneme changes that occur as a result of morpheme junctions in DBL are limited to only a few processes from the ten outlined by [Soeparno \(2002\)](#) and [Kridalaksana \(2007\)](#). The morphophonemic processes in affixation generally involve assimilation in the form of nasalization, which can be regressive. Additionally, in the affixation process in DBL, phoneme retention, the emergence of the phoneme /ŋ/, the elision of the vowel /ə/, the insertion of the phoneme /k/, and the weakening of phonemes through palatalization can be observed. There is also a very limited occurrence of dissimilation, such as the change of the phoneme /m/ to /k/. Generally, these affixes belong to the categories of inflection and derivation. Only the prefix {bə-} and the suffix {-an} fall under the category of derivation. The meanings of these inflectional affixes are related to the affirmation of verbs in their basic verbal form, reciprocal actions, passivation, and imperatives. These affixes do not alter the lexical identity of the words to which they are attached ([Verhaar, 1999](#)).

In relation to several studies on Dayak language affixes, there are noticeable similarities in the forms of affixes in DBL, particularly with prefixes such as {nə-}, {bə-}, {mə-}, {pə-}, {kə-}, and the infix {-ən-}. Some affixes, like the suffix {-an}, may even be borrowed from Indonesian. In terms of meaning, these affixes in the Dayak languages exhibit similarities or resemblances. This is likely because the Dayak languages belong to the Austronesian language family and are also likely influenced by Malay ([Adelaar, 2006](#); [Blust & Smith, 2014](#); [Hartatik, 2010](#)). In several studies on Dayak languages, the inclusion of single-phoneme prefixes such as {n-}, {ŋ-}, and {p-} is commonly found in Dayak Lundayeh, Dayak Punan, Dayak Bakati, and Dayak Hibun languages. According to [Kridalaksana \(2023\)](#), such affix forms are categorized as simulfikes, which are affixes that do not form a syllable and are either added to or merged with the base form. In informal Indonesian, an example would be {ŋ-}, as in /ŋopi/ (derived from /kopi/). In DBL, affixes like these essentially have a schwa vowel after the consonant, such as in the prefixes {Nə-} and {mə-}, as there is data showing the use of such forms. What is unique about the affixes in DBL is the presence of productive compound or combination affixes, namely {pə-+ən-}, {kə-+ən-}, and {tə-+ən-}. These types of affixes have not yet been found in other Dayak languages. Their function is to convert active affixes into passive ones, and thus, they can be categorized as inflectional morphemes.

Conclusion

This study explored and described the morphological processes in DBL, specifically focusing on affixation and morphophonemic processes. It presents that words in DBL can be formed through prefixation, infixation, compound affixation, and suffixation. The findings also indicate that both inflectional and derivational affixes are commonly used in word formation in DBL, though most affixes in DBL are inflectional. Further research is needed to explore and describe other word formation processes as outlined by [Yule \(2014\)](#), such as neologism, etymology, borrowing, compounding, clipping, conversion, coinage, and derivation. The findings from this study can be utilized by professional educators and linguistics instructors to teach students about affixation processes in DBL. Despite DBL being a minority language at risk of extinction, it holds potential for further research in various aspects of morphology, especially theoretical aspects of affixation processes. Additionally, DBL is a language that should be considered for future research, particularly in grammatical and syntactic aspects, which could contribute practically to the enhancement and development of the language.

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