



## Phonological Processes Triggered by Means of Verbs Conjugation



Chipanda Simon <sup>a</sup>

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### Abstract

This study explores the complex relationship between phonological processes and verb extensions, focusing on the concept of word elasticity which describes the transformations words undergo based on linguistic contexts. Anchored in the Generative Phonology Theory, which postulates a transition from underlying representation to surface structure, the research aims to understand the phonological outcomes stemming from verb extension morphology, particularly in Bantu languages. Employing a qualitative approach through a documentary systematic review of peer-reviewed literature and academic articles across diverse languages, findings reveal multiple phonological processes, such as elision, assimilation, and palatalization, demonstrating the dynamic shifts induced by verb conjugations. The study concludes that understanding the interplay between morphology and phonology is fundamental, emphasizing the transformative nature of verb extensions in shaping phonological processes across languages.

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### Corresponding author:

Chipanda Simon,

Department of Languages & Literature, Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Email address: [chipandasimon@gmail.com](mailto:chipandasimon@gmail.com)

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<sup>a</sup> Department of Languages & Literature, Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## 1 Introduction

Words are elastic in nature; they can expand or well either morphologically or phonologically or both. Such manifestations can be framed either from deep to surface structure or surface structure only, this depends on the phenomenon under consideration. To be specific, the morphology of verb extensions has been discussed in several literature scoped under word elasticity. Some of these conjugations are operated by means of phonological processes and vice versa. Thus, in literature, there are a number of phonological processes in the world that are insinuated in the natural languages we speak as in assimilatory and nonassimilatory processes. This paper describes phonological processes triggered by the means of verb conjugations in the natural languages we use to communicate in our daily lives.

There are various phonologists and morphologists who have researched on verb extensions as [Batibo \(1985\)](#), discussed on phonology and morphology of the Kemunasukuma language, he presented on sound inventory and the way they appear with tones, in case of the morphology of verbal conjugation, and he outlined thirteen verbal extensions in Kemunasukuma, a dialect of Kisukuma language. The verb extensions in this dialect include inersive *-ol-*, neuter/stative *-ek-*, *-ik-*, repetitive *-agol-*, reflexive *-i-*, intensive reciprocal *-an-*, causative complex *-isy-*, applicative *-el-*, *-il-*, causative simple *-y-*, benefactive-directive *-e-el-*, , passive *-w-*, *-iw-*, fotive *-agan-*, contactive *-ot-* and inersive neuter *-ok-*. Despite Batibo's investigation in pertinent to phonology and morphology in Kisukuma, and verb extension in particular, he did not account for phonological processes as the result of verb extensions, in which the current study desires.

[Yuka \(2008\)](#), investigated on Lamso' verbal extensions, Lamso is the language spoken in the North West Province of the Republic of Cameroon, it is also spoken in Nigeria in Taraba state. Yuka's investigation found different morphemes of verb extensions in this language, along with other things; he found that *-nin-* is reciprocal, *-kir-* or *-kfən-* 'repetitive' or doing it again, *-ri-* 'iterative', *-ti-* 'applicative', *-si-* 'causative', *-sìn-* or *-sín-* 'contactive', *-ir-* or *-er-* augmentative, *-é/è-*, *-ó/ò-*, *-a-* extensive (durative) and *-ám-*, *-óm-* or *-éy-* or *-óy-*, *-áy-* intensive. With regard to these morphemes, most are phonological, in the sense that when verbal morpheme extends from the verb root or stem, its manifestation is operated phonological, (Cf, pp.164-166) though the author did not explain how Lamso verbs conjugation triggers phonological processes, it is the current study that desires such analysis to show hoe verb extensions are operated via phonological processes.

In her investigation, [Caroline \(2011\)](#), investigated morph ordering of verbal extensions in the Runyankole, a language spoken in southeastern Uganda. In her finding, she describes five verb morphemes extended from the verbs namely applicative *-ir-*, *-er-*, causative *-is-*, *-es-*, *-sy-*, reciprocal *-an-*, *-angan-*, stative *-ek-*, *-ik-* and passive *-w-*, *-ebw-*, *-ibw-* morphemes. The author brings lo life on the possibility of the co-occerence of the morphemes with several restrictions. She argues, for instance, that applicative morph cannot co-occur with causative morph and causative morph cannot co-occur with stative morph. Despite good presentation, she neglected phonological processes by means of verb extension in which the current study desires investigations.

[Muhdhar \(2006\)](#), investigated on the five verbal extensions in Kemunakiyadialect of Kisukuma. The author identifies the following morphemes applicative *-il-/el-*, causative *-ij-* (*-ej-*), *-ish-/ish-*, reciprocal *-i-*, Passive *-w-/iw-/ng'w-*, *-nv-* and reduplicative. Moreover, she concluded that four pairs – applicative-causative, applicative-passive., reciprocal-causative, and reciprocal-applicative can be lined up together. She also observes that other co-occurrences such as applicative-applicative are questionable. Muhdhar's investigation on Kemunakiya verb extensions did not account for phonological phenomena resulting from Kemunakiya verb conjugation, it is this study that investigates phonological processes triggered by the means of verb extensions in our natural languages.

[Langa \(2007\)](#), investigated and analyzed the system of verbal extensions in Changana, a Bantu language spoken in Mozambique, in the Sothern Province of Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo. The author identified the following: *-is-* causative, *-isis-* intensive causative, *-el-* applicative, *-an-* reciprocal, *-iw-* passive, *-ul-* reversive, *-et-* contactive, *-eke-* pseudo-passive, *-elel-* persistive. Langa explained in detail verb extensions in Changana, ih his data, it appears phonological phenomena being triggered by extended verbs (Cf.p12) but because Langa's study was not phonological, he did not explain on these processes of which the current study desires investigation.

[Maganga & Schadeberg \(1992\)](#), presented a bare outline of Kinyamwezi grammar and lexicon within 9 months from September 1986 to June 1987. Let it be noted that Kinyamwezi is a daughter language of Kisukuma and they used Jidakama dialect of Kisukuma language. Along with other things, they presented six causative morphs: *y-*, *-ch-*, *-j-* and *-ish-*. We appreciate Maganga and Schadeberg's 9 months work as they presented causatives some are similar to those documented to this work, thus the current study goes beyond in making an analysis on phonological processes triggered by verb extension in our natural languages.

**Fernando (2004)**, investigated on verbal affixes in Kikongo with special emphasis on form and functions. The author found that *-il-, -el-* are applicative morphemes, *-is-, -es-* are causative morphemes, *-ki-* the reflexive morpheme, *-w-, -iw-, -ew-* passive morphemes, *an-, -azyan-* reciprocal morphemes and *-ik-, -ek-* stative morphemes. With regard to verb extensions in Kikongo, the author gave us good information on the way Kikongo language manifest verb extension; the current study uses another approach to see how these extensions trigger phonological processes.

In his PhD research, **Matondo (2003)**, investigated on Tonal transfer in Kisukuma and Kemunakiya dialect in particular under Optimality Theory (Cf.pp.198-202). The author mentioned some Kisukuma verbal morphemes extended from verbs' stems causative morph *-y-*, passive morph *-iw-*, applicative morph *-il-, -el-*, inversive morph *-ul-*, reciprocal morph, *-an-*, stative morph *-ik-, -ek-* and persistive inversive morph *-ol-*. In his study, Matondo did not account on the phonological process as the result of the verb extensions he outlined though were observed in his presentations.

**Kanijo (2012)**, investigated on the *formatives of tense and aspects in the verbal construction of KiNyamwezi* spoken in *Uyui* district in Tabora region of Tanzania. In his discussion of verb construction, he mentioned verbal extension in passing as in *seka* 'laugh' and *secha* 'cause to laugh' and others (**Kanijo, 2012**). With this sample of data, there is a phonological process that needs to establish its rules of formation under the theory of generative phonology. Thus the current investigation illustrates the phonological processes triggered by verb conjugations in the languages we speak and establishes their phonological formal and informal rules.

**Nurse & Philippon (2006)**, investigated several topics on the Gweno language (E65), a little-known Bantu language of Northern Tanzania, the language is spoken by several thousand people in the North Pare Mountains of north-eastern Tanzania. These authors presented, tense and aspects, sound inventory, word formation, noun classes and verb extensions in Gweno. For them 'Extensions are derivational suffixes which are added to a verbal radical to modify its syntactic valency or its lexical meaning', thus they identified six such extensions denoting: */-u-/* reversion, */-ek-, -ik-/* stative, */(l)e-, -(l)i-, -er-, -ir-/* applicative, */-an-/* reciprocal, */-w-/* passive and */-r-, /-ʃ-/ /-éθ-/ /-ʔ-/* causative morphemes. These extensions have resulted into various phonological phenomena as in *seka* 'laugh' and *seʒa* 'make to laugh', *Baba* and *Baʒa* to mention just but a few show that their extension are manifested phonological process of which the current study investigates by establishing the rules of these processes.

**Lothi (2002)**, investigated on 'verb extensions in Bantu with reference to Swahili and Nyamwezi languages. The author found eleven verbal extensions in Nyamwezi and Kiswahili, namely; subtractive, e.g. reduplication, static morph *ma, mana*, contactive morph *-ta-*, conversive morph *-ul-*, causative morph *-y-, -ch-, -j-*, applicative morph *{-il-, -el-}*, stative morph *-ik-, -ka-*, passive morph *-w-* and reciprocal morph *-an-* augmentative morph *ul-, -il-, -ug-* and inceptive extension (e.g. *-pa-* in Kiswahili and *-ha-*, in Kinyamwezi. Lothi's analysis of Nyamwezi and Swahili morphemes of verb extension reveals numerous phonological processes though were not touched in their explanations (Cf.p.15). However, it is the current investigation that appeals to presenting phonological phenomena as the result of verb extensions in both Bantu and other languages of the world.

The study of phonological processes triggered by a means of verb conjugation was guided by the Generative Phonology Theory (**Chomsky & Halle, 1999**). In this theory, principles that govern the association of phonological and phonetic representations are referred as rules or algorithms. It holds the view that all utterances (and the morphemes that make them up) have an underlying phonetic representation. The two forms are linked by one or more phonological rules (or no rules at all if the two forms seem to be identical). This theory is important since it provides the tools to discover how underlying representation can be mapped into surface representation and how the two levels are mapped onto the other as proposed by (**Chomsky & Halle, 1999**).

On top of that, GP theory proposes that there is a need for incorporating phonological rules in linguistic description in order to describe alternations in shape which a morpheme undergoes in various environments. These rules show the predictable features of pronunciation found in the phonetic representation of each morpheme. However, Generative Phonology (GP) calls for the explicit notational system in describing the sound structure of language, it insists on the formal features of phonological and phonetic representations (**Massamba, 2010**). GP provides operational procedures of mapping one representation onto another; in this mapping, the theory shows explicitly underlying and surface forms or structures. Therefore, this theory has been of great help in determining the environment in which segments undergo the phonological process, as the current study is concerned.

The Generative Phonology Theory has four tenets. One is generative Phonology Theory aimed at developing fully explicit or algorithmic phonologies that generate the surface forms of a language. Two, the Generative Phonology Theory expresses that, the developed explicit phonologies should employ derivational means (which is sequential and procedural analysis) so as to generate the forms of a language. Three, in Generative Phonology

Theory, the phonological representations used were in linear sequences of matrices of feature values. Segment of sounds were to be represented as bundles of binary features. The selection of this theory is because it provides a clear understanding on the relationship between the underlying and a phonetic representation and that the two forms are linked by one or more phonological rules.

## 2 Materials and Methods

This study was qualitative in nature whereas it used words, phrases, and sentences in describing and illustrating phonological processes triggered by the means of verb extensions. The work used one instrument of data collection being it ‘unobtrusive measure’. Unobtrusive measures, however, involve the use of non-reactive sources, independent of the presence of the researcher, and include documentary evidence, physical evidence, and archive analysis (McGeown et al., 2014). Thus, for the current study, the work used a documentary systematic review sometimes referred as ‘secondary data (Webb et al., 2000). This is the process of identification, verification, and evaluation of documents that are related to the topic under discussion. The main function is to contextualize facts, situations or points in time and to lead to the adoption of new panoramas in other environments; it should take an objective reflection from the original source, and allow localization, identification, organization, and evaluation of information contained in the document, thus comprising the systematic process of the collection, treatment, and analysis of information (Robson, 2002). From this base, the study used a systematic review of peer-reviewed literature and evaluation from the textbooks and articles of different languages researched and written in verb extensions. The electronic database from the Internet and the World Wide Web (www) allowed the researcher to access materials on verb extensions, other sources are like Taylor & Francis publications, Sage publications, and Google academic journals researched.

It must be noted that only books or articles addressing verb extensions were considered for review. The paper used a library research review of peer-reviewed journals and publications. The rationale of carrying out this technique of data collection was due to the fact that many scholars who have written on phonological processes have less investigated on the processes triggered by verb conjugation though there are many of them being written in written books and other academic documents (Warburton, 1973; Bos, 1994; Van der Spuy, 2020; Anvari et al., 2002; Sudipa et al., 2023).

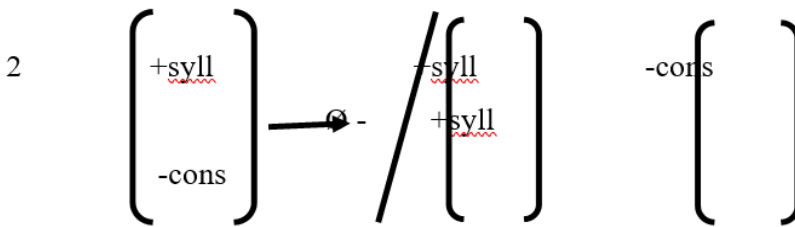
## 3 Results and Discussions

### *Elision*

When sounds are not only silent but also deleted in connected speech as one of the repair strategy in natural languages such phenomenon is known as elision. In other words, elision refers to the linguistics term used in phonology and phonetics that implies ‘to the process of not pronouncing a sound which is present in deliberately careful pronunciation of the word in isolation’ (Yule, 2006). However, such process has been evidenced (basing on the current study) being triggered verb extensions. Consider the Chichewa examples in 1 below:

- |                           |         |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| 1. (a) Umb <b>a</b> -idwa | umbidwa | ‘be moulded’                    |
| (b) Omb <b>a</b> -edwa    | ombidwa | ‘be slapped’                    |
| (c) Pita-itsa             | pititsa | ‘cause to surpass’              |
| (d) Peta-etsa             | petetsa | ‘cause to sieve’ (Mtenje, 1983) |

The data in 1(a-b) shows /-idwa/ and /-edwa-/ forms are allomorphs of the same passive suffix and that /-itsa/ and /-etsa-/ forms are allomorphs of a causative suffix in 1(c-d). with reference to this data, it we observe that V<sub>1</sub> deletes and V<sub>2</sub> remains. However, since GP Theory has systematic procedures, elision process can be illustrated from its deep to-surface structure below using the notional system in describing the sound structure. The phonetic and phonological rule of elision is taxonomically shown in rule 2 below:



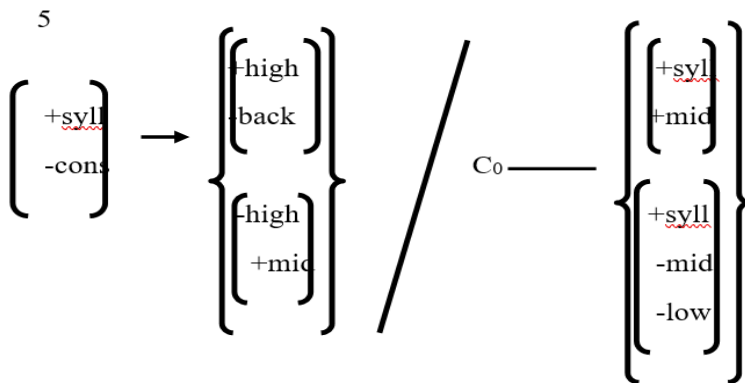
Therefore as the data indicates the V1 is being deleted when being preceded by another vowel. Chichewa native speakers delete in their speech as one of the repair strategy their language.

#### *Vowel assimilation*

This is one among the assimilatory processes whereby vowels assimilate to each other. In other words, a vowel of one syllable may become more like the vowel of another syllable (Massamba, 2010). However, the study found that vowel harmony can be evidenced in applicative verb extension and others. Consider the following data in Igiha and Kiswahili languages of Tanzania in 3 below:

- |              |          |                                    |
|--------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 3. (a) Hera  | herera   | 'finish at'                        |
| (b) Kora     | korera   | 'do for'                           |
| (c) Rira     | ririra   | 'cry for'                          |
| (d) Gaba     | gabira   | 'give for'                         |
| (e) Tura     | turira   | 'hit for'                          |
| 4. (a) Pigia | pig-i-a  | 'beat with/for'                    |
| (b) Letea    | let-e-a  | 'bring with/for'                   |
| (c) Fanyia   | fany-i-a | 'do with/for'                      |
| (d) Chezea   | chez-e-a | 'play with/for'                    |
| (e) Amualia  | amul-i-a | 'judge for/with'                   |
| (f) Tolea    | tol-e-a  | 'remove with/for' (Massamba, 2020) |

The data in 3-4 shows applicative verb extension in Igiha and Kiswahili languages both spoken in Tanzania. Such an applicative process evidences the assimilation phenomenon, one among the phonological process in our natural languages. It is observed that the suffix vowel is sometimes as [i] and sometimes [e]. That is to say, [i] occur when the root vowel immediately preceding it is [i], [u] or [a] while this is true, the manifestation of vowel [e] occurs when the vowel immediately preceding the applicative suffix is either [e] or [o]. Having seen different features of the formalism of the phonological process above in pertinent to applicative verb extension in Bantu languages, the data in 3 and 4 can be formally represented in the following formal rules in 5:



The rule in 5 states that the presence of {a, i and e} vowels in the stem harmonizes to the vowel {i} and the presence of {o} vowel in the stem harmonizes to mid vowel {e}. in other words, the syllabic vowel become high and mid in applicative derivation when precedes consonant in their verb stem (Franciscatto et al., 2021; Cassidy & Kelly, 1991; Shapiro & Caramazza, 2003).

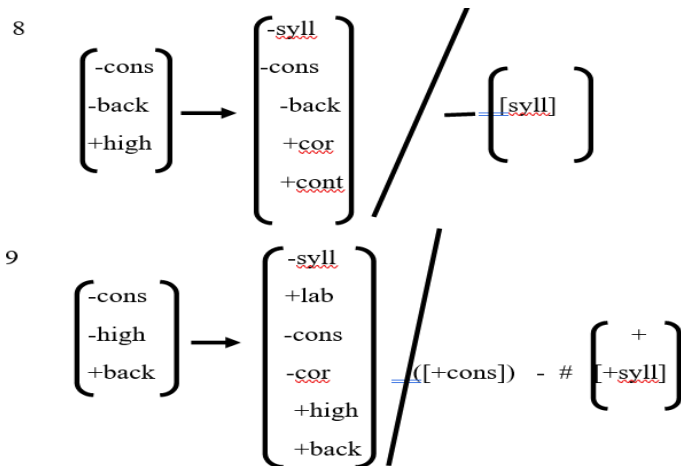
#### *Glide formation*

Glide formation is formed in the context that [+high] vowel as  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  as a [-high] or a non-homorganic [+high] vowel are preceded. The study identified that it is the passive and causative extensions that manifested glide formation as one among the phonological processes in Bantu languages. It was observed that, the unrounded front high [i] and the rounded back high [u] will cause gliding of two glides. In other words, the voiced glide [w] appears when the rounded back high vowel [u] is followed by a non-high or non-homorganic high vowel while a semi-vowel [y] occurs when a [+high] vowel is followed by a non-high vowels. The former is known as back glide and the later is front glide. Massamba (2010) added that front glide formation is derived when a high front vowel [i] changes into its correspondence glide [y] if it is followed by any vowel except a high front vowel. Consider the data in 6-7 from Kisukuma language of Tanzania.

- |        |           |        |                                |
|--------|-----------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 6. (a) | Lemb-i+-a | lembya | 'cause to chest'               |
| (b)    | Lem-i-a   | lemya  | 'make to refuse' (Simon, 2018) |
| 7. (a) | βonj-u+-a | βonjwa | 'be tested'                    |
| (b)    | Punj-u+-a | punjwa | 'Be given incomplete'          |

The data in 6 shows that the causative [y] is formed by the combination of [i] and [a] vowels, While this is true, the formation of back glide [w] is formed when the back vowel [u] and the lower vowel [a] are combined together. The phonological processes in 6-7 can be formally presented formally in 8 and 9 rules respectively.





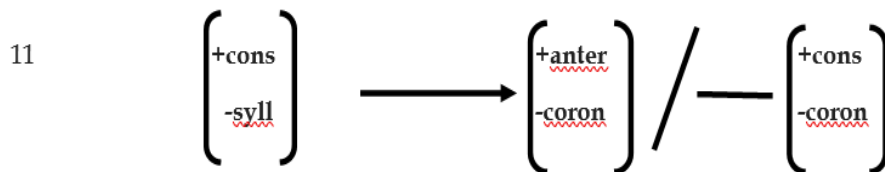
The rule in 8 and 9 shows glide formation in Igiha language of Tanzania. To be specific, the rule in 8 shows the changing of back rounded [u] into the back glide [w]. Again, the rule in 9 shows the change of front high vowel [i] into semi vowel [y] in Kisukuma language. Thus, the former is back glide while the latter is front glide formation.

### Affrication

Affrication comes from the term affricates. Thus, affricates are sounds produced with the brief stoppage of the air stream and an obstructed release which causes sometimes *frication* (McCully, 2009). Therefore, affrication is the phonological process in the languages we speak whereby a nonaffricate sound is changed to affricate. In other words it is the process in which a sound that is either stop or affricate is changed and articulated to the position of affricates sounds. This is evidenced in velar plosives as in /k/ /g/ of the stem which changes to affricates /tʃ/ and /dʒ/. This means that when the stem contains alveolar lateral /l/ initially, the causative phoneme /tʃ/ results into account (Simon, 2022), when the stem initially contains velar /g/, the causative /dʒ/ phoneme happens. Consider the following process as the result of verb extension found in the two dialects of Kemunasukuma dialect of Kisukuma, (Simon, 2022), Jidakama, (Kanijo, 2012), and Echilongo dialect of Échizinza language, (Simon, 2018), 10 below:

- |     |          |         |       |                  |               |
|-----|----------|---------|-------|------------------|---------------|
| 10. | (a) Seka | 'laugh' | Secha | 'make to laugh'  | Kanijo (2012) |
|     | (b) Hika | 'hicha  |       | 'make to arrive' | Simon (2018)  |
|     | (c) Luka | 'vomit' | Lucha | 'make to vomit'  | Simon (2018)  |

The data in 10 shows that the voiceless stop velar sound /k/ Kisukuma basic verbs change to affricate /č/ or /ʃ/ in causative verb extensions. However, the data in (10) can be represented in the following formal rule:



With reference to 11 illustrations, the rule for this process shows that the non-syllabic consonants become affricate consonants when making causative formation in the three languages mentioned above.

### Epenthesis

Epenthesis is one of the phonological processes whereby a segment is inserted within the word. The data available shows that the segments are inserted inside the word when making causative derivations. Let us see causative derivation in Tiene [tiini] or Tende, a Bantu language spoken in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

12. (a) laba ‘walk’ lasaba ‘make to wal’  
 (b) Loka ‘vomit’ Loseka ‘make to vomit’ Hyman (2006)

The data in Tiene shows that the voiceless sound [s] is inserted within the word when deriving causative formation. Such a process is known as epenthesis in linguistics phonology (Massamba, 2010). The data in 12 can be formally represented in the following formal rule in 13:

$$13 \quad \emptyset \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{cons} \\ \hline -\text{syll} \end{array} \right] / \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{cons} \\ \hline -\text{syll} \end{array} \right] \text{---} \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{cons} \\ \hline -\text{syll} \end{array} \right]$$

The rule of anaptyxis states that a nonsyllabic consonant /s/ is inserted between two consonants in the environment that the sound is followed and preceded by a consonant sound in making causative derivation in Tiene language of Congo.

### Fricativisation

Fricativisation comes from the word ‘fricative’. Thus before tackling the process, let us define what fricatives sounds are? Thus, fricatives are sounds produced with frictions in the vocal cords. Gimson et al. (1980), stressed that these sounds are produced with two organs being brought together and held sufficiently close together for escaping airstream to be produced. However, Fricativisation is the phonological process whereby sounds (stops or stop spirant) are changed into fricatives. The study identified some non fricatives sounds in different languages change into some fricatives sounds. Consider the following data in 14 below:

- |              |            |        |                     |                    |
|--------------|------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 14. (a) Mila | ‘swallow’  | miza   | ‘make to swallow’   | Échizinza language |
| (b) Mela     | ‘sprout’   | meza   | ‘make to sprout’    | échizinza language |
| (c) Mata     | ‘go’       | maasa  | ‘cause to go’       | Tiene language     |
| (d) Kala     | ‘be’       | kaasa  | ‘cause to be’       | Tiene language     |
| (e) Taana    | ‘get thin’ | ’taasa | ‘cause to get thin’ | Tiene language     |
| (f) Lala     | ‘sleep’    | laza   | ‘cause to sleep’    | Swahili language   |

The data in the three languages above (Cf. 14) shows that the non fricatives sounds become fricatives in which are produced by blocking almost the air stream and having the air push through the narrow opening.

$$15. \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{con} \\ \hline -\text{syll} \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{cont} \\ \hline +\text{strid} \end{array} \right] / \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{con} \\ \hline +\text{strid} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} \overset{C}{+}\text{cons} \\ \hline \# \\ \hline -\text{syll} \end{array} \right] / \left[ \begin{array}{c} \overset{C}{+}\text{cons} \\ \hline -\text{voice} \end{array} \right] \text{---} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \overset{C}{+}\text{cons} \\ \hline -\text{syll} \end{array} \right]$$



### Palatalization

This is another phonological process which is triggered by causative extension (for the current data). Palatalization is the process in which a non-palatal consonant sound acquires some palatal features. The study found that spirantization of the root-final consonant accounts for the mentioned phenomenon. The data in 17-18 exemplify:

17.	(a) pit-a	'pass'	pish-a	'make pass'	
	(b) pook-a	'bust'	poo-sh-a	'make bust'	
	(c) kos-a	'be hard'	kosh-a	'make hardr'	
	(d) lung-a	'hunt'	lunsh-a	'make hunt'	(Kula, 2002)

18.	(a) shok-a	'turn'	sho-sh-a	'make to turn'	
	(b) shik-a	'arrive'	sh-ish-a	'make to arrive'	
	(c) shek-a	'slim'	sh-esh-a	'make slim'	
	(d) luk-a	'jumb'	lu-sh-a	'make to jump'	(Simon, 2018)

The data in 17-18 shows the palatalization process by the means of causative formation. That is to say, the non-palatal consonant has acquired palatal features or has been palatalized. The process can be formally represented in the following rule:

$$19 \quad \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{cons} \\ -\text{syll} \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{anter} \\ -\text{coron} \end{array} \right] / - \left[ \begin{array}{c} +\text{cons} \\ -\text{coron} \end{array} \right]$$

The rule states that the nonsyllabic consonants have acquired palatal features hence the palatalization process (De Smedt, 2018; MacSweeney et al., 2008; Xue et al., 2015; Ino et al., 2017).

## 4 Conclusion

The expansive study on phonological processes triggered by verb extensions provides a deep insight into the intricate nature of language and its evolution. The phenomenon of word elasticity as presented, shows how words can morphologically or phonologically transform depending on the linguistic context. Various literature reviewed on verb extensions across different languages highlights a rich tapestry of phonological processes, from elision and assimilation to Fricativisation and palatalization. It is evident from the study that the morphology of verbs, especially in Bantu languages, plays a fundamental role in shaping phonological outcomes. Several researchers, while extensively covering the morphology of verb extensions, have occasionally overlooked the phonological processes that stem from these extensions. This paper contributes in bridging that gap by deeply analyzing these phonological complexities. Through processes such as glide formation, affrication, epenthesis, and others, we observe the dynamic nature of phonological shifts that are a result of verb conjugations.

Additionally, the Generative Phonology Theory provided a foundational framework for understanding the transition from underlying representation to surface structure in language. This theory is instrumental in highlighting how morphemes manifest in different phonetic environments and how certain phonological rules or algorithms influence their ultimate representation. Furthermore, the qualitative approach of data collection through unobtrusive measures enriched the depth of this research. By employing documentary systematic reviews and analyses, the study encapsulated a broad spectrum of verb extensions across various languages and dialects. Therefore, this comprehensive examination of phonological processes instigated by verb conjugations illuminates the elaborate relationship between morphology and phonology. It highlights the need for a deeper understanding of verb extensions to comprehend the phonological distinctions in various languages.

*Conflict of interest statement*

The author declared that he has no competing interests.

*Statement of authorship*

The author has a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The author has approved the final article.

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