

Angaataha Nouns

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0. Abbreviations

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|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| foc | focus |
| n.cl | noun class suffix |
| n.r | noun root |
| rel | relativizer |
| suf | verbal suffix |
| t.m | transitional morpheme |
| ∅ | indicates that the morpheme, due to morphophonemic changes, is not represented by any phonemes |

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1. Introduction

Nouns name persons, places and things. They consist of a stem followed by a noun class suffix.

2. Noun class Suffixes

Some languages have gender. That is, they have endings on the nouns which show whether the person, place or thing is masculine, feminine or neuter (neither masculine nor feminine). There is gender in Angaatihā. However, since there are eleven different endings put on nouns, the term 'gender' does not seem very appropriate. The nouns which have the same ending are considered to be in one class. So we use the term 'noun class suffix (n.cl).'

Noun class suffixes have to do with the sex of the person and the shape and importance of the thing. There are nine noun class suffixes which occur many times. There are two which occur only once each. The following is a list of the noun class suffixes and their meanings:

- o - male; most important; isolated/distinctive; animal names *
- ati - female; of secondary importance
- ati - long, thick; important things viewed as one unit
- iri - long, thin, ropey; flexible body appendages
- a - small things found in pairs, groups, or clusters
- ipa - general; intangible
- anaati - long, thin with sharp edge
- umwaangi - having an opening; hollow
- anti - bigger than normal; spectacular (This ending is used on practically all borrowed words.)

The following occur only once each:

- aangi - occurs on the word 'house' anaangi

-ihī- occurs on the word 'net bag' ikihī

*This definition and all of the following definitions do not accurately describe all of the nouns which have these class suffixes. But they accurately describe a large percentage of them.

Examples of the noun class endings which occur more than once:

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) | <u>utāah-o</u> | 'man' |
| | <u>nāatih-o</u> | 'edible insect (generic)' |
| | <u>ipih-o</u> | 'sun' |
| 2) | <u>apóp-aati</u> | 'woman; female' |
| | <u>kāumpw-āati</u> | 'star' |
| | <u>anyap-āati</u> | 'cackatoo' |
| 3) | <u>ip-ati</u> | 'tree (generic)' |
| | <u>natāt-ati</u> | 'a type of big wild cane' |
| | <u>aunahip-ati</u> | 'village' |
| | <u>wip-āti</u> | 'rain' |
| 4) | <u>wirih-iri</u> | 'vine (generic)' |
| | <u>napāih-iri</u> | 'sweet potato' |
| | <u>āuh-iri</u> | 'leg' |
| 5) | <u>misīsih-a</u> | 'hair' |
| | <u>nkātih-a</u> | 'banana (generic)' |
| | <u>aunkwih-a</u> | 'pandanus nuts, large' |
| 6) | <u>ikip-īpa</u> | 'things; cargo' |
| | <u>nantā-pa</u> | 'food' |
| | <u>nkāap-īpa</u> | 'a shout; a yell' |
| 7) | <u>otat-ānaati</u> | 'leaf of pandanus palm' |
| | <u>namāt-anaati</u> | 'knife' |
| | <u>non-ānaati</u> | 'tail of fish and eel' |

- 8) māah-ūmwaangi 'mouth'
 māas-ūmwaangi 'door'
 m-ūmwaangi 'nostril'
- 9) nyāih-anti 'leaf of pig fruit tree'
 nāih-anti 'big landslide' (The normal word for 'land-
 slide' is naih-iri.)
 kāarih-anti 'car'

3. Noun Stems

Noun stems consist of a noun root plus a morpheme that connects the noun root (n.r) to the noun class ending. We will call it a transitional morpheme (t.m).

3.1 Transitional Morpheme.

There are many transitional morphemes, but the ones that occur most are: -pi, -ti, -ri and -si. If we make a rule that only morphemes with schwa (i) in them are transitional morphemes, then we would have a total of 11. The ones besides those already listed above are -ni, -wi, -nyi, -ngi, -kwi, -hi and -ki. (The last two may be alternates of one morpheme, because h (glottal stop) and k are used in place of each other, depending on the environment.) However, the phonemes -o and -aa occur quite often before the noun class endings, so they should probably be included as transitional morphemes. Many times it is difficult to know whether the phoneme or syllable preceding the noun class ending is a transitional morpheme or a part of the noun root. This difficulty arises because nouns are not like verbs. That is, the nouns do not have a lot of morphemes that can be interchanged or inserted between two other morphemes. So it is hard to tell where the morpheme breaks are. Examples of the transitional morphemes:

- i-pi-ho 'sun'
 sun-t.m-n.cl
- nun-fi-hanti 'mushroom'
 mushroom-t.m-n.cl

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| wi-r ⁱ -h ⁱ r ⁱ rope-t.m-n.cl | 'rope (generic)' |
| mi-s ⁱ -s ⁱ -ha hair-t.m-n.cl | 'hair' |
| akw ^a ra-n ⁱ -ho snake-t.m-n.cl | 'snake (generic)' |
| na-w ⁱ -ha stone-t.m-n.cl | 'stone' |
| nt ^a -ny ⁱ -ha stump-t.-n.cl | 'fallen stump' |
| a-ng ⁱ -ha brain-t.m-n.cl | 'brain' |
| aun-kw ⁱ -ha pandanus-t.m-n.cl | 'large pandanus nut' |
| k ^a -h ⁱ -ho/k ^a -k ⁱ -ho termite-t.m-ncl | 'termite' |
| i-k ⁱ -h ⁱ r ⁱ frog-t.m-n.cl | 'frog var.' |
| waap- ^o -ho water-t.m-n.cl | 'water' |
| as- ^{aa} -ha sore-t.m-n.cl | 'sore' |

Quite a number of nouns have two transitional morphemes in succession:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| i-t ⁱ -p ⁱ -ho n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl | 'wind' |
| nihoaa-p ⁱ -p-at ⁱ n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl | 'goiter' |
| akw ^a -r ⁱ -p-at ⁱ n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl | 'bracken' |

An alternate analysis of the above would be that the first transitional morpheme is really part of noun root. But morpheme breaks in some of the nouns discourage this analysis. Examples:

akwí-ri-p-ati
n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl

'bracken'

akwí-si-ha
n.r-t.m-n.cl

'clump of bracken'

otipwá-ri-p-ati
n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl

'drop of rain or dew'

otipwi-si-ha
n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl

'large amount of rain drops or dew drops'

Also, there are very many occurrences of the ending -ti-p-ati.
t.m-t.m-n.cl

It would seem more likely, because of its frequency of occurrence, that -ti would be a morpheme, rather than a part of the noun root. Due to incomplete knowledge of the morphemic makeup of the nouns, we must admit that we cannot always prove where the noun root ends and where transitional morphemes begin.

Many noun stems have no transitional morpheme. These stems end in e, i, u, au or ai. Examples:

ńkoné-ho
stem-n.cl

'bird var.'

kwaasi-ho
stem-n.cl

'lizard var'

kû-híri
stem-n.cl

'edible cane var.'

á-híri
stem-n.cl

'leg'

nyái-hantí
stem-n.cl

'leaf var.'

The function of the transitional morphemes is not clear. There are various possibilities:

- 1) They are historic morphemes of some kind. They had, in the past, meanings and functions, but not so anymore.
- 2) They have a phonological function. They make a smooth transition from the noun root to the noun class ending. In other words, they make the language sound better. This phenomenon of making things sound better frequently occurs at the end of words, and it is quite certain that it happens in the middle of some words.

3) They have grammatical functions:

a) There is evidence that the transitional morpheme, si, has a function of taking the focus off of individual items and putting the focus on a group of those items. Examples:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| akwî-ri-p-ati n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl | 'bracken' | akwî-si- ha n.r-t.m-n.cl | 'clump of bracken' |
| otîpwi-ri-p-ati n.r-t.m-t.m-n.cl | 'drop of rain or dew' | otîpwi-si-ha n.r-t.m-n.cl | 'large amount of rain drops or dew drops' |
| ut-âa-ho n.-t.m-ncl | 'man' | u-si-hiya nrr-t.m-human pl. | 'men' |
| apô-p-aati n.r-t.m-n.cl | 'woman' | â-si-hiya n.r-t.m-human pl. | 'women' |

b) The transitional morpheme ti is used to connect verbs with the noun class ending -hanti, thus making it a nominalized form, which functions like the -ing suffix in English. Example:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| k-îy-o-hi-ti-hanti foc.-do-suf -rel-t.m-n.cl | 'that which I/we/you pl/ they pl do or did; action or custom' |
| kâ-i-n-ti-hanti foc-do-rel-t.m-n.cl | 'that which he/she/it/you du/ they du do or did' |
| kâ-i-nki-ti-hanti foc-do-rel-t.m-n.cl | 'that which you sing. do or did' |

c) Various transitional morphemes are used to connect verbs with the noun class ending of the particular noun under discussion, thus making it a relative clause. Examples (limited to 2nd sing. forms):

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| kâari-hanti car-n.cl | na-ni-m-i-nki-ti-hanti foc-me-give-suf.-rel-t.m-n.cl |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

'the car that you gave me...'

napá-i-hírí na-ní-m-i-nkí-rí-hírí
 sweet potato-n.cl foc-me-give-suf-rel-t.m-n.cl

'the sweet potato that you gave me...'

arí-pí-hó na-ní-m-i-nkí-ǫ-hó
 rice-t.m-n.cl foc-me-give-suf-rel-t.m-n.cl

'the rice that you gave me...'

nká-tí-há na-ní-m-i-nkí-ǫ-há
 banana-t.m-n.cl foc-me-give-suf-rel-t.m-n.cl

'the banana that you gave me...'

n̄-tí-p-átí na-ní-m-i-nkí-p-átí
 sugar cane-t.m-t.m-n.cl foc-me-give-suf-rel-t.m-n.cl

'the sugar cane that you gave me...'

3.2 Noun Roots

Noun roots come in various sizes. As seen above, if our analysis of transitional markers is correct, some roots consist of only one phoneme. There are no grammatical or phonological markers to indicate that a certain part of the noun is the root. A rule of thumb is that whatever precedes the transitional marker is the noun root. However, if the root is more than two or three syllables long, there is probably more than one root. Also, there are some nouns that are made up of a verb stem or compound noun stems, thus causing extra length.

Some noun roots can take various suffixes, resulting in different words which are related in meaning. Examples: (morpheme breaks limited to focus on recurring noun root)

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| <u>ahó</u> -pa | 'feces' |
| <u>ahó</u> -mwaangi | 'anus' |
| <u>ahó</u> -siha | 'buttocks' |
| <u>ahó</u> -ratâisê | 'he defecated' |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <u>ari-pati</u> | 'sand' |
| <u>ari-piho</u> | 'rice' |
| <u>maa-hipati</u> | 'chin; lower jaw (human)' |
| <u>maasa-maa-hipiho</u> | 'tusk of pig; horn of cattle, etc.' |
| <u>maa-siha</u> | 'bone of lower jaw that the teeth sit in' |
| <u>i-pati</u> | 'tree' |
| <u>i-rihari</u> | 'stick' |
| <u>i-ripiho</u> | 'penis' |

4. Nouns Made Up of Extraneous Material

By "extraneous material" we mean noun stems that are joined to an already existing noun stem. We are also referring to a verb stem that is joined to a transitional morpheme and followed by a noun class ending. Examples:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>ki-n-aun-kwi-ha</u> n.r-t.m-n.r-t.m-n.cl small big pandanas pandanus | 'year' When these two nuts have ripened, a year has passed. |
| <u>nun-ti-ha-ti-hiri</u> mushroom small cane var. var. | 'mushroom var.' |
| <u>n-ti-maa-humwaangi</u> n.r-t.m-n.r-n.cl eye teeth | 'face' lit. -'eye-mouth' |
| <u>na-usa-ri-hiri</u> foc-verb stem-t.m-n.cl lean something | 'lean-to; temporary house' |
| <u>na-imaati-p-ati</u> foc-verb stem-t.m-t.m-n.cl lift up | 'bearers under house floor' |