

# Nominal Markers in Punjabi

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## Abstract

*The paper investigates word formation processes in Punjabi. In Morphology, word formation has various processes and one of them is affixation particularly suffixes in which derivational morphemes are used to derive new words. There are two types of derivational morphology. One is class maintaining morphemes but the other is class changing morphemes. The paper is dealing with both to form nouns from all open class categories. There are few nouns which carry derivational morphemes but do not change the class. These types of words and morphemes are categorized under class maintaining derivations. The purpose of paper is to deal with nominal markers which form or derive nouns from other nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives. This area is less researched field in case of Punjabi. It is a good opportunity for future researchers to bring something new in the field of research.*

**Keywords:** word-formation process, affixation, class-maintaining morphemes, derivational morphology

## 1. Introduction

The word- formation procedures are used to create new words in any language. Plag (2002) describes word formation as a method for the creation of new lexis from earlier existing words. It involves addition and division of phonic material. Bauer (1983) utters that complicated lexemes are produced through this process. Punjabi has absorbing morphology including inflectional and derivational morphemes (suffixes) to change the form and to derive new words. This can happen through the process of affixation. Inflections can pluralize any noun, but derivational morphology forms new word from the old ones. Derivational morphology can have morphemes which are called class maintaining and class changing morphemes (Yule, 1996). In Morphology, noun formation from other word classes through derivation is less researched area. Only the case, gender and numbers are being discussed in Punjabi through inflections. Similarly, researchers differentiate the sub-types of Punjabi morphology; they declared that inflections are commonly suffixes, which exhibit linguistic links among tense, person and number (Pal. S, Ahuja, Bansal .G, & Kumar. S. Sharma.,

2011). They clarify parts of speech of Punjabi: noun, pronoun, adjective (cardinal, ordinal), verb (main verb, auxiliary), adverb, conjunction, proposition, interjection particles, and vocative particle (usually nouns; used to call someone). Bansal .G, Ahuja, Pal. S, and Kumar. S. Sharma (2011) also affirmed in the study morphological analyzer by explaining two essential and initial tools to construct any language provision as well as function for a natural language.

Punjabi has received less attention in the ground of Morphology and bundle of research is being done on noun morphology of English, Urdu, Hindi, and Sindhi but the Punjabi noun morphology is still unfamiliar to researchers. In other Indo-European languages, most researched areas are reduplication and compounding but word formation is less studied area. Ijaz and Moin (2003) have a discussion about existence of distinctive rules for gender and number changes. Islam (2011) mentioned some nouns in Urdu which deviate from such definite rules. There is some research on the case, gender and pluralisation of Punjabi but there is no work on the formation of nouns to be done by the researchers. This point is a key issue of this particular research article. The word class Nouns has given gender. These are inflected for case and number. Shackle (2003) states that Nouns has five types of case markers: direct, oblique, ablative, vocative, and locative/instrumental. Islam (2011) declares that noun has three cases, vocative, nominative (direct) and oblique. Vocative and oblique cases use different kinds of case markers. The nominative forms of nouns are used in dictionary. The nominative form does not carry any case marker.

### **1.1 Socio-linguistic status of Punjabi**

Pakistan is the country where 69 languages are used. Punjabi is one the major 6 languages used in Pakistan. It is an Indo- European (Indo-Aryan) language which is used both in Pakistan and India. It is observed as agglutinative and ergative language. It is being written in two different scripts in Pakistan and India. Gurumukhi script is followed by Indian while Shahmukhi script is accepted by Pakistani Punjabi writers. In India, Punjabi is near to Sanskrit whereas Perso-Arabic Sources influence Punjabi in Pakistan called Shahmukhi script. Both In Pakistan, 44.15% speakers of total population use Punjabi in their conversation (Census, 1984). There are almost 75% native Punjabi speakers of the total population in Pakistan

(Census, 2008). About 30% of the population moved towards Punjabi in few years. The 88 million speakers of Punjabi are there across the world. The number of speakers is spreading globally due to the migration of Punjabi speakers towards Europe (Lewis, 2009). Punjabi language has numeral dialects that are used in both India and Pakistan. The major regional dialects: Pothohari, Majhi, Lehandi and Multani are used to speak in Pakistan. There are some phonemic distinctions in dialects of different areas.

Punjabi is syllable time language. It has 41 consonants known as *vianjans*, 9 vowel called *matras* and 2 phonemic symbols for nasal sounds (Meenu, 2007; Rupinderdeep, 2010; Gill & Gleason, 1969). Malik's (2006) claim that there are 65 phonemes in Punjabi including 49 consonants and 16 vowels is different from Meenu's claim. The distinction in their claims may confuse the readers that how many phonemes are there in Punjabi. There is not a single answer of this question. The other question is regarding morphology which is less researched level of Punjabi language like all other linguistic levels.

Naseem (1992) accomplished a research dissertation on Punjabi morphology and acknowledged that there are resultant studies on syntax, while the literature in this area has illustrated that whole research in contemporary linguistics' was achieved in western universities. They have argued that they passed through many scrapes to make it successful because the resources were not encouraging in this area. In fact, even in Pakistani context, the examiner discussed the complexities of work and sources in this sphere, because there is no proper training program is available on the procedure and technicalities of modern linguistics (including phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics). Islam (2011) conducted study in Urdu on morphology of loanwords. In his research, he described loan affixes to change categories. Those were loan derivational morphemes. Firstly, Islam's work was in Urdu but this paper deals with formation of Punjabi nouns from other open word class (nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs) through derivations not inflections. Secondly, he worked on loan affixes while in present research; the affixes are from within the language Punjabi.

The reason to choose open word class is that class changing derivations can only be used with open class to derive new words. Derivative morphemes

are class changing while the role of inflections is to change the form of word. The closed class is not able to form new words. This class only supports the content words in sentences (Yule, 1996). Some other researchers have analyzed Punjabi grammar. Some of them who have earlier carried out this research are: Chander and Duni (1964); Gill (1986); Singh (1988); Puar and Joginder Singh (1990) & Joshi (2000). Mandeep Singh Gill (2008) developed a rule based part of speech tagger and morphological analyzer and generator for Punjabi. With the help of Singh, Lehal (2008), also developed a grammar checker for Punjabi language. This article deals with the nominal markers which help to derive noun from other nouns, adjectives, and verb.

## **2. Research Purpose and Questions**

The purpose to write the paper is to examine the processes of deriving new Punjabi nouns. Any language in the world has borrowed words from many other languages. Punjabi also has words of different languages in it. It also has affixes with base forms from other languages. The questions to investigate for this study are:

- a. How Punjabi nouns are formed from Punjabi adjectives?
- b. How Punjabi nouns are formed from Punjabi verbs?
- c. How semantic change occurs after suffixation with base words for deriving nouns?

## **3. Theoretical Framework**

Distributed Morphology (DM) is used as theoretical framework for structural design of grammar which was first proposed by Halle and Marantz in 1993. Distributed Morphology tries to clarify that all the derivations of complex items are syntactic in nature. As per the claim, this approach is similar to other syntactic approaches of morphology, such as advanced by Baker (1988), Pesetsky (1995), and Borer (2004) and some other related works. In DM approach, the syntax does not totally manipulate anything similar to lexical items, but rather, it creates new forms by joining morpho-syntactic features through the process of Move and Merge.

There are three main properties of DM theory to define it:

1. Late Insertion
2. Underspecification

### 3. Syntactic Hierarchical Structure

**Late Insertion** or realization deals with phonological form of syntactic categories in all cases provide mapping to Phonological Form (PF). These syntactic categories are abstract forms (affixes), but have no phonological content. Only after the process of affixation the phonological forms (roots) are called Vocabulary Items.

**Underspecification** of the above vocabulary items mean that phonological forms need not be fully specified for the syntactic positions where they can be inserted. Hence there is no need for the phonological pieces of a word to supply the morph-syntactic features of that word; rather vocabulary items are in many instances default signals inserted where no more specific form is available.

**Syntactic Hierarchical Structure All the Way Down** implicates that elements within syntax and morphology enter into the same types of constituent structures). DM is based on piece which means that the elements of both syntax and morphology are taken as separate instead of as morpho-phonological processes.

The basic inventory of syntactic terminals is divided into the *abstract morphemes* and the *Roots*:

- i. **Abstract Morphemes:** These are composed of non-phonetic features, such as [Past] or [pl], or features that make up the determiner node D of the English definite article eventuating as *the*.
- ii. **Roots:** These include items such as  $\sqrt{\text{CAT}}$ ,  $\sqrt{\text{OX}}$ , or  $\sqrt{\text{SIT}}$ , which are sequences of complexes of phonological features, along with, in some cases, non-phonological diacritic features. As a working hypothesis, we assume that the Roots do not contain or possess grammatical features.

### 4. Methodology

This paper is based on two types of analysis. One of these is descriptive and the other is based on theoretical framework. Punjabi nouns are formed through suffixation from other open word classes including nouns. All the nouns are derived through a crucial process of word-formation which is named derivations. As, suffixation deals with inflections and derivation both but the concern of this research is with derivational morphology in which Distributed Morphology is being used to analyze and to support the results of the study. All the examples are collected from Punjabi text book of PTB (Punjab textbook board Lahore). This book is taught to the students of Intermediate Part II.

## 5. Discussion

The discussion of the data is descriptive but a few examples are being discussed according to DM which supported the results of the study. Different categories and abstract forms are used in the examples to be connected with phonological form to create new vocabulary items. All those categories are given below.

### 5.1 Formation from Noun to Noun

	<b>Noun</b>	+	<b>suffixes</b>	=	<b>Noun</b>
i.	<i>qəbr</i> (grave) (graveyard)	+	<i>sta:n</i>	=	<i>qəbərsta:n</i>
ii.	<i>da:k</i> (mail) (postman)	+	<i>ija:</i>	=	<i>da:kija:</i>
iii.	<i>nokər</i> (servant) +	<i>i</i>	=	<i>nokəri</i> (job)	
iv.	<i>gwa:h</i> (witness)+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>gwa:hi</i> (evidence)	
v.	<i>fokh</i> (naughty)	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>fokhi</i> (petulance)

Above examples belong to the category of noun and there is no change in the category of words after suffixation. The first example has the Persian loan suffix /*sta:n*/ which is attached with a noun /*qəbr*/ and remains the same word class but there is a minute change in meaning. *qəbərsta:n* (graveyard) is the place of more than one grave. It is a collective noun which refers to a place.

The other example *da:k* (*mail*) carries /ija:/ suffix borrowed from other Indo-Aryan language. This noun is a concrete noun but when the suffix is attached, it becomes a common noun which refers to a person who performs the duty to distribute mail. It is observed from the old research that usually /i/ suffix is cycled to derive adjectives in Indo-Pak languages (which are used in Pakistan and India including; Hindi, Punjabi), but this paper negates this generalization because there are many examples including /i/ suffix which form nouns from other categories especially adjectives.

## 5.2 Derivation from Adjectives to Noun

Nouns are derived from adjectives by adding nominal suffix /i/ and /gi/. The examples and the analysis are given below.

<b>Adjective</b>	+	<b>suffixes</b>	=	<b>Noun</b>
vi. <i>ne:k</i> ( <i>pious</i> ) <i>piety</i> )	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>ne:ki</i> ( <i>goodness/</i>
vii. <i>Sa:da:</i> ( <i>simple</i> ) <i>(simplicity)</i>	+	<i>gi</i>	=	<i>sa:d^gi</i>
viii. <i>a:za:d</i> ( <i>free</i> )	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>a:za:di</i> ( <i>freedom</i> )
ix. <i>tʃa:lba:z</i> ( <i>craft</i> ) +	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>tʃa:lba:zi</i> ( <i>trickiness</i> )
x. <i>asa:n</i> ( <i>easy</i> )	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>a:sa:ni</i> ( <i>ease</i> )
xi. <i>bəʈʈi:s</i> ( <i>thirty-two</i> ) <i>teeth</i> )	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>bəʈʈi:si</i> ( <i>a set of</i>
xii. <i>təjja:r</i> ( <i>ready</i> ) <i>(readiness)</i>	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>təjja:ri</i>
xiii. <i>bədʒdʒ^r</i> ( <i>hard</i> ) +	+	<i>i</i>	=	<i>bədʒdʒ^ri</i> ( <i>gravel</i> )
xiv. <i>məsa:vi</i> ( <i>eual</i> ) <i>(equality)</i>	+	<i>a:ʈ</i>	=	<i>məsa:waʈ</i>
xv. <i>j^ga:na:</i> ( <i>unique/ relatives</i> ) +	+	<i>gəʈ</i>	=	<i>j^ga:ngəʈ</i> ( <i>unity</i> )

Most of the Punjabi nouns in this paper are formed through addition of suffixes with adjectives. Mostly, nouns are derived by the /i/ suffix in Punjabi. Though, all the words in Punjabi have different origins but the words like, *bədʒdʒ^r* (adjective), *bədʒdʒ^ri* (noun), *bəʈʈi:s* (adjective) and *bəʈʈi:si* (noun) are originated from Hindi. These words have base forms in Hindi as well as they also carry the suffixes of Hindi language. Some base words originated from Persian also carry the same suffix /i/ to create new words in Punjabi. Many of these words are used in Urdu as well as in Hindi

and Punjabi. *tʃa:lba:zis* is a word which already carries an affix. It is not a root words but a stem. It is a unique case that new words cannot only be derived from root words but also from the stems. *tʃa:lba:zi* is a noun word which has two affixes (both suffixes) at the same time.

The words *bədʒdʒʳ* (hard) and *jʳga:na:* (unique/ relatives) are often used in both ways, as noun and adjectives in different contexts. The word classes are not fixed in modern grammar because a word can be used differently in many contexts. When the word */jʳga:na:/* has meaning of unique then after suffixation there occurs semantic opacity in derived word (*jʳga:ngət*) and the base word. It is also a Persian based word and its stem is also derived from the same language with change in meaning from root. The Persian adjective *a:ba:d* is borrowed in Punjabi language. It carries the local suffix */i/* and derives a noun *a:ba:di* (population). The meaning of derived word varies from its base form of the word.

### 5.3 Deriving Nouns from Verbs

	<b>Verb</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>suffixes</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Noun</b>
<i>xvi.</i>	<i>lik<sup>h</sup></i> (to write)	<b>+</b>	<i>a:i</i>	<b>=</b>	<i>lik<sup>h</sup>a:i</i> (writing)
<i>xvii.</i>	<i>lik<sup>h</sup></i> (to write) divorce)	<b>+</b>	<i>ʃ</i>	<b>=</b>	<i>lik<sup>h</sup>əʃ</i> (writings/
<i>xviii.</i>	<i>lik<sup>h</sup></i> (to write)	<b>+</b>	<i>a:r</i>	<b>=</b>	<i>Lik<sup>h</sup>ja:r</i> (writer)
<i>xix.</i>	<i>wʳʃ</i> (to use) friendly intercourse)	<b>+</b>	<i>n</i>	<b>=</b>	<i>wʳʃən</i> (dealing/
<i>xx.</i>	<i>a:ba:d</i> (Populate) (population)	<b>+</b>	<i>i</i>	<b>=</b>	<i>a:ba:di</i>

The most crucial category of words in which less number of nouns are generated in word formation process because Punjabi language has similarity of nouns with Hindi language. In Urdu and Hindi, most of the verbs end with */na:/. The masdar in Urdu is root word which derives many words from it. To create new noun from Punjabi or Urdu verbs, it is needed to delete some of its part and add suffixes of nouns. As the Punjabi verb *səʃəna:* (rot) is same to the Urdu verbs */lik<sup>h</sup>na:/. ending with *na:* but if the *a:* is removed then it becomes a noun *səʃən* (rottenness). If another affix is used with this word it will become */səʃiəl/* which is described as quality of any person. In Punjabi language, *lik<sup>h</sup>ja:* (wrote) is a past form of *lik<sup>h</sup>na:* (present**



base form of verb). When /r/ as suffix is added with past form it becomes a person, an author, a noun. Example number 3 in verbs *lik<sup>h</sup>* (to write) carries *ṭ* suffix and gives different meanings. In a situation it has similar meaning to writing which is linked with the created material of authors through their writings. In other setting, *lik<sup>h</sup>əṭ* (divorce) is meant which is linked with the base word but it has different context. The relation between base word and derived word here is that *lik<sup>h</sup>əṭ* is written legal document of court but its sense varies from the concrete form of word. In final example verb *w<sup>h</sup>rṭ* (to use) and noun *w<sup>h</sup>rṭən* (dealing/ friendly intercourse) somehow have semantic opacity because *w<sup>h</sup>rṭən* is the dealing of two parties with each other in friendly manners while *w<sup>h</sup>rṭ* is the action of using something.

### 5.4 Conjunctive Verb

Verbs which are treated as compound words with the combination of adjective/ verb with light verbs, a term introduced by Butt(2003). The light verb makes it verb and whole combination is called conjunctive verb. After removing or ignoring light verb, a word can be changed into other category after suffixation.

## 6. Conclusion

Punjabi is one of the major languages of the world. It is used in Pakistani and Indian Punjab. It has less research in morphology of word classes. There is no literature found in the domain of nominal markers of Punjabi language. There are many words in Punjabi which are borrowed from Persian, Arabic, and Hindi. The study declares that Punjabi nouns are derived from other nouns by addition of suffixes. There are more opportunities to derive nouns from adjectives. It is not so simple to derive nouns from verbs. The formation of verb is not difficult from noun after adding suffixes but this is not the focus of paper. The researcher is failed to find is the derivation of Punjabi nouns from Adverbs. This paper on nominal markers in Punjabi may help the future researchers. They can do their research in the domain of conjunctive verb, nouns from adverbs. It will be also effective to further investigate which affixes are more productive through which other categories can also be generated.

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