

Infix of The Dengka Dialect in The Rote Language: a Generative Morphology Approach

¹Efron Erwin Yohanis Loe, STIBA Mentari Kupang

²N.L Sutjiati Beratha, sutjiati59@gmail.com, Udayana University

³I Ketut Darma Laksana, darmalaksana27@yahoo.com, Udayana University

⁴I Wayan Pastika, wayanpastika@unud.ac.id, Udayana University

*Corresponding Author: erinihase74@gmail.com

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Abstract—Dengka Dialect is one of the eighteen dialects of Rote language. It is spoken in Northwest Sub distric, Rote Ndao Regency, Nusa Tenggara Province. The eighteen variation sub dialects are Termanu, Korbaffo, Landu, Ringgoú, Upao, Bilba, Diu, Lələnuk, Bokai, Talač, Keka, Baä, Lelain, Dėngka, Unalč, Déla, Ti dan Lălět (Lălět). This research aims at discovering the infixation process in the Dengka dialect of the Rote language.

The applied theoretical approach is generative morphology that is suggested by Aronoff in his article, *Word-Based Morphology* (1979). According to the rules of morphological process in the Dengka Dialect of the Rote Language, a new theory as the main theory is applied to analyse data findings.

The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. The data are obtained by using observation methods and its techniques, and interlocution method and its techniques. The collected data are writings and voice-recordings. The writings are the main data, which are translations of the Book of Mark in the New Testament, the Story of Easter and the Parable about a Farmer, in the version of Dengka Dialect in the Rote Language. The voice recordings are supporting data, which are obtained from informants by interviewing and recording.

A research finding in Dengka Dialect is infixation. Infix is found in adjective, it is processed by repeating the second syllabe of lexeme base and to produce new words. There are two types of infixation in BRDD, namely 1) infixation by repeating second syllabe of lexeme base without increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/, and 2) infixation by repeating second syllabe of lexeme base and the increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/. It process unsuport the grammatical function because it can change the word class of lexeme base but it can change the meaning of lexeme base. The grammatical of infixation is comparative ‘a little bit’.

Keywords: *Infix, Rote Language, Dengak Dialect.*

1. Background

Dengka dialect of The Rote language (BRDD) is spoken in Northwest Sub distric, Rote Ndao Regency, Nusa Tenggara Province. The total of population is 26.102 people. BRDD is one of the eighteen variations sub dialects of Rote language. The eighteen variation sub dialects form a part of the domain in Holland period. Manafe (1884:1) said that the Rote Island is devided into two parts, that are Eastern and Western. The eastern consists of eleven domains, including



Termanu, Korbaffo, Landu, Ringgóu, Upao, Bilba, Diu, Lělenuk, Bokai, Talač dan Keka. The western consists of seven domains, namely Baä, Lelain, Děngka, Unalě, Déla, Ti dan Lălět (Lălět).

The focus of this research is infixation process. According to Katamba (1993:44) infix is an affix inserted into the root itself. In BRDD infix is found in adjective. Word formation is applied through infix in BRDD by repeating the second syllabe of the lexeme base.

The theory applied in this research is generative morphology by Aronoff, namely *Word-Based Morphology* or *Lexeme-Based* (Aronoff, 1979). This theory is used to analyse the shapes of infix found in BRDD and their meaning and function. Based on the background above, the researh problem of this research is how does the infixation process in the Dengka dialect of the Rote language?

2. Theoretical Approach

The main theory used to analyse the data is generative morphology theory by Aronoff. According to Aronoff (1979) in his proposal *Word-Based Morphology* or *Lexeme-Based*, the unit or element used to produce a new word is word that has syntactic category, such as verb, noun, adjective, adverb, numeralia and not categorial words.

Scalise (1984:43) depicts the diagram of Aronoff's theory *Word-Based Morphology* or *Lexeme Based* (1979) as follows.

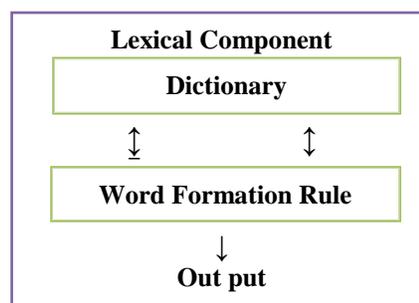


Diagram 1 Generative Morphology Theory by Aronoff 1979

Aronoff stated that lexical component consists of two main components, namely dictionary and word formation rule. The function of dictionary is as a place to list all words that have syntactic category such as verb, noun, adjective, adverb and numeralia. Meanwhile, word formation rule (WFR) has a function to produce new words.

Each language, among them English, Indonesian and Rote, has different rules to produce new words. A new theory is needed to mention as modification theory to analyse infix process in BRDD. The diagram of modification theory is as follows.

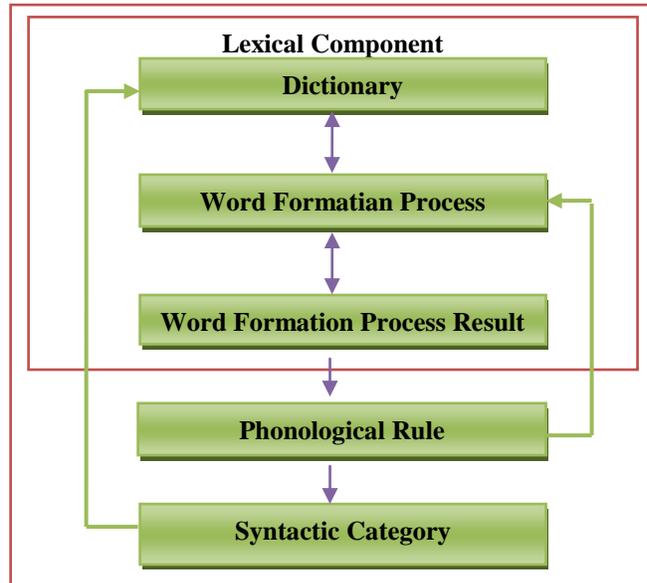


Diagram 2 Modification Theory

Lexical components in the modification theory consist of three main components, namely dictionary, word formation process (WFP), and word formation process result (WFPR). Beside the three main elements in lexical components, there are also two components, namely phonological rule (PR), and syntactic category (SC). The applications of the modification theory can be described as follows.

Dictionary as the centre contains all lexicals in BRDD that has syntactic category, namely verb, noun, adjective, adverb and numeralia. WFP is such a device to produce new words by using the lexeme base listed in dictionary by means of infix process and sent them to WFPR. WFPR has a function to recheck all complex words that have processed in WFP to ensure that the complex words were formed of lexeme based that had syntactic category. It also has a function to detect phonological cases found in new words that have been processed in WFP. Each complex word that detected phonological cases, such as deletion of phoneme, and increment of phoneme henceforth is sent to PR to be processed before these words are sent to SC.

PR has the function to handle each word that has phonological cases, namely deletion of phoneme, and increment of phoneme produced in WFP. It also has an access with WFP to make new words that have phonological cases. SC is the last component in modification theory to list all new words produced in WFP, WFPR and PR (for phonological cases). It assured that the steps of morphological process are based on the rule in BRDD. It is also accessed with Dictionary to list all complex words that have syntactic categorial.

3. Research Methods

The research method used is descriptive qualitative method, whereas the data are described by written statements, not in statistic formations, (Moleong, 2014:6). The data are obtained by using observation methods and its techniques, and interlocution method and its techniques. The observations techniques are used to collect data through tapping technique (TT), observation direct technique (ODT), free observation technique (FOT), recording technique (RT) and note technique (NT). The interlocutions techniques are used to collect data are stimulation technique (ST), direct technique (DT), undirect technique (UT), and note technique and recording technique (NTRT).

There are three types to analysis of the data found, namely (a) scope and domain of rule, (b) types of rule, and (c) relation of each rule, (Sudaryanto, 1993:6-7). This research uses two types of method to present data analysis, namely formal and informal method. Formal method is used to describe data findings through words and some terminology. Meanwhile informal method is used to describe data findings by using sign and symbols, (Sudaryanto (2015:241).

4. Discussion

Infixation process in BRDD is found in adjective lexeme base. The process of creating new word does not support the grammatical function because it can change the word class of lexeme base. But the process can change the meaning of lexeme base. The grammatical meaning of infixation is comparative 'a little bit'.

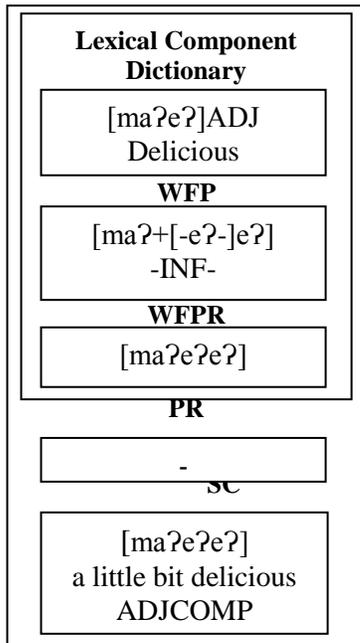
There are two types of infixation in BRDD, namely 1) infixation by repeating the second syllable of lexeme base without increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/, and 2) infixation by repeating the second syllable of lexeme base and the increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/.



4.1 Infixation by Repeating the Second Syllable of Lexeme Base without Increment of Glottal Phoneme /ʔ/

The steps of infixation process in BRDD can be formulated as follows [[Lexeme Base]ADJ + [INF]ADJ → [Complex Words]ADJ].

(1)



The use of complex word [maʔeʔeʔ] in a sentence can be seen 1b. The word in bold in sentence 1a is lexeme base.

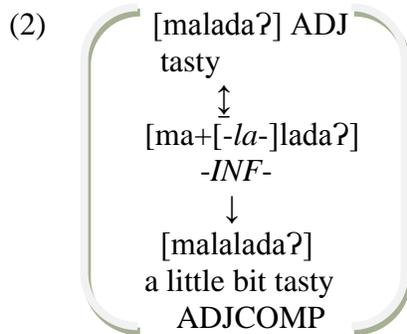
- a. *Brutus nau ninu nininuʔ maʔeʔ.*
 Brutus wants drink beverage sweet.
 ‘Brutus wants drink sweet befarage’.
- b. *Folkes nau na kokis maʔ-eʔ-eʔ.*
 Folkes wants to eat cake **sweet**[-INF-]ADJCOMP-eʔ.
 ‘Folkes wants to eat **a little bit sweet** cake’.

The rules of word formation process by using increment infix [-eʔ-] on lexeme base [maʔ.eʔ] in BRDD can be analysed as [LB[maʔ.eʔ]ADJ ↔ [INF[-eʔ-]ADJCOMP] → CW[maʔeʔeʔ]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [maʔeʔeʔ] is a complex word that consist of lexeme base [maʔeʔeʔ] and a bound morpheme [-eʔ-] with the grammatical meaning i.e. ‘a little bit’. The lexical meaning of the complex word [maʔeʔeʔ] is ‘a little bit sweet’.

The steps of word formation process of complex word [maʔeʔeʔ] can be formulated as [[Dictionary] ↔ [WFP] ↔ [WFPR] → [SC]]. Adjective [maʔeʔeʔ] cannot be formed in the



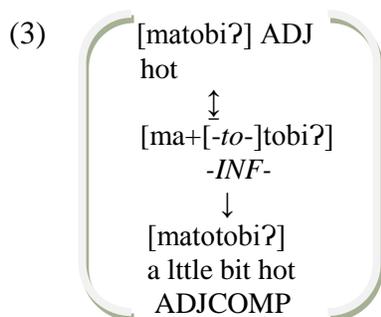
[PR] because it cannot be found in the phonological cases like increment of phoneme or deletion of phoneme. The steps that are formulated can be used to analyse infix data number 1 until number 6.



The use of complex word [**malalada?**] in a sentence can be seen 2b. The word in bold as seen in the sentence 2a is lexeme base.

- a. *Delo? na malada?*.
Orange DET **tasty**.
'The orange is **tasty**'
- b. *Hundi na ma-la-lada?*.
Banana DET **tasty**-[INF-]ADJCOMP-**lada?**.
'The banana is **a little bit tasty**'.

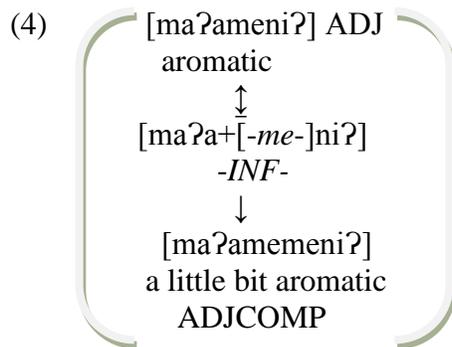
The rules of word formation process by using increment infix [-la-] on lexeme base [ma.la.da?] in BRDD can be analysed as [LB[ma.la.da?]ADJ ↔ [INF[-la-]ADJCOMP] → CW[malalada?]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [malalada] is a complex word that consist of lexeme base [malada?] and a bound morpheme [-la-] with the grammatical meaning i.e. 'a little bit'. The lexical meaning of the complex word [malalada?] is 'a little bit tasty'.



The use of complex word [**matotobi?**] in the sentence can be seen in 3b. The word in bold as seen in sentence 3a is lexeme base.

- a. *Au inu kofi **matobi?** ηgalas lua.*
 1T drink coffee **hot** glass two.
 ‘I drink two glasses of **hot** coffee’.
- b. *Au inu kofi **ma-to-tobi?** ηgalas lua.*
 1T drink coffee **hot[-INF-]ADJCOMP-tobi?** glass two.
 ‘I drink two glasses of a little bit hot coffee’.

The rules of word formation process by using increment infix [-to-] on lexeme base [ma.to.bi?] in BRDD can be analysed as [LB[ma.to.bi?]ADJ ↔ [INF[-to-]ADJCOMP] → CW[matotobi?]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [matotobi?] is a complex word that consists of lexeme base [matobi?] and a bound morpheme [-to-] with the grammatical meaning ‘a little bit’. The lexical meaning of the complex word [matotobi?] is ‘a little bit hot’.

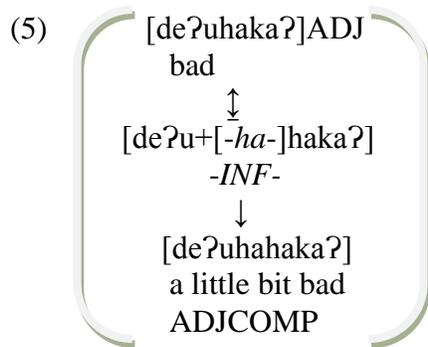


The use of complex word [ma?amemeni?] in a sentence can be seen 4b. The word in bold as seen in the sentence 4a is lexeme base.

- a. *Sabu lux **ma?ameni?**.*
 soap lux **aromatic**.
 ‘The lux soap is **aromatic**’.
- b. *Sabu lux **ma?a-me-meni?**.*
 Soap lux **aromatic[-INF-]ADJCOMP-meni?**.
 ‘The lux soap is a little bit **aromatic**’.

The rules of word formation process by using increment infix [-me-] on lexeme base [ma?a.me.ni?] in BRDD can be analysed as [LB[ma?a.me.ni?]ADJ ↔ [INF[-me-]ADJCOMP] → CW[ma?amemeni?]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [ma?amemeni?] is a complex word that consists of lexeme base [ma?ameni?] and a bound morpheme [-me-] with the grammatical meaning is ‘a little bit’. The lexical meaning of complex word [ma?amemeni?] ‘a little bit aromatic’.

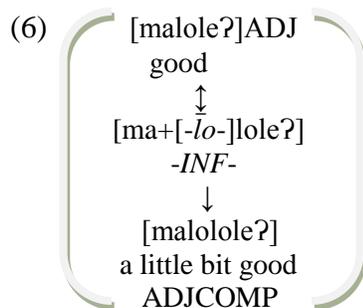




The use of complex word [deʔuhahakaʔ] can be seen in sentence 5b. The word in bold as in sentence 5a is lexeme base.

- a. *Titus nendi hau boaʔ deʔuhakaʔ.*
 Titus bring tree fruit **bad**.
 ‘Titus brings **bad** fruit’.
- b. *Titus hasa hau boaʔ deʔu-ha-hakaʔ.*
 Titus buy tree fruit **bad**[-INF-]ADJCOMP-**hakaʔ**.
 ‘Titus buys **a little bit bad** fruit’.

The rule of word formation process by using increment infix [-ha-] on lexeme base [deʔu.ha.kaʔ] in BRDD can be analyzed as follows [LB[deʔu.ha.kaʔ]ADJ ↔ [INF[-ha-]ADJCOMP] → CW[deʔuhahakaʔ]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [deʔuhahakaʔ] is a complex word that consists of lexeme base [deʔuhakaʔ] and a bound morpheme [-ha-] with the grammatical meaning ‘a little bit’. The lexical meaning of complex word [deʔuhahakaʔ], namely ‘a little bit bad’.



The use of complex word [malololeʔ] can be seen in sentence 6b. The word in bold as in sentence 6a is lexeme base.

- a. *Ruth hedi-na maloleʔ ena.*
 Ruth disease-KLT **good** has.
 ‘Ruth’s disease is **taking a favorable turn**’.

b. *Ruth hedi-na ma-lo-lole? ena.*

Ruth disease-KLT good[-inf-]ADJCOMP-lole? has.

‘Ruth’s disease **a little bit is taking a favorable turn**’.

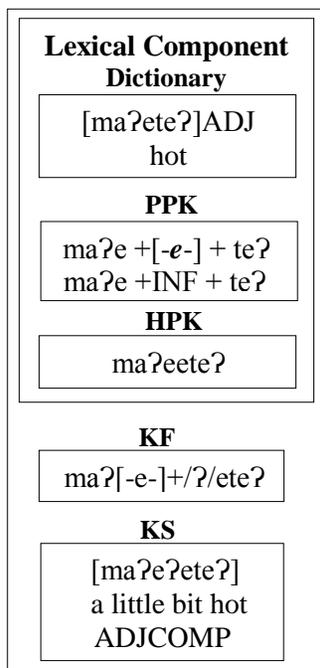
The rule of word formation process by using increment infix [-lo-] on lexeme base [ma.lo.le?] in BRDD can be analysed as follows [LB[ma.lo.le?]ADJ ↔ [INF[-lo-]ADJCOMP] → KK[malolole?]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [malolole?] is a complex word that consist of lexeme base [malole?] and a bound morpheme [-lo-] with the grammatical meaning ‘a little bit’. The lexical meaning of complex word [malolole?] is ‘a little bit’ is taking a favourable turn’.

4.2 Infixation by Repeating the Second Syllable of Lexeme Base and the Increment of Glottal Phoneme /ʔ/

Having discussed about infixation in part 4.1., this part clarifies infixation process with phonological cases. The type of phonological cases found includes the increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/. This happen because the second syllable only consists of one vocal phoneme.

The steps of word formation can be formulated as [Lexeme Base]ADJ + [INF]ADJ + /ʔ/ → [Complex Word]ADJ.

(7)



The use of complex word [maʔeʔeteʔ] can be seen in sentence 7b. The word in bold as in sentence 7a is lexeme base.

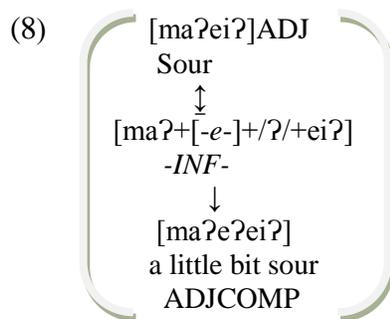


- a. *Aʔau ia maʔeteʔ.*
 rice DET **hot**.
 ‘The rice is **hot**’.
- b. *Aʔau na maʔ[-e-]/+ʔ/eteʔ.*
 rice DET **hot[-INF-]ADJKOMP + /ʔ/ teʔ.**
 ‘The rice is **a little bit hot**’.

The rule of word formation process by using increment infix [-e-] and increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/ on lexeme base [maʔ.e.teʔ] in BRDD can be analyzed as follows [LB[maʔ.e.teʔ]ADJ ↔ [INF[-e-]ADJKOMP] + /ʔ/ → CW[maʔeʔeteʔ]ADJKOMP]. The adjective [maʔeʔeteʔ] is a complex word that consists of lexeme base [maʔ.e.teʔ] and a bound morpheme [-e-] with the grammatical meaning ‘a little bit’. The lexical meaning of complex word [maʔeʔeteʔ] is ‘a little bit hot’.

The steps of word formation process of complex word [maʔeʔeteʔ] can be formulated as [[Dictionary] ↔ [WFP] ↔ [WFPR] → [PR] → [SC]]. Adjective [maʔeʔeteʔ] is formed in [[Dictionary]↔[WFP]↔[WFPR]→[PR]→[SC]]. The steps that were formulated can be used to analyse infix data number 7 and 8.

In the process of making ccomplex word [maʔeʔeteʔ], phonological case was found i.e. increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/. The increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/ after infixation in the word [maʔeʔeteʔ] indicates that double vowels like [ee], [aa], and etc. cannot be found in BRDD infixation process.



The use of complex word [maʔeiʔ] can be seen in sentence 8b. The word in bold as in sentence 8a is lexeme base.

- a. *Pao boaʔ na maʔeiʔ.*
 Mango fruit DET **sour**.
 ‘The mango is **sour**’.



- b. *Pao* *boa?* *ia* *ma?*[-e-]/*?*[-ei?*?*.
Mango fruit DET **sour**[-INF-]ADJCOMP+/*?*[-i?*?*.
'The mango is a **little bit sour**'.

The rule of word formation process by using increment infix [-e-], and increment of glottal phoneme /*?*/ on lexeme base [ma?*?*.e.i?*?*] in BRDD can be analysis as follows [LB[ma?*?*.e.i?*?*]ADJ ↔ [INF[-e-]ADJ + /*?*/ → CW[ma?*?*e?*?*ei?*?*]ADJCOMP]. Adjective [ma?*?*e?*?*ei?*?*] is a complex word that consists of lexeme base [ma?*?*.e.i?*?*] and a bound morpheme [-e-] with the grammatical meaning 'a little bit'. The lexical meaning of complex word [ma?*?*e?*?*ei?*?*] is 'a little bit sour'.

In the process of making complex word [ma?*?*e?*?*ei?*?*] phonological case was found i.e increment of glottal phoneme /*?*/. The increment of glottal phoneme /*?*/ after infixation in the word [ma?*?*e?*?*ei?*?*] indicates that double vowels like [ee] can not be found in BRDD infixation process.

6. Novelties

The novelty of this research is a modification of the main theory suggested by Arronof (1979). There is an additional point in lexical component i.e. word formation process result (WFPR) and there is another additional point in the outside of the lexical component i.e. phonological rule (PR) and syntactic component (SC).

The diagram of modification theory is as follows.

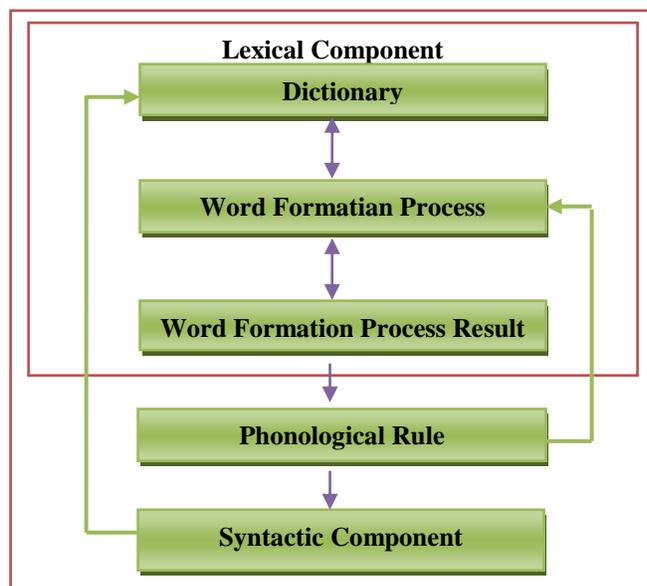


Diagram 2 Modification Theory in Page 3

6. Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, it could be concluded that infixation process in BRDD is found in adjective and to produce an equal new word [ADJ→ADJ]. The infixation process in BRDD is conducted by repeating the second syllable of lexeme base. The infixation in BRDD consist of two types namely, 1) infixation by repeating the second syllable of lexeme base and without the increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/, and 2) infixation by repeating of the second syllable of lexeme base and the increment of glottal phoneme /ʔ/. The grammatical meaning of infix is comparative ‘a little bit’.

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