

# The Inflectional Morphology of Tauade

A comparison of the structuralist approach to inflection and the synthesis approach to inflection in Tauade Morphology

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November 29, 1990

## 1.0 Introduction

This paper looks at the inflectional morphology of Tauade to determine whether a structuralist approach is sufficient or whether a synthesis approach is needed for the best analysis.

Tauade words occur only with suffixes. The negative **ma** has been analyzed as a free form, however, this analysis is tentative. An alternate analysis would be that **ma** is the only prefix in Tauade.

-ta	Noun class	kia-ta	house
-an	Locative	oilov-an	at this time
-un	Plural	evit-un	stones
-e	3pers des	molina-e	it hung
-ae	Possessive	Jon-ae	John's
-im	Specifier	loima-im	specifically those
ma-	Negative	ma-kona	not come

## 2.0 Inflectional Affixes

### 2.1. Nouns

Tauade nouns are marked for number, gender, definite, and case.

#### 2.1.1. Number

Singular nouns in Tauade are unmarked. The dual marker for all noun classes is **-ai**. The plural marker for Class 1 nouns is **-ma** and for all other noun classes it is **-un**.

-ma	Pl (1)	lu-ma	boys
-un	Pl (2-14)	kiat-un	houses
-ai	DL	noi-ai	we(2) Masc.

#### 2.1.2. Gender

Tauade distinguishes fourteen classes of nouns by suffixing a noun class marker to the noun stem. Noun classes are distinguished on the morphological level, however, there appears to

be some semantic encoding in the class distinctions. For example all nouns in class 1 receive a NULL marker. The nouns in this class are animate, male, or prestigious to the culture in some other way. Nouns with **-ol** marker seem to be geographical in nature.

-ti	evi-ti	stone
-∅	vale-	man
-vi	voli-vi	road
-am	tu-am	sugar cane
-ol	kani-ol	place
-av	vali-av	food

### 2.1.3. Definite

Definite markers have been proposed for Tauade, however, they have not yet been properly defined. Definite markers can be suffixed to common nouns and proper nouns. Which one of the definite markers is used for any given word is determined phonologically. If a series of nouns are used in a subject or object slot, all the nouns will have a definite marker. Definite markers are also suffixed to the noun preceding free relators like benefactives.

-u	emunet-u	tobacco
-a	uluvai-a	betelnut
-u	loponat-u	flower
-a	Jimi-a	Jeremy

### 2.1.4. Case

Tauade marks the genitive and locative case on the nouns. The genitive encodes possession and the locative includes allative, locative, ablative, and instrument case.

-ae	Genitive	Jon-ae	John's
-ue	Genitive	Kalit-ue	Kalit's
-oa	Locative	ip-oa	at the river
-ua	Locative	kiat-ua	to the house
-a	Locative	titov-a	at the store

## 2.2. Verbs

Tauade verbs mark aspect, mode, valence, and agreement. Tense and voice have not been posited for Tauade.

### 2.2.1. Agreement

Punctiliar aspect in Tauade means that the action is viewed as occurring at a single point in time and as a single event. The punctiliar aspect is unmarked, however, it does occur with suffixes that agree in person with the subject of the verb.

-ta	1pers	na-ta	I, we ate
-te	2pers	na-te	you ate

-e	3pers	na-e	he, she, they ate
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### 2.2.2. Aspect

Durative aspect in Tauade means an action that is viewed as taking place over a span of time. The internal nature may either be continuing or repetitive, but it is not in focus when it is used with perfective aspect. Rather the totality of the action is in focus. The durative marker, **-apu**, is also used to encode past habitual.

-apu	la-apu-e	he was going
-apu	na-apu-la	I was eating
-apu	kona-apu-e	he was coming
-opu	pi-opu-le	you were planting

### 2.2.3. Modals

Modals in Tauade encode irrealis, permission, possibility, hypotheticality, obligation, and intent.

-va	possibility	ka-va	let's see
-pa	possibility	la-pa	let's go
-teme	hypothetical	a-teme	he should do
-lei	intent	pa-lei	you intend to hit
-eala	irrealis	la-eala	I will go

### 2.2.4. Valence

Valency is a term referring to the number of arguments a verb may take in a clause. Adding **-ena** to certain verbs adds the causative notion to the verb.

-ena	cause	veni-ena	'find'
-ena	cause	lopi-ena	'put out'

Adding the transitivity particle, **-na** to certain verbs raises the valency of the verb. When **-na** is added to a verb, that verb must occur with an additional core argument and there are no additional postpositions. If the verb without the **-na** is intransitive, then with the **-na**, the verb is transitive. If the verb without the **-na** is transitive, then with the **-na**, the verb is ditransitive.

-na	ka-na	show
-na	kuti-na	break
-na	kiela-na	send
-na	moli-na	hang up

## 3.0 A Structuralist Approach to Inflection

### 3.1 Structuralist Word Formation Rules

#### 3.1.1 Nouns

In Tauade the noun root is suffixed with an obligatory noun class marker. This noun stem can be optionally suffixed with a number marker, a definite marker, and a case marker.

ROOT	CLASS	NUMBER	DEFINITE	CASE
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The noun class suffixes and their semantic categories are as follows:

NULL	-	Prominent
P	-	Feminine
T	-	Round
V	-	Long
IL	-	Mass
AM	-	?
AL	-	?
OL	-	Location
AT	-	Derived
AV	-	Sharp
TOK	-	Full
AP	-	Many in One
TAT	-	Part/Whole
LUM	-	?

The number suffixes are as follows:

NULL	-	Singular
-ai	-	Dual
-ma	-	Class 1 Plural
-un	-	General Plural

The definite suffixes are **-a**, **-e**, **-i**, **-o**, and **-u**. **-a** is used with nouns with the NULL class marker, and the V marker. **-e** is used with nouns with class markers, TOK, IL, and LUM. **-i** is used with nouns with class markers AT, AL, and AM. **-i** is also used with plural **-ma** and dual **-ai**. **-o** is used with nouns with class markers P, OL, and AP. **-u** is used with nouns with class markers T, AV, TAT, and plural **-un**. I do not know what motivates the distribution of these categories. It does not appear to be phonologically motivated. It is possible that it may be explained either in diachronic or semantic terms.

The case suffixes are:

-a	Locative
-e	Possessive
-m	Specifier

The specifier marker may not be case, but it does not co-occur with the Locative and Possessive case. The above information is summarized with the following rule.

N	---	>	N	Qaf	Xaf	Yaf	Zaf			
	[u	class]	[m	class]	[m	num]	[m	def]	[m	case]
	[u	num]								
	[u	def]								
	[u	case]								

### 3.1.2 Verbs

#### 3.1.2.1 Medial Verbs

Medial verbs occur in clauses that are not sentence final. They have reduced inflectional categories, because they depend on the sentence final verb for tense, certain aspect and mood categories. However, they are marked for switch reference (SR) and a temporal category. Switch reference is a category which codes whether the subject of the current clause is the same or different than the subject of the following clause. The temporal marker codes whether the following clause occurs simultaneously or sequentially or partially overlapped with the current clause.

STEM	SLOT 1	SLOT 2
	Temporal	Person:SR
	Aspect	Temporal:Person

The temporal suffixes are:

-ia	Simultaneous
-ua	Sequential Same Subject
NULL	Sequential Different Subject

The Person:SR suffixes are:

-la/-ta	1 Different Subject
-lea/-tea	2 Different Subject
-ma	3 Different Subject
NULL	Same Subject

The Temporal:Person suffixes are:

-alan	1 Overlap #1
-alen	2 Overlap #1
-an	3 Overlap #1
-alanua	1 Overlap #2
-alenua	2 Overlap #2
-anua	3 Overlap #2

The aspect marker is -i.

Temporal in slot 1 only occurs with Person:SR in slot 2. Aspect in slot 1 only occurs with Temporal:Person in slot 2. This information can be summarized by the following formulas.

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V --->  V           Aaf           Baf
         [u temp]     [m temp]     [m person:SR]
         [u person:SR]

V --->  V           Caf           Daf
         [u aspect]   [m aspect]   [m temp:pers]
         [u temp:pers]

```

### 3.1.2.2. Final Verbs

Final verbs are inflected for mode:person, aspect, person, and an optional retroflexed marker.

STEM	MODE:PERSON	ASPECT	PERSON	RET
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The mode:person suffixes are:

-valei/-palei	1 Intent
-lei	2 Intent
-mei	3 Intent

The aspect markers are:

-apu	Durative
-i	Imperfective
-ea	Irrealis

The person suffixes are:

-la/-ta	1 Perfective Punctiliar
-le/-te	2 Perfective Punctiliar
-e	3 Perfective Punctiliar
-la	1 Irrealis
-le	2 Irrealis
NULL	3 Irrealis
-li	1 Continuous Progressive
-le	2 Continuous Progressive
NULL	3 Continuous Progressive

The retroflexed marker is **-n**. This information may be summarized as follows:

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V --->  V           Qaf           Xaf           Yaf           Zaf
         [u mode:per] [m mode:per] [m asp]   [m pers]   [m ret]
         [u aspect]
         [u person]
         [u retro]

```

## 4.0 A Synthesis Approach to Inflection

There are two classes of verbs in Tauade. In the Grammar Essentials paper, I hypothesized that the distinction between Class 1 and Class 2 verb roots is semantic in nature, however, I have not yet ruled out a phonological distinction, either diachronic or synchronic. Following are several verb roots from each class.

Class 1	Class 2
ta - say	la - go, leave
pa - hit, kill	kona - come, arrive
ulia - wash	kila - stand
ita - dig	na - eat

The following are example paradigms for perfective punctiliar aspect. Tauade marks verbs for person agreement with the subject; it does not mark verbs for number.

### Perfective Punctiliar Aspect

1 tala	I, we said
2 tale	you said
3 tae	he, they said
1 pala	I, we hit
2 pale	you hit
3 pae	he, they hit
1 uliala	I, we washed
2 uliale	you washed
3 uliae	he, they washed
1 itala	I, we dug
2 itale	you dug
3 itae	he, they dug
1 lata	I, we went
2 late	you went
3 lae	he, they went
1 konata	I, we came
2 konate	you came
3 konae	he, they came
1 kilata	I, we stood
2 kilate	you stood
3 kilae	he, they stood
1 nata	I, we ate
2 nate	you ate
3 nae	he, they ate

The rewrite rules for Class 1 verbs are:

1S PPA Suffix -la to root.  
2S PPA Suffix -le to root.  
3S PPA Suffix -e to root.

The rewrite rules for Class 2 verbs are:

1S PPA Suffix -ta to root.  
2S PPA Suffix -te to root.  
3S PPA Suffix -e to root.

Removing the productive inflection leaves the following paradigms:

1	ta	pa	ulia	ita	la	kona	kila	na
2	ta	pa	ulia	ita	la	kona	kila	na
3	ta	pa	ulia	ita	la	kona	kila	na

## 5.0 Conclusion

It is obvious that there are no allomorphs of stems in Tauade verbs. There is no nonproductive variation of the root form. Tauade is an agglutinative or concatenative language. Inflection is done by suffixation only. None of the other morphological processes, such as infixation, reduplication, vowel change, tone modification, discontinuous morphemes, phonological feature modification, stress modification, or subtraction have been discovered so far in Tauade word formation. Therefore, the synthesis approach to inflection is not beneficial to the analysis of Tauade morphology. The structuralist approach is able to handle Tauade morphology adequately.