

# Kunda Verbal Extensions

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**Abstract:** The study focuses on the verbal extensions of Kunda, It investigates the expressions and ordering of Kunda extensions. It looks at the main extensions which are the single extensions and the combined extensions. It employs mirror principle theory (MP) proposed by Alsina (1999) and Baker (1985) and morphological template known as CARP template (TM) proposed by Hyman (2003) to account for the order of verbal extensions. The study employs qualitative research design and descriptive in nature. The data used for this analysis is from the Kunda native speakers. A purposive sample of four (4) informants was done. The informants were interviewed and a list of 200 verb roots was used in the study for informants to identify the productive roots to which the verbal extensions were attached. The study analyses how verbal extensions are presented or expressed in Kunda as the morphological process. The results show that Kunda verbal extensions interact with each other although with some restrictions. It is the meaning of a sentence that determines the order (and co-occurrence) of verbal extension morphemes. Kunda combines the Mirror principle and CARP template to determine the order of verbal extensions and that some orders are fixed although, they violate the CARP template ordering.

**Key words:** Verbal extensions, Mirror principle CARP template, combined extensions, Kunda

## I. INTRODUCTION

Morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words (Nida 1949). There are a number of morphological processes that facilitate word creation in Bantu languages and verbal extension is one of them.

According to Waweru (2011), Verbal extensions constitute an aspect of verbal morphology of languages and they play an important role in marking thematic relations. The derivational affixes change the syntactic category of the root to which they apply. They are affixes added to the root and result into new verb stem. Mutaka and Tamanji (2000)

The presence of verbal extension suffixes is considered among the main criteria to establish whether a language belong to the Bantu family or not. Guthrie (1967) and Hyman as cited in Lusekelo (2007/2008) verbal extensions are a major morphological property of Niger Congo languages. According to Cocchi (2008) the number, the types and form of verbal extensions vary among languages.

Waweru (2011) as cited in Werigbelegha (2019) further noted that extensions are considered as derivational affixes because of the ability to alter the argument structure or valence of the host verb. The verb is considered as the most central element of the sentence for it determines the number of arguments that it takes.

Verbal derivatives are semantic and syntactic modifiers of basic verbs and they are distinct in most Bantu languages. This is the same with Kunda and the following extensions are productive in Kunda; Causatives, passive, reciprocal, applicative, intensive, stative, reversible, persistent and reduplicative.

Kunda is a Bantu language spoken in the Eastern part of Zambia and according to Guthrie (1967) it is coded M42. Kunda, just like other Bantu languages, is a highly agglutinative language. This is more evident in its verbal morphology though derivation is not mandatory or obligatory in Kunda, each derivation affix is specific or restricted to certain applications.

This paper demonstrates how verbal extensions are presented or expressed in Kunda as the morphological process. It attempts to find out the extent to which co-occurrences of Kunda extensions fit within the theories used. The focus of this study is on the description of these extensions, the semantic and syntactic functions may not be of much detail.

The Kunda verbal structure contains numerous prefixes and suffixes; this follows Chinsenga basic verbal structure by Miti which states that the basic verbal structure consists of radical (Rad) and affixes and these affixes may include subject markers (SM), tense markers (TM), object marker (OM) and aspect marker (AM) and the final vowel (FV). The final verb indicates mood and various derivational suffixes Miti (2001). Below is the summary of basic verbal structure for Kunda

Ni – ko – lil – a    ‘I will cry’

Sm – tm – rad- a

Ni – ko – wa – lilil - a    ‘I will cry for them’

Sm – tm – rad - fv

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study will employ two frameworks that is mirror principle theory (MP) proposed by Alsina (1999) and Baker (1985) and the morphological template known as CARP template (TM) proposed by Hyman (2003) for they seem to account for the order of verbal extensions. Hyman argues that suffixes are ordered templatically and that their linear position must be morphologically stipulated, independent of their semantic scope. According to the mirror principle the order of affixes must reflect scope relations, while CARP template requires appearing in a fixed linear order as below;

CARP template: Vroot > CAUS > APPL > REC > PASS (cf Zeller 2017)

And this order is supported by Hyman (1991, 2003). According to Alsina (1999) the order of verbal extensions in Bantu languages follows the mirror principle (MP). In mirror principle, the order of affixes reflects the order in which the associated syntactic operations apply (Baker, 1985). Baker (1985) states that “morphological derivations must directly reflect syntactic derivations and vice versa.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

There has not been a study on Verbal extensions in Kunda apart from being dealt with as part of verbal morphology in the study I did ‘A Grammatical Sketch of Kunda’ in my Master of Arts (MA) thesis Zemba (2015)

There have been various studies on verbal extensions in some Bantu languages and these include Guthrie’s (1962) ‘radical extensions in Bantu languages’. Lodhi (2002), in his introductory description of verbal extensions about Swahili and Nyamwezi, identifies sixteen verbal extensions which include among others causative, applicative, passive, reciprocal and reversive.

(Kioko1994, Wambua 2001) did studies on Kikamba. Kioko (1998) deals with the syntactic status of the reciprocal and reflexive affixes in Bantu. Wambua (2001) focuses on the valence of the Kikamba verb and uses extensions, mainly applicative, causative, stative and passive to show that the valence of the basic verb can be reduced or increased. Wambua observes that the applicative affix is the most productive among the four affixes in Kikamba.

Melkit (2016) in his study Analysis of verbal extensions in Malawian Tonga examined the structure of suffix ordering using Mirror principle and template Morphology theories. He reveals that causatives and applicative being argument structure increasing suffixes, should always precede other extensions which are argument reducing suffixes and this is in consistent with the underpinnings of these two theories. According to Melkit the meaning of a sentence should determine the order and co-occurrence of verbal extensions morphemes. He further states that although causative and applicative should always precede other extensions, passive and neuter precede applicative when sentences are in passive. He observed that mirror principle and Template morphology offer optimal accounts in the verb stem of Tonga.

The studies reviewed inform this study on the methodology, the description and the ordering of the verbal extensions.

### IV. METHODOLOGY

The study employs qualitative approach and descriptive research design. The data used in this analysis was generated from the native speakers of Kunda. A purposive sample was collected with the size of four (4) informants. The list of 200 verb roots and a number of sentences were used in the study for informants to identify the productive roots to which the verbal extensions were attached. The informants were

asked to translate the sentences. Some verbs were presented to test co-occurrences of two verbal extensions.

### V. A DESCRIPTION OF KUNDA VERBAL EXTENSION.

Table 1: Verb extensions in Kunda

S/N	Name of the Extension	Form	Example
1	passive	- iw-, - ew -,	Tum-iw-a ‘to be sent’ Tem-ew-a ‘to be love’
2	Neuter/stative	- ik -, - ek -	Kumang-ik-a ‘become tied’ Kuonog-ek-a ‘to be damaged’
3	Causative	- ish -, - esh -, - zy-	Kumang-ish-a ‘to cause to tie’ Kuly-esh-a ‘to cause to eat’ Kumw-zy-a ‘to scatter’
4	applicative	- il -, - el -	Pik-il-a ‘cook for’
5	reciprocal	- an -	Kutemw-an-a ‘love each other’
6	intensive	- ish -, - esh -	Kumb-ish-a ‘dig deep’ Kuon-esh-a ‘to show/to see clearly’
7	reduplication	- entire verbal stem	Ku-pik-a-pika ‘cooking time after time’
8	Reversive	- ulul-, - olol -,	Kumag-ulul-a ‘to untie’ Kulong-olol-a ‘tounpack’
9	Persistive	- ilil -	Kulut-ilil-a ‘to go for good’
10	Combined extensions Causative + Passive	-ish-/esh-+-iw/ew-	N-ko-sek-esh-ew-a ‘I will be made to laugh’
11	Causative + Reciprocal	-ish-/esh- +-an-	wakosek-esh-an-a ‘They were causing each other to laugh’
12	Causative +Applicative	-ish-+-il-	Kumang-ish-il-a ‘to cause to build/tie for someone’
13	Causative + Reversive	-olol-+esh-	Kulong-olol-esh-a ‘to cause to unpack’
14	Applied + Passive	-il-/el- + iw-	Kumang-il-iw-a ‘to be built for’
15	.Applicative + reciprocal	-il-/el- +-an-	Kumang-il-an-a ‘to build for each other’
16	Reversive + Passive	-ulul- +-iw- -olol- +-iw-	-kuvung-ulul-iw-a ‘to be unrolled’ Kulong-olol-ew-a ‘to be unpacked’
17	Reversive + Applicative	-ulul- +-il- -olol- +el-	Kuvung-ulul- il-a ‘to unroll for’ Kulong- olol-el-a ‘to unpack for’
18	Reversive +Stative	- ulul-+-ik-	Kumang- ulu-k-a ‘to be in an untied state’
19	Reversive + Applicative + Causative	-ulul- +-il-+-ish-	Kumang-ulul-il-ish-a ‘to cause to untie fo’
20	Causative + Applicative +Reciprocal	-il- +-ish- +-na-	Kumang-ish-il-an-a ‘to cause to build for each other’

In this study, the verbal extensions will be dealt with into two categories. The main extensions and combined extensions. We start with the full set of main extensions that are attested in the data collected and then the combined extensions to express the order of the verbal extensions morphemes.

### 5.1 The passive extension

According to Lodhi (2002) the passive extension indicates that the subject of the verb has been acted upon by an agent, In Kunda the passive extension is expressed by *-ew-* and *-ew-*

- II. (a) *ku – mang – a* ‘to build/ arrest’  
 (b) *ku - mang – iw – a* ‘to be built/ arrested’

The neuter /stative are also active in Kunda. A neuter/stative form is realised by the morpheme – **ik-**and –**ek-**. it is expressed with no reference to any agent but describes the state of the subject Doke (1922).

### Regular Passive

- III. (a) *kulyew – a* ‘to be eaten’

### Neuter Passive/Stative

- (b) *ku – ly – ek – a* ‘eddible’  
*Inf–rad- ek– a*

### Regular Passive

- IV. (a) *kutemwew – a* ‘to be loved’

### Neuter Passive/Stative

- (b) *ku – temw – ek – a* ‘to be lovable’  
*Inf –rad – neut/stat- fv*

In example (4a&b)the regular form of passive always infers an active and external agent, while the neuter/stative form indicates a natural or internal quality. *Kulyewa* (passive) indicates that the object is loved by someone while *kulyeka* (neuter) merely states that it is lovable Zemba (2015).

5.2 The applicative (the applied form) This form of the verb is realised by the **-il-** and **-el-** to express an action performed on behalf of or against the object.

- V. (a) *kumang – a* ‘to tie’

*ku – mang – il – a*  
*inf – rad – appl – a*

- (b) *kulemb – a* ‘to write’

*ku – lemb – el – a* ‘to write for’  
*Inf – rad -appl - fv*

Applicative form also expresses the participial ‘for doing’with the adjective particle *-o* such as thing or place.

- VI. (a) **co** – pang – il – a ‘a thing for making something’  
 (b) **po** – pang – il – a ‘a place for making something’

### 5.3 Causative

This form indicates that the subject of the verb is caused to perform the action stated by the verb to which is attached. The causation of an action is realised by the morph **-ish-** and **-esh-**. There are a few causatives that are realised by **-zy-** in Kunda.

- VII. (a) *sek – a* ‘laugh’  
*sek – esh – a* ‘cause to laugh’  
*rad – caus – fv*  
 (b) *laŵ – a* ‘taste’  
*laŵ – ish – a* ‘cause to taste’  
*rad – caus- fv*  
 (c) *tandal – a* ‘visit’  
*tanda – zy- a* ‘showing a guest around’  
*rad - caus- a*

### 5.4 Reciprocal

The reciprocal morpheme is realised by **-an-** just as it is mostly used in Bantu languages and it expresses reciprocity. It is also known as “associative” expression in Proto Bantu (Schadeburg 2003). It is used to denote association (Lodhi 2002). In Kunda, the reciprocal extension expresses actions that are done jointly Zemba (2015). Its verbs have a plural subject.

8. (a) *temw – a* ‘love’  
*temw – an – a* ‘love each other’  
*rad - rec- fv*  
 (b) *yavy – a* ‘help’  
*yavy – an – a* ‘help each other’  
*rad – rec- fv*

### 5.5 Intensive

Intensive form is expressed by the **-ishish-** and **-eshesh-**. It is used to intensify a particular action. In Kunda, all intensive forms are used when occasion demands causatives Zemba (2015)

9. (a) *kumb-a* ‘dig’  
*kumb – ishish – a* ‘cause to dig deep’  
*rad – int- fv*  
*kumbishisha*  
 (b) *temw – a* ‘love’  
*temw – eshesh – a* ‘cause to love exceedingly’  
*temweshesha*

### 5.6 Reduplication

In kunda reduplication is realised by reduplicating the entire verb. It is the repetition of the verb stem to denote frequency, intensity or continuity of action.

- 6 (a) lil- a 'cry'  
ku- lil- a lil – a 'to cry repeatedly'  
inf- rad- fv rad- fv

Kunda also takes a doubly applied reduplication where the applied syllable in a verb denotes continuity or permanence of action or condition.

- (b) kosa 'be strong'  
Koselelela 'to persevere'

### 5.7 Reversive

The reversion is expressed by **-ulul** and **-olol**. It reverses the meaning of the simple verb or undoes what has been done.

11. (a) vunga 'to roll/fold'  
vung – ulul- a 'unroll/unfold'  
rad – rev- fv  
(b) long- a 'pack'  
long- olol – a 'unpack'  
rad – rev- fv

### 5.8 Persistent

This form is realised by the morpheme **-ilil**. It denotes persistent repetition of an action.

12. (a) kan – a 'refuse'  
kan – ilil – a 'refuse completely'  
rad – pers- fv

## VI. SEQUENTIAL OR COMBINED EXTENSIONS

Sequential extensions consist of two or more different extensions forming one unit of meaning. Co-occurrence of extensions is one of the characteristics of Kunda language in its verbal extensions.

### 6.1 Causative + Passive [-ish-/-esh- + -iw-/-ew-]

13. N – ko – sek – esh – ew – a  
Sm- tm – laugh- caus- pass- fv  
'They will cause each other to laugh'

This example constitutes a Mirror/Scope violation. The violation can be attributed to the CARP template, which requires causative to precede passive regardless of scope.

This Combination States that someone or something is caused to be used in the manner suggested by the proposition of the verb to which the extension is attached.

### 6.2 Causative + Reciprocal [-ish-/-esh- + -an-]

14. Wako – sek – esh – an – a  
Sm- tm – laugh- caus- rec- fv  
'They will cause each other to laugh'

This combination indicates that the proposition of the radical has been caused by a third person to be experienced by two people as mutual

### 6.3 Causative+Applicative + [-ish- + -il-]

15. Ku – mang – ish – il – a  
Inf- build – caus – appl – fv  
'to cause to build for'

### 6.4 Applied + Passive [-il-/el- + iw-]

16. (a) Nanda yaŵata ye mang – il – iw – a naboma  
House- prep- father- tm- build- appl- pass- fv- prep- government  
'My father's house was built by the government'  
(b) Kalata yelembe – el – ew – a naŵama  
Letter- prep- write- appl- pass- fv- prep- mother  
'The letter was written by my mother'

### 6.6 Applicative + reciprocal [-il-/el- + -an-]

Applicative and reciprocal co-occurrence takes suffixes [-il-/el- + -an-] respectively. In this ordering applicative suffix precede the reciprocal suffix.

17. Makoloŵa – mang- il – an – a mananda  
Parents- SM/ tm- build- appl- rec- fv- houses  
'Parents built each other houses'

The Applicative-Reciprocal combination is consistent with both CARP and Mirror/Scope. The scope relation is clear in that Reciprocal has scope over Applicative.

### 6.7 Reversive + Passive [-ulul- + -iw-]

18. ku- vung – ulul – iw – a  
Inf- unfold - rev- pass- fv  
'to be unfolded'

In this combination, the reverse of the action as proposed by the verb has been done by someone or something.

### 6.8 Reversive + Applicative [-ulul- + -il-]

19. ku – vung – ulul – il- a  
Inf- unfold- rev- appl – fv  
'to unfold for someone'

### 6.9 Reversive + Stative [-ulul-/olol- + -ik/ek]

20. ku – vung – ulu – ik – a  
Inf – unfold- rev- stat- fv  
'to be unfolded'

### 6.10 Reversive + Applicative + Causative [-ulul- + -il- + -ish-]

21. ku – mang – ulul – il – ish – a

Inf - tie -rev – appl-caus – fv  
 ‘to cause to untie’

6.11b *Applicative + Causative+ Reciprocal [-il-+-ish-+-an-]*

22. ku – mang – il – ish – an – a  
 Inf- tie – appl - caus- rec –fv  
 ‘to cause others to be arrested’

This combination follows the Mirror Principle.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study deals with verbal morphology with focus on verbal extensions that verbs in Kunda may take. Kunda verbal extensions interact with each other, though with some restriction. Kunda combines the Mirror principle and CARP template to determine the order of verbal extensions and it has been realised that some orders are fixed although they violate the CARP template ordering. Where some combinations do not subscribe to CARP there will be a violation in the combination such as (Reversive + Applicative + Causative) which allows free ordering.

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