

# Morpho-Phonology of Zay

## Passive, Causative, and 2nd Person Feminine

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# Summary

- Zay uses prefixes combined templates for passive and causative
- The 2nd Person Feminine involves a floating feature affecting nearby vowels

# Mediopassive in Zay

## Realisation

- Prefix t(ɛ)-
- Template (C)C<sub>1</sub>VC<sub>2</sub>ɛC<sub>3</sub>

## Examples

(1)	nɛqɛl	→ tɛ-nɛqɛl	‘take’
	bāɾɛk	→ tɛ-bāɾɛk	‘bless’
	čāl	→ tɛ-čāl	‘know’
	qūč	→ tɛ-qūč	‘cut’

(Meyer 2005: 197)

# Causative Affixes

## Default Affix

- Prefix ʔa-:

(2) fɛɾɛs 'destroyed' → ʔa-fɛɾɛs 'destroy'  
 sɛč 'drink' → ʔa-sɛč 'make someone drink'

(Meyer 2005: 195)

## Stems Starting on ʔ

- Prefix ʔat-:

(3) ʔanɿɛɾ 'short' → ʔat-ɿnɿɛɾ 'shorten'

(Meyer 2005: 195)

# Causative Templates

## Exceptional Behaviour

Three-consonant type A verbs and two-consonant type C verbs change their template to  $C_1C_2C_3$ :

- |     |                   |   |                              |
|-----|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| (4) | yɛdlɛsu           | → | yādlɛsu                      |
|     | /yɛ-dlɛs-u/       |   | /y-ʔa-dlɛ-u/                 |
|     | 3sm-wait.JUS-DECL |   | 3sm-CAUS-wait.JUS-DECL       |
|     | ‘he shall wait’   |   | ‘he shall make someone wait’ |
|     |                   |   |                              |
|     | yɛčālu            | → | yāčəlu                       |
|     | /yɛ-čāl-u/        |   | /y-ʔa-čl-u/                  |
|     | 3sm-know.JUS-DECL |   | 3sm-CAUS-know.JUS-DECL       |
|     | ‘he shall know’   |   | ‘he shall make someone know’ |

(Meyer 2005: 196)

# Frequentative Reduplication

- (5)
- |    |         |   |          |                 |
|----|---------|---|----------|-----------------|
| a. | č̣īgɛr  | → | č̣əgāgɛr | (3C)            |
| b. | fɛrɛs   | → | fəṙārɛs  | (3C)            |
| c. | č̣ār    | → | č̣āč̣ār  | (2C, type C)    |
| d. | dɛfɛ    | → | dəfāf    | (2C, on-type C) |
| e. | dənɛbɛt | → | dənābɛt  | (4C)            |
| f. | ʔantɛb  | → | ʔantāɛb  | (some 4C?)      |

(Meyer 2005: 203ff)

## 2.SG.FEM in the Perfective

### Default Case

- Suffix -šɛ:

(6) Before *-n* 'FOC':  
 nɛqɛlʃɛn  
 /nɛqɛl-šɛ-n/  
 take.PV-2SG-FOC

(7) Word-final:  
 nɛqɛliʃ  
 /nɛqɛl-šɛ/  
 take.PV-2SG

(Meyer 2005: 94)

## 2.SG.FEM in the Perfective (ctd)

### Before Object Suffixes

- Suffix -š(ə)
- Epenthetic ə assimilates to adjacent labials and palatals

(8)	qərīšijə	qərīšum
	/qərī-š(ə)-jɛ/	/qərī-š(ə)- <sup>w</sup> m/
	wait.PV-2sf-1s.OBJ	wait.PV-2sf-1s.OBJ
	'you (fem.) waited for me'	'you (fem.) waited for them'

(Meyer 2005: 95)



## 2.SG.FEM in the Imperfective

### Realisation

- Circumfix t-...-<sup>y</sup>
  - <sup>y</sup> is a floating feature affecting the vowel in the imperfective stem as well as epenthetic vowels
- /ə/ is fronted to [i] and /ɛ/ is raised to [e]

(9)	<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Negative</b>
	tineq̣lin	ʔatneq̣ilu
	/t-nɛq̣l- <sup>y</sup> -n/	/ʔa-t-nɛq̣l- <sup>y</sup> -u/
	2sf-take.IPV-f-FOC	NEG-2sf-take-f-DECL

### Note

The same affix is used for the jussive and imperative forms. However, the prefix t- is omitted in the affirmative paradigm.

# References

Meyer, Ronny. 2005. *Das Zay. Deskriptive Grammatik einer Ostguragesprache (Äthiosemitisch), Grammatical Analysis of African Languages*, vol. 25. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag.