

# Infixation as Emergence of the Unmarked

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## Basic Idea

Infixes are really prefixes or suffixes,  
which migrate into the base  
for phonological reasons

2 types of infixing:

- ▶ infixation to optimize syllable structure
- ▶ infixing by attraction  
of strong prosodic positions

# Syllable-Optimizing Infixation in Ilokano

## Stem um-Form

isem **um**isem '(threaten to) smile'

kagat **ku**magat '(threaten to) bite'

**um** is ...

- ▶ ... a prefix with V-initial stems
- ▶ ... an infix with C-initial stems

# Basic Ideas

- ▶ Prefixes and suffixes differ by morpheme-specific Alignment constraints
- ▶ Coda avoidance  $\gg$  Left-Alignment
- ▶ **If necessary:** Minimal infixation to avoid coda
- ▶ **Otherwise:** Prefixation

# Prefixes and Suffixes by Alignment

**un**-happy    mercy-**less**  
**un**-true      penny-**less**  
**un**-kind       power-**less**

ALIGN(**un**,L,WD,L)    The left edge of **un** should be as close as possible to the left edge of a word

ALIGN(**less**,R,WD,R)    The right edge of **less** should be as close as possible to the right edge of a word

# Prefixes and Suffixes by Alignment

**un**-happy    mercy-**less**

**un**-true      penny-**less**

**un**-kind      power-**less**

ALIGN(**un**,L,WD,L)      Count 1 violation for every segment  
between the left edge of **un**  
and the left edge of a word

ALIGN(**less**,R,WD,R)    Count 1 violation for every segment  
between the right edge of **less**  
and the right edge of a word

# Prefixes and Suffixes by Alignment

**Input:** { un, kind }

	ALIGN( <b>un</b> ,L,WD,L)
☞ a. un-kind	
b. kind-un	*!***

**Input:** { less, mercy }

	ALIGN( <b>bar</b> ,R,WD,R)
a. less-mercy	*!***
☞ b. mercy-less	

# Prefixes and Suffixes by Alignment: More Candidates


**Input:** { un, kind }

	ALIGN(un,L,WD,L)
 a. <b>un</b> -kind	
b. k- <b>un</b> -ind	*!
c. ki- <b>un</b> -nd	*!*
d. kin- <b>un</b> -d	*!**
e. kind- <b>un</b>	*!***





# Syllable-Optimizing infixation in Ilokano

**Input:** { um, isem }

	ALIGN(um,L,WD,L)
 a. <b>um</b> -isem	
b. i- <b>um</b> -sem	*!
c. is- <b>um</b> -em	*!*
d. ise- <b>um</b> -m	*!***
e. isem- <b>um</b>	*!****

**Input:** { um, kagat }

	ALIGN(um,L,WD,L)
 a. <b>um</b> -kagat	
 b. k- <b>um</b> -agat	*!
c. ka- <b>um</b> -gat	*!*
d. kag- <b>um</b> -at	*!***
e. kaga- <b>um</b> -t	*!****
f. kagat- <b>um</b>	*!*****

# Syllable-optimizing Infixation in Ilokano

**Input:** { um, isem }

	NoCODA	ALIGN(um,L,WD,L)
☞ a. <b>u</b> .mi.sem	*	
b. i. <b>um</b> .sem	*!*	*
c. i.s <b>u</b> .mem	*	*!*
d. i.se. <b>umm</b>	*	*!***
e. i.se.m <b>um</b>	*	*!****

**Input:** { um, kagat }

	NoCODA	ALIGN(um,L,WD,L)
a. <b>um</b> .ka.gat	**!	
☞ b. <b>ku</b> .ma.gat	*	*!
c. ka. <b>um</b> .gat	**!	**
d. ka.g <b>u</b> .mat	*	*!***
e. ka.ga. <b>umt</b>	*	*!****
f. ka.ga.t <b>um</b>	*	*!*****

# Infixation as Prosodic Attraction

## Central Idea:

Specific affixes are attracted by prosodically 'strong' positions

(e.g. stressed syllable, most prominent foot of a word)

# Infixation as Prosodic Attraction (Ulwa)

su:lu	'dog'
su: <b>-ki</b> -lu	'my dog'
su: <b>-ma</b> -lu	'thy dog'
su: <b>-ka</b> -lu	'his/her dog'
su: <b>-ni</b> -lu	'our (incl.) dog'
su: <b>-kina</b> -lu	'our (excl.) dog'
su: <b>-mana</b> -lu	'your dog'
su: <b>-kana</b> -lu	'their dog'

# Infixation as Prosodic Attraction (Ulwa)

## after the 1. $\sigma$

bas	bas- <b>ka</b>	'hair'
ki:	ki:- <b>ka</b>	'stone'
su:lu	su:- <b>ka</b> -lu	'dog'
asna	as- <b>ka</b> -na	'clothes'

if the 1.  $\sigma$  is heavy

## after the 2. $\sigma$

sana	sana- <b>ka</b>	'deer'
amak	amak- <b>ka</b>	'bee'
sapa:	sapa:- <b>ka</b>	'forehead'
kululuk	kulu- <b>ka</b> -luk	'woodpecker'
ana:la:ka	ana:- <b>ka</b> -la:ka	'chin'
karasmak	karas- <b>ka</b> -mak	'knee'

otherwise

# Generalization

## after the 1. $\sigma$

(bás)	bas- <b>ka</b>	'hair'
(kí:)	ki:- <b>ka</b>	'stone'
(sú:)lu	su:- <b>ka</b> -lu	'dog'
(ás)na	as- <b>ka</b> -na	'clothes'

**after main stress**

## after the 2. $\sigma$

(saná)	sana- <b>ka</b>	'deer'
(amák)	amak- <b>ka</b>	'bee'
(sapá:)	sapa:- <b>ka</b>	'forehead'
(kulú)luk	kulu- <b>ka</b> -luk	'woodpecker'
(aná:)la:ka	ana:- <b>ka</b> -la:ka	'chin'
(karás)mak	karas- <b>ka</b> -mak	'knee'

**(after the head foot)**

# Alignment Constraint

ALIGN-TO-FOOT (Ulwa)

ALIGN([POSS]<sub>Af</sub>, L, Ft', R)

The left edge of possessive affixes  
should coincide with the right edge of a foot,  
which is the head of a prosodic word

## ALIGN-TO-FOOT: In and Out

	ALIGN-TO-FOOT
a. (bas)-ka	✓
b. (amak)-ka	✓
c. (su:)-ka-lu	✓
d. (sana)-ka	✓

	ALIGN-TO-FOOT
a. (su:)lu-ka	*
b. (siwa:)(nak)-ka	*
c. (ana:)(la:)ka-ka	*



## Exceptional Suffix-Poss

‘In about 10% of the nouns collected . . . ,  
-ka- is an actual suffix on a word  
that is longer than a single iambic foot:

gobament-**ka** ‘government’

abana-**ka** ‘dance’

bassirih-**ka** ‘falcon’

ispiri-**ka** ‘elbow’

Of these, about 2/3 have doublets  
where ka is infixated as expected:

bas-**ka**-sirih, is-**ka**-piri.’ (McCarthy & Prince, 1993:31)

## -ka as a Suffix

ALIGN-IN-STEM

ALIGN([POSS], R, Stem, R)

The right edge of possessive affixes  
should coincide with the right edge of a stem

## Lexically Triggered Reranking

	ALIGN-IN-STEM	ALIGN-TO-FOOT
☞ a. (go.ba).ment- <b>ka</b>		*
b. (go.ba)- <b>ka</b> -ment	*!	

	ALIGN-TO-FOOT	ALIGN-IN-STEM
a. (si.wa).nak- <b>ka</b>	*!	
☞ b. (si.wa)- <b>ka</b> -nak		*

# Um vs. ag in Ilokano

## Stem um-Form

isem **um**isem '(threaten to) smile'

kagat **ku**magat '(threaten to) bite'

## Stem ag-Form

isem **ag**-isem 'smiles (really)'

kagat **ag**-kagat 'bites (really)'

⇒ **ag** doesn't infix even though  
its syllable structure is identical to **um**

# Consequence

Although **um** as well as **ag** are prefixes  
they are subject to different Alignment Constraints:

NOCODA  $\gg$  ALIGN(um,L,WD,L)  $\Rightarrow$  infixation

ALIGN(um,L,WD,L)  $\gg$  NOCODA  $\Rightarrow$  no infixation

$\Rightarrow$  requires morpheme-specific  
(and also language-specific) constraints

$\Rightarrow$  Contradiction to core principles of OT