

The Authenticity of Diminutive in Kurdish

By:

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Motivations

- * Until now, in a wide and independent way, and in a scientific framework, the topic has not been investigated.

Outline

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Introduction

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AIM

Since the diminutive forms exist in many languages, the present research is an attempt to:

- * Investigate how they are formed.
- * Which morphological process they undergo and which parts of speech they incorporate .
- * Moreover, the research is also expected to shed some light on the meaning (s) these forms convey.

DATA COLLECTION

- * The material which could adequately serve as a basis for the present research stems largely from some authentic data extracted mainly from the (Kurdistan) dictionary by Gîw Mukriyanî and other available relevant references in the Kurdish language.

WORD FORMATION PROCESSES

- * There is, of course, numerous word formation processes that do not arouse any controversies and are very similar in the majority of languages. These processes are **clipping, acronym, blending, back formation, derivation, borrowing, coinage, and compounding.**

WORD FORMATION PROCESSES

- * The required processes here are **clipping** and **derivation** (affixation)
- * Clipping is the word formation process which consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts.

Examples:

ad (**advertise**), doc (**doctor**), exam (**examination**), gas (**gasoline**), math (**mathematics**).

WORD FORMATION PROCESSES

- * The derivation is used to form new words, as with happiness and unhappy from happy, or determination from determine.

(Plag, 2003, p.13)

Definition

- * Cruse has noted, “An affix which modifies the meaning of a noun to make it refer to a smaller or less important version of what the un-affixed noun denotes” (Alan Cruse, 2006, p.49).
- * Katamba reports that “a morpheme indicating smallness or endearment” (F. Katamba and J. Stonham, 2006, p.350).
- * A. H. Marf (2014, p.130) confirms that it used mainly for smallness or to convey the meaning of pampering, but some of them convey other meanings.

Definition

- * As we note the agreement point in those definitions is paying more attention to the **meaning** of those morphemes. In general, they convey the diminution of **size**, express **passion**, and **feelings**. Alongside with those, it may be used as proper names to express **positive** or **negative** meanings.

DIMINUTION OF WORDS

* *toz (dust)*

* Base + diminutive morpheme a new word

xanû *çke* *xanûçke* (a small house)

bra *le* *brale* (little brother)

bax *çe* *baxçe* (small garden)

LITERARY REVIEW

- * Saeed S. Kaban in his book *Summary of Kurdish Grammar* claims that “the diminutive name is a small name, and it describes its large name.” He views the morphological suffixes semantically and from the aspect of size. (1928, p.9). He did not go beyond the depth of their different functions. He called the morphemes as a “particle.” He divided them into four parts: *le*, *wke*, *wlke*, and *wçke*.as in *dêzele*, *teşpîle*, *berxole*, *mêşûle*, *menceloke*, *mindaloke*, *paçulke*, *dasulke*, *xanuçke*, and *małoçke*.(Ibit, p.9)

LITERARY REVIEW

- * His book is concerned as a first step, in central Kurdish dialect in analyzing diminutives. However, because his aim was not investigating about diminutives so as we note that he did not classify the morphemes well, and he mentioned those four morphemes briefly but there are more than those. Besides, he mentioned the “*çe*” morpheme as the only compound morpheme which is *wçke* and he forgot about mentioning *kele*.

LITERARY REVIEW

- * Tofiq Wahbi in *Kurdish Language Grammar* like Saeed S. Kaban also due to the reason that his book is about Kurdish grammar in general, he had not the opportunity to discuss the specification and function of those morphemes. He said very few of them, that when a noun attached to particles like *ole*, *ok*, *oke*, *ek*, and *eke*. It adds a smallness to them such as *berxole*, *brale*, *danûle*, *tîrok*, and *menceloke...etc.* (1929, p.59-60)

LITERARY REVIEW

- * As one notes that for Wahbi the diminutive morphemes are *le* and *ke* with their allomorphs, but he has not mentioned *çe*. Besides, it minimizes names in simple and compound forms. Meanwhile, Kaban declared it in a compound form. Because of that in compound forms, he only mentioned this morpheme, which creates if it links with *le* and *ke*. Then he regarded that the smallness particles (morphemes) are *l*, *k*, and the end *e* give strength to the meaning of small. This is a disagreement with his former opinion, which determines the suffixes

LITERARY REVIEW

- * Nuri A. Amin in his second edition of his book entitled “*Kurdish Grammar in Morphology and Syntax*”; called those morphemes as elements. He believes that each word, if linked with the morphemes like *le, oġe, olke, oke, ĩle, kele, ũle, ke, oke, k, and ũlke*, they convey smallness as in *gozeġe, dġzeġe, kġjoġe, goġe, grdoġke, keproke, bařoke, teřpġle, karġle, sŭrkele, řeřkele, mġřũle, mġrũle, xanũke, řġke, maġoke, bink, dasũlke, ...etc.* (1958, p.56)

MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF DIMINUTIVES

- * As a structure, generally, two types of morphemes are realized by mentioned Kurdish writers:
- * **Simple form:** it includes those morphemes which consist of one morpheme. They divided into three groups:
 - * *Ke* and its allomorphs/ *-oke, ke, -e, -û, -eke, -k, -ek, -ok, -ûk/*
 - * *Le* and its allomorphs/ *-lê, -ele, -le, ełe, -ol, -ol, -ole, -île, -ûle, -el/*
 - * *Çe* and its allomorphs/ *-îje, -êje, -îçe/*

MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF DIMINUTIVES

* **Compound forms:** it includes those morphemes that formed by uniting or linking two simple morphemes. They classified into three groups:

* *Çke* and its allomorphs/*-çk, -şk, -oçke, -joĭe/*

* *Îlke* and its allomorphs/*-îlke, -ûlke, -olĭke/*

* *Kele* which formed by *ke* and *le*.

This one is used with adjectives only.

THE FUNCTION AND AIM OF DIMINUTIVES

- * When they are linked to general names, their function are to derive new diminutive words for decreasing their semantic marks (distinctive features). In Kurdish, they are used for passion or belittling matters. These decreasing covers some aspects such as (Kamal Mirawdaly, 2007, p.46)

1. The aim of its use is to lessen the volume of the object like:

das + wlke = daswlke

<i>das</i>	<i>+inanimate</i>	<i>daswlke</i>	<i>+inanimate</i>
<i>+agricultural device</i>		<i>+agricultural device</i>	<i>+concrete</i>
	<i>+concrete</i>	<i>+iron</i>	<i>+iron</i>
<i>+normal</i>		<i>+small</i>	

THE FUNCTION AND AIM OF DIMINUTIVES

a) **Area**: to increase or limit the width or space of a place
like *şar+oçke=Şaroçke*

Şar +inhabitant place *Şaroçke*+inhabitant place

+stable

+stable

+wide

-wide

+large population

-large population

THE FUNCTION AND AIM OF DIMINUTIVES

b) Age : to increase a stage of animate ages like

berx+ole=berxole

berx +animate

+old (age)

+beauty

+gentle

berxole +animate

- old (age)

+beauty

+gentle

THE FUNCTION AND AIM OF DIMINUTIVES

2. They participate in forming new words for things and nature phenomenon such as: *krmek*, *guľnke*, *xalxaloke*, *talıřk*, *sũrêje*, ...etc.
3. When they link with proper names, they convey passion, hatred or putting down someone.

THE FUNCTION AND AIM OF DIMINUTIVES

4. They link with adjectives and give them their semantic marks, which mean the new product in some marks will be different from its base. They are used pragmatically such as *wrdîle, narmole, naskole ...etc.*
5. They are used for economic reasons in using language. Which means to convey meaning by using fewer elements and efforts? Fasold states “Derivation is a kind of shorthand system that allows us to economize by packing more information into shorter utterances.”

DIMINUTIVES WITH PROPER NAMES

- * Proper names like any other language form have a distinctive structure. They are made from some sounds, so in some specific cases due to culture, society coincidence and proper sounds when they meet for special aims, diminutive names are made from them.

DIMINUTIVES WITH PROPER NAMES

- * So demunitizing proper names are not acceptable by everyone, every time and everywhere. It needs some factors and initiator reasons. Above all is social communication or strong friendship between the speaker and the hearer.

DIMINUTIVES WITH PROPER NAMES

- * Moreover, the relationship should be at a level that helps to create a suitable circumstance to that context. In another case, the reason behind demunitizing is used by children as they face difficulties in uttering some words like adults, so they use them in a simple and an easy way.

DIMINUTIVES WITH PROPER NAMES

- * This phenomenon exists in other languages like English, Arabic ...etc. In Kurdish, diminutive names are applied to proper names whether they are local or foreign names. So due to linguistic rules, organs of speech, and phonetic aspects, the Kurdish language allows applying diminutives to proper nouns according to a specific style.

DIMINUTIVE MORPHEMES OF NOUNS

* /-e/ is an active one. It can be added to a large number of nouns, especially new ones. For instance: *Rojan*, *Zryan*, *Kajał*, *lauko*, *Naşmîl*. /-e/ is a diminutive morpheme because those words are difficult to be pronounced after minimizing them. They are either meaningful forms and without any relation to the original nouns, or just they accepted sounds without any meaning. Like:

* *Kejał-Kej**

* *Gelauêj- Gel**

* *Nesrîn-Nes**

DIMINUTIVE MORPHEMES OF NOUNS

- * /-ol/, /oġ/, /ole/ they can attach to a large number of nouns like:

Reşîd- Reşol

Ayşê - Ayşol

Behê - Behol

Aske – Askol

DIMINUTIVE MORPHEMES OF NOUNS

* /-ke/, /ok/, /oke/ they are not active and they can be attached to some names. Like:

Nesrîn- Neseke

Wely – Weleke

Alî – Aleke

Braîm – Braîmok –Braîmoke

Bekr – Bekrok

* Compound names can be diminutive names like:

Abduġa – Abe- Abol – Abeke

MuhammedAmin – Mîne

Fathuġa – Fatho – Fethy – Fethok – Fetok

Saîfedîn – Seîfe

CONCLUSIONS

Generally, the aim of using diminutive names is for the following points:

- * Using former morphemes with proper names is to show a specific aim which reveals the feelings about the speaker to the hearer. Here two different directions can be seen:
 - * Conveying positive meaning which is uttering passion, love, giving delicate meaning from the speaker for closeness, to enhance social relations.
 - * Conveying negative meaning aiming at belittling, hurt feelings, offending the hearer. From this aspect, those morphemes convey hidden feelings.
- * Minimizing Arabic original name is to make them sound to Kurdish ones so that they can be easier to use like: *Osman-Ose, Salh – Sale*
- * The aim of minimizing those names which are complex ones is for economic reason or to make them easy to be uttered

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