

Kabardian Verbal Affixes: Prefixes, Infixes, and Suffixes

Collected, arranged and edited
by
Amjad Jaimoukha

The Circassian language is characterised by a rich and varied ‘tool-set’ of verbal prefixes and suffixes (and, more generally, affixes). There are more than 60 verbal prefixes used in the official and literary Kabardian-Cherkess language. Although this large number of prefixes confers extra dimensions in the expressive domain and provides the writer with a wide range of construction and refining tools, it is also an indication of the complexity and subtlety of the literary language.

Clusters of ‘verbal prefixes’ (two, three – or even more – such prefixes could be attached to the verb, and with other kinds of prefixes, the situation could become intractable – except for a small number of language ‘masters’ – with a limitless array of combinations and permutations, keeping in mind that complex set rules apply to these monstrous formations) could also be formed to convey even more complex and multi-layered designations. The picture becomes even more interesting in the presence of the more than 30 verbal suffixes, and a few verbal affixes.

Examples shall be given of verbal formations with prefixes, affixes and suffixes.

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Verbal Prefixes

бгъэ~ (бгъэдэ~; бгъэды~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates stay/sojourn near smb., smth.; ex.: *сымаджэм бгъэдэсын: to sit by the side of the patient*; **2.** designates action directed towards smb., smth.; ex.: *унэм бгъэдыхьэн: to go up to the house*; *бгъэдэгъэлъэдэн: to roll, drive (smth. to smth.)*; **3.** designates departure, or movement away, from smb., smth.; ex.: *бгъэдэжын: to run away (from smb., smth.)*; *бгъэдэжын: to move away (from smb., smth.)*; *къулыкъум бгъэдэжын: to leave service/work.*

бгъуры~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates movement by/past smb./smth. by lateral surface of smth.; ex.: *бгъурыжын: to go by/past, to pass by the side*; **2.** designates movement directed towards (lateral) side of an object; ex.: *машинэм бгъурыхьэн: to approach the car from the side*; **3.** designates stay/sojourn near/by, in the vicinity of, smth.; ex.: *бгъурылхьэн: to lay/put (smth.) near/by (smb., smth.)*.

блэ~ (*verbal prefix*) designates movement by/past smb., smth.; ex.: *унэм блэжын: to run by/past the house.*

гу(э)~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates process of joining, or merging with, object; ex.: *сэ абы сыгухъац: I have joined him*; **2.** designates movement of subject at the side; ex.: *шыцІэр шым гуэльэдац: the foal ran up to the horse from the side*; **3.** designates being next to, beside smb., ex.: *гъунэгъум гуэсын: to sit next to the neighbour*; **4.** designates separation of an object from another, movement away from smb., smth.; ex.: *гуэльэтын: to fly off/away, to break away, from the side*; *гуэжын: to flow/run aside, to branch off.*

ГБЭ~ (ГБА~) (*verbal prefix*) designates causation; rendered by the verbs: to force, compel, make; to order, tell; to allow, permit; to give the opportunity to do smth.; also forms transitive verbs; ex.: *ГБЭНСЭЛЭЭН*: to make (smb.) talk; *ГБЭМЭЖЭЛЭЭН*: to make (smb.) go hungry; *ГБЭИХЭЭН*: to feed (smb.); *ГБЭБЗЭХЭЭН*: to hide/conceal (smb., smth.) quickly.

ДЭ~ (ДЫ~) I (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates being of an object on a definite territory; ex.: *МАШИНЭР УЭРАМЫМ ДЭТИЦ*: the car is on the street; **2.** designates being of an object inside another object; ex.: *НИЦЛАНТЛЭМ ДЭТЫН*: to be in the yard; *ТХЫЛЪЫР ШКАФЫМ ДЭЛЪИЦ*: the book is in the bookcase; **3.** designates direction inside some premises, deep into a place etc.; ex.: *НХЭЭР НИЦЛАНТЛЭМ ДЭШЭН*: to drop off the firewood in the yard; **4.** designates direction from within, through smth.; ex.: *ЦХЬЭГЪУБЖЭМ ДЭНЛЪЫН*: to look out of the window.

ДЭ~ II (*verbal prefix*) designates action performed jointly with smb., or stay/sojourn with smb.; *ДЭИХЭЭН*: to eat with smb.; *ДЭЦЛЫГЪУН*: to be with smb.; to accompany smb.

Е~ (*verbal prefix*) refers to object of sentence, designates some open place or object; ex.: *БАДЗЭР ФОМ ЕНИЦЛАЦ*: the flies swarmed all over the honey; *АР ТХЫЛЪЫМ ЕДЖАЦ*: he read the book.

ЖБЭ~ (ЖБЭХЭ~) (*verbal prefix*) designates action directed at smth.; ex.: *ЖБЭХЭНЛЭЭН*: to look steadily (at), to stare (at); *ЖБЭХЭУЭН*: (vi) to push, shove (smb., smth.); to hit, strike (against smb., smth.); to collide (with).

ЖБЭДЭ~ (*verbal prefix*) designates action performed in or towards the mouth; ex.: *ЖБЭДЭДЭЭН*: (vt) to throw (smth.) in the mouth (usually smb. else's); *ЖБЭДЭНЛЭЭН*: (vi) to look into (smb.'s) mouth.

зэ~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** used in formation of reciprocal verbs; ex.: *зэзэуэн: to fight each other*; **2.** used in formation of reflexive verbs; ex.: *зэгъэжбэн: (vt) to force oneself to wait*; *зэльэфэлэн: (vt) to drag to oneself*.

зэдэ~ (*verbal prefix*) used in formation of reciprocal verbs; ex.: *зэдэгушылэн: to joke with one another*.

зэт~ (*verbal prefix*) designates totality of action; ex.: *зетеутыхьын: to splash all over*.

зэхэ~ (*verbal prefix*) designates totality of action; ex.: *зэхэутыхьын: to splash all over*; *зэхэтыхьын: to cover (ex.: piece of paper) with writing*.

здэ~ (*verbal prefix*) designates destination of action; ex.: *сыздэжлуэнур соццэ: I know where I am going to*.

зы~ (*verbal prefix*) designates reflexive action; ex.: *зылъэццлын: to wipe oneself*; *зыпльыхьын: to look about oneself*.

и~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates movement directed downwards and inside object; ex.: *игуэн: to push, shove (smb., smth., into smth.)*; **2.** designates being/staying inside/in smth; ex.: *вагоным исын: to sit in the coach*; **3.** designates removal of an object from some place; ex.: *игъэхун: to drop, let fall (from pocket, etc.)*; *пэгуным нсыр ижауц: the water ran out of the bucket*; *игъэццлеуклын: to bend (smth.) backwards*.

ире~ (ира~) (*verbal prefix*) causative prefix; ex.: **иреклүэ:** *send, let go*; **ирефэ:** *to let (smb.) drink (smth.)*; **ирехьу:** ~ *анхуэдэу: so be it*.

ирегъа~ (ирагъа~) (*verbal prefix*) causative prefix; ex.: **ирегъаклүэ:** *send*; **ирегъафэ:** *to make (smb.) drink (smth.)*; *Думэсарэ хьэщлэхэм шейр* **ирегъафэ:** *Dumasara offered the guests tea*.

при~ (пр~) (*verbal prefix*) designates motion on, or along, surface; ex.: *лъагъуэм* **приклүэн:** *to follow the path*.

кIэ~ (кIэщIэ~) I (*verbal prefix*) designates action performed under smth.; ex.: *уэсыр жыг лъабжъэм* **кIэщIэтхьуэн:** *to rake up the snow under the tree*.

кIэ~ (кIэль~; кIэльы~) II (*verbal prefix*) immediately after; after, following; ex.: *мышэм* **кIэльыклүэн:** *to go after the bear*; **кIэльэжъэн:** (*vi*) *to set off/ out after, to start after, to leave after (smb., smth.)*; **кIэльесын** (*vi*) *to swim after (smb., smth.)*.

кIэры~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates action on surface of object which is in vertical position; ex.: *блыным лозунг* **кIэрымхэн:** *to write a slogan on the wall*; **2.** designates stay/sojourn on slope, on surface, of object; ex.: *мэлхэр бгым* **кIэрымц:** *the sheep are on the slope of the mountain*; *Iэм ятIэ* **кIэрыльц:** *there is mud on the hand*; **3.** designates separation from smb., smth.; ex. *ар сэ скIэрыклац:* *he left/let me alone*; **кIэрыдзэн:** *to throw (smth.) away from (smth.)*; **4.** designates compact adherence to smth.; ex.: **кIэрыклэн:** *to adhere, grow fast (to smth.)*; **кIэрыгъуэн:** *to adhere (in drying) (to), to dry (on, to), to stick (to)*.

кIэщI(э)~ (*verbal prefix*) designates action under smth.; **кIэщIэ**кIэцIэн: (*vi*) *to lay an egg (under smth.)*; **кIэщIэ**лхьэн: (*vt*) *to put/lay (down) (smth.) under smth.*; *пхьацIэм бгыкьу кIанэм пхьэ тыкьыр кIэщIу*лхьац: *the carpenter placed a log-piece under the end of the girder.*

кIуэцIы~ (кIуэцIыры~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates motion (directed) inside, or from within (smth.), through (smth.); ex.: **кIуэцIы**хун: *to fall out (from inside smth.)*; **кIуэцIы**рыхун: *to collapse, come down through (smth.)*; **2.** designates location of smb., smth., smwh.; or inside smth., or extraction of smb., smth. from smwh., or from inside smth.; ex.: *сабий шхыIэным кIуэцIы*лхьэн: *to wrap up the child in the blanket.*

кьэ~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates arrival, approach, movement directed to the speaker; ex.: *мафIэгур кьэ*сац: *the train has got in*; **2.** designates approach of some season, time; ex.: *цIымахуэр кьэ*сац: *winter has arrived*; **3.** adds a tinge of definiteness to the verb; ex.: **кьэ**псэлхьэн: *to deliver a speech; to begin to speak.*

кьуэ~ (кьыкьуэ~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates stay outside the limits (of), or behind (smth.); ex.: *бгым кьуэ*сын: *to sit behind the mountain*; **2.** designates motion directed to back of some object; ex.: **кьуэ**лхьэдэн: *to run behind*; **3.** designates movement from behind some object; *дыгьэр бгым кьыкьуэ*кIац: *the sun rose from behind the mountain*; **кьуэ**пльын: *to look out from behind.*

мы~ (*verbal prefix*) in combination with verbs, forms negative form; ex.: **мы**гьэгьэн: *not to flower, not to bloom/blossom*; **мы**кIын: *not to grow.*

нэ~ (ны~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates direction of motion from speaker to second person; *ap yu dejэ нэклуац: he went to you; ap yu dejэ ныцлыхъац: he went to visit you;* **2.** forms verbs that convey a sense of completion of an action; *ex.: нэдысын: to finish (sewing); нэвысын: to finish ploughing/tilling; нэджысын: to finish (reading), to read to the end.*

нэ~ (пы~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates reciprocal action; *ex.: нэдзыжын: to throw back; нэджэжын: to call in response, to respond;* **2.** designates motion directed away from, or towards, fore-part of smth.; *нэрыхуэн: to drive on from the front;* **3.** designates being (of smb., smth.) in front of some object, person; *нэгъэувын: to put/place/set in front of, before (smb., smth.); нэувын: to stand in front of, before (smb., smth.);* **4.** designates action timed to beginning of smth.; *ex.: нэрыхъэн: to draw near the beginning (of smth.).*

не~ (*verbal prefix*) designates movement towards smb., smth.; conveys meeting (half-way), coming together; *фызым нежьэн: to go to meet/receive the woman.*

пхы~ (пхыры~) (*verbal prefix*) designates action, motion directed through some obstacle, object; *ex.: пхырыжын: to run through smth.; шэп пхъэбгъум пхыклац: the bullet went through the board; пхивыклын: to get wet/soaked through.*

пы~ (*verbal prefix*) designates addition or joining, adherence; *ex.: пытхэн: (vt) to add (smth.) (in writing) to smth.; to finish (writing) (smth.); пыклэн: (vi) to adhere, grow fast (to smth.).*

пыры~ (пы~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates action of transference over object that is of comparatively small height; *ex.: бжыхъым пырыпльын:*

to look over the fence; **2.** designates action, motion directed across some obstacle; ex.: *нсым нырышын (е зэнырышын): to take/lead across the river*; *лъэмыжым нырышын: to take/lead across the bridge*

те~ (*verbal prefix*) designates location/being on smth.; *тхыльыр Iэнэм тельц: the book is on the table.*

тр~ (тре~) (*verbal prefix*) designating motion directed on surface of object; ex.: *жыгым сыхъу треццIэ: the tree is covered with hoar-frost.*

фIэ~ (фIы~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** means to be situated on smth.; smwh. more often on the point (edge) of smth.; expressed by preposition 'on'; ex.: **фIэсын** *vi* to sit on smth. sharp; **2.** designates action done against smb.'s will; ex.: *кIуэн: to go*; **фIэ***кIуэн: (vi) to go against smb.'s wish.*

хэ~ (хы~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates being, sojourn in smth., smwh., and also in some organization; *нсым хэтын: to be in water*; *нартуем хэтын: to be in a party*; **2.** designates direction in/inside smth., in(to) some mass, joining some organization; *нсым хыхъэн: to go into water*; *нартуем хыхъэн: to join the party.*

ху(э)~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates motion, movement towards an object, situated in opposition to the speaker; ex.: *унэм хуэжIуэн: to go to(wards) the house*; **2.** designates action performed to please smb., for smb.'s sake, in smb.'s interests; ex.: *анэм Iуэху хуэццIэн: to carry out, do, implement (smth.) for (one's) mother*; **3.** designates action conveying/expressing unfriendliness; ex.: *хуэпцэлъэн: to slander, calumniate (smb.); хуэшхыдэн: to scold, abuse (smb.); 4. designates action directed to(wards) an object; ex.: *сабийр анэм хуожэ: the child is running to his mother*; *ныбжъээгъум хуэтхын: to write to (one's) friend*; *ар и ныбжъээгъум**

фIыуэ хуцымц: he treats his friend nicely, he is nice to his friend; **5.** designates sign/indication of action; ex.: *абы вакъэр хуэхъуац*: the boots fitted him just right; **6.** designates ability/skill to do/make smth.; ex.: *абы ар хуэхъынкъым*: he is not able to carry this, he will not manage to carry this.

щхьэ~ (щхьэщы~; щхьэпыры~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates being or movement of object over surface of smth.; ex.: *ниэр бгым щхьэщымц*: the cloud hangs over the mountain; *бгым щхьэщылъэтын*: to fly over the mountain; **2.** designates movement of object over smth., transference of object over/across smth.; ex.: *бгым хьэлъэр щхьэпырыхын*: to carry the load over/across the mountain.

щ(ы)~ (*verbal prefix*) designates abode/residence smwh.; *сэ мыбы сыщеджац*: I studied here; *ар къалэм щынсэуац*: he lived in the city.

щIэ~ (щIы~) (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates being, staying inside premises, or some limited space; ex. *пхъэр гуэщым щIэлыц*: the firewood is in the shed; **2.** designates direction inside premises or some limited space; ex.: *пэшым щIыхьэн*: to go into the room; **3.** designates direction from within premises, or some limited space; ex.: *пэшым Iэнэр щIэхын*: to take/carry the table out of the room; **4.** designates being under smth.; ex.: *щIэщIым щIэтын*: to stand under the lean-to.

Iу~ (*verbal prefix*) **1.** designates drawing near, approaching smb., smth.; ex.: *кIэлындорым Iухьэн*: to approach the corridor; **2.** designates stay/sojourn near smb., smth.; ex.: *мывэр бжэм Iулыц*: the stone lies near the door; **3.** designates quick visual movement towards an object; *блэкIым Iуплъэн*: to cast a glance at the passer-by.

Verbal Infixes

~**МЫ**~ negatory infix; ex.: *жыIэ: say; жум**ы**Iэ: do not say; къакIуэ: come; укъэ**мы**кIуэ: do not come.*

Verbal Suffixes

~ГЪЭ (~ГЪа) (*verbal suffix*) designates the past perfect, or pluperfect tense; ex.: *тхагъаиц*: *he wrote once (upon a time)*; *жулагъаиц*: *he once said*.

~ГЪЭХЭ (~ХЭ) (*verbal suffix*) designates absolute accomplishment/realization of the action; ex.: *кӀуагъэхэщ*: *he's already gone*.

~Ж I (*verbal suffix*) designates recurrence/repetition of action; ex.: *къэсыжын*: *to arrive again*; *къэшэжын*: *vi to bring again*.

~Ж II (*verbal suffix*) designates performance of the action directly, without the intervention of another agent; ex.: *ихыжын*: *to eat by oneself*.

~еи (*verbal suffix*) designates action in an upward direction; ex.: *дэжӀуеин*: *vi 1. to go upwards, or against flow of the river; 2. to rise (upwards)*; *дэльӀеин*: *vi to jump/leap up*.

~и (*connective suffix*) and, also; ex.: *къакӀуи епль*: *come and have a look*.

~кӀэ (*verbal suffix*) designates absolute completeness of action; ex.: *сӀлакӀэц*: *I have already done it*.

~КЪЫМ (*verbal suffix*) negatory suffix; ex.: *хъэцIэр иджыри къэс къэсакъым*: the guest hasn't arrived yet; *сэ еджанIэм сыкIуакъым*: I didn't go to school.

~КЪУЭ (*verbal suffix*) designates excessiveness; ex.: *нсэлъэкъуэн*: vi 1. to talk (smb.) down, to out-talk (smb.); to talk too much; 2. to have a long talk (with smb.), to get carried away by a conversation (with smb.).

~ЛI (~ЛIЭ) (*verbal suffix*) designates action directed towards, or applied to smb., smth.; ex.: *ежэлIэн*: vi to run up (to smb., smth.), to come running up (to smb., smth.); *ехъэлIэн*: vt 1. to take, carry (smb., smth. to smb., smth.); *хъэнышыхэр автобусым ~*: to carry the articles to the bus; 2. to apply, put (smth.; ex.: one's strength, skill); *къару нсору ~*: to make efforts, to make/exert every effort; *къекIуэлIау*: he appeared; he presented himself.

~М(Э) conditional suffix; ex.: *ар къакIуэмэ, сэ бэзэрым сыкIуэнуу*: If he comes, I will go to the market.

~МИ (*conjunctive suffix*) designates concessive mood; ex.: *укIуа~~ми~~*: even if you had gone.

~Н infinitive forming suffix; ex.: *мхэн*: to write; *кIуэн*: to go.

~ПЭ (*verbal suffix*) designates completeness and fulfilment of the action; ex.: *илэжъынау*: accomplished, realized, carried into effect; *шхынэн*: vt to eat (up) (smth.) entirely.

~**рей** (*verbal suffix*) designates recurrence, presence of a characteristic; ex.: *мэнсэлъэрей*: *he is fond of talking; he is garrulous*; *мэдауэрей*: *he is given to brawling; he is a brawler*.

~**рт** (*verbal suffix*) designates repetition/recurrence of action; ex.: *тхэрт*: *he wrote repeatedly*.

~**т** (*verbal suffix*) designates the imperative mood; ex.: *жылат*: *do say; just say*; *тхэм*: *just write*.

~**тэмэ** (*conjunctive suffix*) designates subjunctive mood; ex.: *уклуатэмэ*: *if you had gone*.

~**тэми** (*conjunctive suffix*) designates concessive mood; ex.: *уклуатэми*: *even if you had gone*.

~**ф** (*verbal suffix*) designates the ability to perform the action indicated; ex.: *жылатфын*: 1. *vi to be able to speak/talk; to speak eloquently/articulately*; 2. *vt to know how to say (smth.); to manage to say (smth.)*; *хыффын*: *vt to manage, be able, to take/carry (away) (smth. smwh.)*.

~**х** (*verbal suffix*) designates downward direction of action; ex.: *ежэхын*: *vi 1. to roll down; to go/come down; to run down*; *джабэм ежэхын*: *to roll down the mountain slope*; 2. *to flow/run down (of river, brook, stream)*; *псыр джабэм хуабжыу йоэжэх*: *the river is streaming down the mountain slope*; *ехэхын*: *vt 1. to lower, sink (smb., smth.)*; *цхьэр ехэхын*: *to hang one's head*; 2. *to let/get down, lower (smb., smth.)*; *рабочэхэр шахтэм ехэхын*: *to get the workers down to the mine*.

~**хэ** pluralizing suffix; ex.: *кбэкIуахэц*: they came.

~**хэ** (~**ххэ**) (verbal suffix) designates constant/absolute readiness/preparedness; ex.: *сыхбэзырыхэц*: I am always/absolutely ready.

~**хэ** (~**х**) (verbal suffix) designates preliminary condition; ex.: *зытхбэцIыхэн*: wash yourself first; *зытхбэцIыхи ихэ*: first wash yourself, and then eat.

~**ххэ** (verbal suffix) designates absolute negation; ex.: *сыкIуэххэнкбым*: I will definitely not go.

~**хь** (verbal suffix) **1.** designates action performed on a definite location or repetition of the action; *кбэжыхьын*: to run about; *кбэкIухьын*: to go/walk about; **2.** designates movement round an object; *Iуацхбэм кбэкIухьын*: to walk/go round the hill; *жыгым кбэкIухьын*: to walk/go round the tree; **3.** refers to the object of the action; ex.: *тепсэльыхьын*: vi to discuss (smb., smth.); to speak/talk about (smb., smth.); *техьуцIыхьын*: vi to scold, abuse, reprove, rebuke, take to task, criticize (smb.).

~**ц** I affirmative suffix; ex.: *КбэкIуа ар?*; *НымIэ, кбэкIуац*: Did he come?; Yes, he came.

~**ц** II (verbal suffix) designates excessiveness, or taking the action to excess; ex.: *ихэцIуац*: he ate to excess; he gluttonized.

~шэрэ (~шэрэт) (*conjunctive suffix*) designates optative mood; ex.: *Налшык сыкIуашэрэ: if only I could go to Nalchik; I wish I could go to Nalchik.*

~Iуэ (*verbal suffix*) designates slight excessiveness; ex.: *мхэIуэн: vi to write more than is necessary.*