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# Old Albanian

Morphology – Part 1: Stem formation of the verb



# Roadmap

- Generalities
- Present stems
- Imperative stems
- Aorist stems
- Optative stems
- Participles
- Stem suppletion

## Generalities

For each verb we can distinguish:

- a **verb base** (mono- or disyllabic)
- and 5 synthetic **stem forms**:
  1. present stem
  2. imperative (2sg.)
  3. aorist stem
  4. optative stem
  5. participle stem

These stem forms can partly be identical.

# Generalities

Inflection can be indicated by:

- Inflectional **endings**, incl. zero
- **Vowel changes** of the base: raising, monophthongization and diphthongization
- **Consonant changes** (of the base-final C): palatalization and assibilation

## Present stems

1. Monosyllabic = verbal base: mainly CV or CVC  
e.g., *di* 'know', *djeg* 'burn'
2. *n*-stems = base + suffix *-ën-* or *-n-*  
e.g., *ec-ën* 'walk' *kujto-n* 'think', *mba-n* 'hold'
3. *t*-stems = base + suffix *-at/et-* or *-t-*  
e.g., *përk-et* 'touch', *vre-t* 'kill'
4. Irregular stems  
e.g., *ështëë* 'be', *thotë* 'say'

## Present stems, PIE sources

1. Monosyllabic stems: PIE thematic inflection
2. *n*-stems: PIE suffix *\*(e/o)n-je/o-*
3. *t*-stems: PIE suffix *\*-ot-je/o-?*
4. Athematic stems: PIE athematic inflection

## Present inflection in Old Geg:

	di	hjek	kujton	ecën
1sg	dī	hjek	kujtonj	ecnj
2sg	di	hjek	kujton	ecën
3sg	di	hjek	kujton	ecën
1pl	dīmë	hjekmë	kujtojmë	ecnjëmë
2pl	dini	hiqëni	kujtoni	ecëni
3pl	dīnë	hjekënë	kujtonjënë	ecnjënë
2sg sub	dīsh	hjeksh	kujtojsh	ecnjësh
3sg sub	dijë	hjekë	kujtonjë	ecnjë

## Present inflection in Old Geg:

type	përket	është	thotë
1sg	përkas	jam	thom
2sg	përket	je	thuo
3sg	përket	ashtë; ë, â; anshtë	thotë
1pl	përkasmë	jemi	thomi
2pl	përkitëni	ini	thoi
3pl	përkasënë	janë	thonë
2sg sub	përkaç	jësh	thuosh
3sg sub	përkasë	jetë	thoetë



## Imperatives

2sg.ipt.	base	<i>ban!</i> ‘do!’ (base <i>ban-</i> )
		<i>mba!</i> ‘hold!’ ( <i>mba-</i> )
		<i>kujto-u!</i> ‘remember’ ( <i>kujto-</i> )
	-j (after V)	<i>mos druoj!</i> ‘fear not!’ ( <i>dro-</i> )
	-ë (after C)	<i>rrjedhë!</i> ‘run!’ ( <i>rrjedh-</i> )

1pl.ipt. and 2pl.ipt. = 1pl.ind. and 2pl.ind.

e.g., Budi *bâjmë* ‘let us build’ (stem *ban-*)

e.g., Buzuku *mos vidhni!* ‘don’t you (pl.) steal’ (stem *vjedh-*)

## Aorist stems

### 1. v-aorist

Suffix *-v-* or vowel lengthening

After base in *-V*: *la-v- / lā-* ‘wash’, *kujto-v- / kujtuo-* ‘think’  
*kthe-v-, kthye* ‘return’,

### 2. t-aorist

Suffix *-(j)t-*

After bases in *-V* or *-C*: *fje-t-* ‘sleep’, *mba-jt-* ‘hold’, *dhimp-t-* ‘hurt’

### 3. suffixless aorist

No suffix, sometimes changes in the base:

After bases in *-C*: *dogj-* to *djeg* ‘burn’, *vun-* to *ven*, *vë* ‘place’

## Aorist inflection in Old Geg:

base	kujto-	ëmba-	djeg-	ven-
1sg	kujtova	ëmbajta	dogja	vuna
2sg	kujtove	ëmbajte	dogje	vune
3sg	kujtoi	ëmbajti	dogj	vũ
1pl	kujtuom	ëmbajtim	dogjm	vũm
2pl	kujtuotë	ëmbajtëtë	dogjtë	vũtë
3pl	kujtuonë	ëmbajtinë	dogjnë	vũnë
3sg mid	u kujtuo	u ëmbajti, -ë	u dogj	u vũ

## Optative stems

Closely linked to the aorist and/or to the participle stem:

1. *f*-optative

Suffix *-f-*, e.g., *kujtofsh* 2SG

2. *t*-optative

Suffix *-(j)të-*, e.g., *ëmbajtësh* 2SG

3. suffixless optative

a. Identical to aorist stem, e.g., *lasha* 1SG to *la-* 'let'

b. If the aorist has *o*-vocalism, the optative has the vocalism of the 1sg.pres.ind., e.g., *hjektë* 3SG of *heq*, aor. *hoq* 'pull'

## Optative inflection

1sg *-sha*

2sg *-sh*

3sg *-të*

1pl *-shim*

2sg *-shi*

3sg *-shin*

The origin of the endings is disputed.

## Participles

Base = usually  
aorist stem.

Except for the *o*-  
aorist, where the  
ptc. often  
coincides with the  
present base.

Old Geg		Old Tosk	
suffix		suffix	exx.
<i>-në</i>	<i>pīnë</i> 'drunk'	<i>-në, -rë</i>	<i>thënë</i> 'said' <i>lërë</i> 'born'
<i>-unë</i>	<i>ardhunë</i> 'come' <i>djegunë</i> 'burnt'	<i>-urë</i> <i>-uarë</i>	<i>ardhurë</i> 'come' <i>psuarë</i> 'suffered'
<i>-m</i>	<i>kujtuom</i> 'thought' <i>ënvram</i> 'killed'	<i>-m</i>	<i>dbuamë</i> 'chased' <i>mbsuam</i> 'learned'
<i>-të</i>	<i>pītë</i> 'drunk'	—	

## Participles

The same participle can sometimes be found with different suffixes in Old Albanian, e.g.,

*pīnë, pītë, pīm* ‘drunk’

*panë, pātë, pām*, Old Tosk *pār* ‘seen’

*ardhunë, ardhm* ‘come’

## Stem suppletion in Old Geg

meaning	present	aorist	participle
see	<i>shoh/sheh</i>	<i>pa-</i>	<i>panë, pām, pātë</i>
give	<i>jap/jep</i>	<i>dha-</i>	<i>dhanë</i>
take	<i>zan</i>	<i>zun-</i>	<i>zanë</i>
be	<i>ja/je/ësh/ish</i>	<i>kle-</i>	<i>klenë</i>
have	<i>ka/ke</i>	<i>pat-</i>	<i>pasunë</i>
eat	<i>ha</i>	<i>anqr-</i>	<i>nqranë</i>
fall	<i>bjer/bie/bi</i>	<i>ra-</i>	<i>ranë</i>



Faleminderit për vëmendjen tuaj!

Thank you for your attention!

## References

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