

RONALD I. KIM

# Classical Armenian: Morphology 5

Verbal Morphology – Part 3: Derivation, Nonfinite Forms

---

## Classical Armenian: Verbal Morphology 3

- Verbal derivation
- Formerly productive suffixes
- Productive suffixes
- Nonfinite forms

## Verbal derivation

- Classical Armenian has several derivational suffixes for forming verbs from verbal stems or nominal stems (nouns, adjectives).
- Some are fully **productive**, i.e. new verbs can be formed from (virtually) any stem.
- Others were productive at an earlier stage, but apparently no longer are by the time of the Classical Armenian texts.

## Verbal derivation: formerly productive suffixes

- **Denominatives** in *-em*: inherited from PIE, originally to *o*-stems only, extended to other stem classes; productive into the Parthian period

Denominative	Base
<i>sirem</i> 'love'	<i>sêr</i> ( <i>o</i> ) 'love'
<i>bžškem</i> 'heal'	<i>bžišk</i> ( <i>a</i> ) 'doctor' (← Iranian)
<i>t'agaworem</i> 'rule as king'	<i>t'agawor</i> ( <i>a</i> ) 'king'
<i>nšanakem</i> 'denote, make clear'	<i>nšanak</i> ( <i>a</i> ) 'sign' (← Iranian)
<i>caṛayem</i> 'serve'	<i>caṛay</i> ( <i>i</i> ) 'servant'
<i>anowanem</i> 'name'	<i>anown</i> ( <i>n</i> ) 'name' (gen. <i>anowan</i> )

## Verbal derivation: formerly productive suffixes

- **Factitives** in *-em*

Denominative	Base
<i>srbem</i> 'purify, make holy'	<i>sowrb</i> ( <i>o</i> ) 'pure, holy'
<i>azatem</i> 'free'	<i>azat</i> ( <i>a</i> ) 'free'
<i>manrem</i> 'make small, break into pieces'	<i>manr</i> ( <i>u</i> ) 'small'
<i>hnazandim</i> 'obey'	<i>hnazand</i> 'obedient' (← Iranian)

## Verbal derivation: formerly productive suffixes

- **Factitives** in *-am*: inherited PIE formation, largely replaced by *-em*

Denominative	Base
<i>yowsam</i> 'hope'	<i>yoys</i> ( <i>o</i> ) 'hope'
<i>orsam</i> 'hunt, chase, catch'	<i>ors</i> ( <i>o</i> ) 'hunt, catch'

## Verbal derivation: productive suffixes

- The only fully productive verb-forming devices are:
  - **causative** and **factitive** *-owc'anem*, aor. *-owc'i* (3sg. *-oyc'*);

Present	Aorist
<i>darnam</i> 'turn (intr.)'	<i>darjay</i>
<i>darj-owc'anem</i> 'turn (tr.)'	<i>darj-owc'i</i> (3sg. <i>darjoyc'</i> )
<i>owsanim</i> 'learn'	<i>owsay</i>
<i>ows-owc'anem</i> 'teach'	<i>ows-owc'i</i> (3sg. <i>owsoyc'</i> )
<i>t'agaworem</i> 'rule as king'	<i>t'agaworec'i</i>
<i>t'agaworec'-owc'anem</i> 'make king'	<i>t'agaworec'-owc'i</i>

## Verbal derivation: productive suffixes

- N.B. There are also a few causatives with other suffixes. (The origin of all these types remains disputed.)

Base	Causative
<i>elanem</i> 'go out, exit'	<i>elowzanem</i> 'pull out, extract'
<i>kornč'im</i> 'perish'	<i>korowsanem</i> 'destroy'
<i>mtanem</i> 'go in, enter'	<i>mowcanem</i> 'put in, introduce'



## Verbal derivation: productive suffixes

- **Fientive** *-anam*, aor. *-ac'ay*.

Denominative	Base
<i>hast-anam</i> 'become strong'	<i>hast</i> 'strong, solid'
<i>azat-anam</i> 'become free'	<i>azat</i> 'free' (← Iranian)
<i>anmah-anam</i> 'become immortal'	<i>anmah</i> (← Iranian)
<i>het'anos-anam</i> 'become a heathen'	<i>het'anos</i> (← Greek)

- This remains productive today: cf. *elektr-anam* 'become electric'!

## Nonfinite forms: infinitive

- **Infinitive**: present stem + *-l*
- N.B. Indifferent to voice: presents in *-im* form infinitives in *-el*

Present	Infinitive
<i>sirem</i> 'love'	<i>sirel</i>
<i>sirim</i> 'am loved'	<i>sirel</i> ( <i>siril</i> is postclassical)
<i>lowanam</i> 'wash, am washed'	<i>lowanal</i>
<i>arnowm</i> 'take, am taken'	<i>arnowl</i>

## Nonfinite forms: verbal adjectives

- **Gerundive** in *-eloc'*, denoting necessity or obligation:
  - *sireloc'* 'to be loved, *amandus*'
  
- **Gerundive** in *-eli* (*ea*-stem), denoting possibility:
  - *sireli* 'lovable, *amābilis*'
  
- Both adjectives formed regularly to the infinitive, hence also from the present stem.

## Nonfinite forms: past participle

- **Past participle** in *-eal* (*o*-stem, gen. *-eloy*)
- Usually formed to the aorist stem: *ber-eal* ‘brought’, *lk'-eal* ‘left’
- Also formed to the present in case of verbs in *-em/-im* with weak aorists: *sir-eal* or *sirec'-eal* ‘loved’.

- Enters into periphrastic constructions expressing the perfect (pluperfect), with the subject in the genitive:

*nora*            *ē*            *gorceal*  
that-GEN.SG    be-PRS.3SG    make-PAST.PTCP  
‘of-him is made’ > ‘he has made’

## Nonfinite forms: agent nouns

- Agent nouns in *-awt* or *-ot* (the latter ‘one who habitually Xes’), e.g.
  - *cnawtk’* ‘parents’ ← aor. *cn-ay* ‘bore’,
  - *pahol* ‘one who fasts’ ← *pah-* ‘fast’.
  
- Becomes productive in postclassical Armenian; modern **present participle** *-ot*, e.g.
  - *berot* ‘carrying’ ← *berem* ‘carry’,
  - *grof* ‘one who writes, writer’ ← *grem* ‘write’.

## Nonfinite forms: agent nouns

- Agent nouns in *-owm* formed to mediopassive presents, e.g.
  - *t'řč'own* 'bird' ← *t'řč'im* 'fly',
  - *xawsown* 'able to speak, rational' ← *xawsim* 'speak',
  - *gitown* 'wise' ← *gitem* 'know'.
  
- Also becomes productive in the later language: basis of the Modern **Eastern Armenian present indicative**, e.g.
  - pres. ind. *tesowm em* 'I see' (< 'seeing-one am') vs.
  - pres. subj. *tesem* '(that) I see'.

շնորհակալութիւն

Thank you for your attention!