

## DERIVATION

5. The main ways of derivation in Svan are affixation, ablaut, compounding and reduplication.

5.1. The most popular affixes are:

- äj (see under -j);
- äi|| -äi for iteratives: *li-djār-äi* "feeding";  
for verbal nouns meaning a temporal period: *li-ṭx-äi* "time of returning";
- äiw, L. B. -al-d|| äi-d for the verbal nouns of termination:  
*li-ṭx-äiw* "until returning";
- är for attributive nouns of possession of a feature expressed in the basic noun (*ma*-abstract): *mäjd-är* "hungry";
- ära for the approximative degree of comparison when not comparing colours (4.6.6);
- d transformative-case inflection used to form adverbs from adjectives (4.6.5);
- ēi for the comparative degree of *xoča* "good" (*xočēi*), *xola* "bad" (*xodrēi*), *xoḷa* "big", *xoxwra* "small" (4.2.6);
- ēla || -ēra,  
-ijēl || -ijēra for diminutives and duratives-iteratives: *Bimərzela* "small Bimurza", *li-ṭx-ijēl* "answering";
- ijēl || -ijēr for verbal nouns meaning temporal period:  
*li-qn-ijēl* "time of ploughing";
- il(a), -il-d(a) for diminutives: *dāli(a)|| dāliḷd* "a small dali (myth.)";
- (a of bare-stem abstracts +)j for nouns specifying persons according to their features:  
*zoblā-j* "eater";
- la-a for the (collective) plural of kinship words (4.2.2.2);
- la-(a) for verbal nouns meaning a place of destination, a vessel or an instrument: *la-sgrw-a* "bench";
- le- for verbal nouns of goal or destination: *le-zweb* "smth. to be eaten" = "food";
- li- for masdars: *li-zweb* "eating", "to eat";
- lə, mə- (with aorist stems) for verbal nouns of a resulted (inertive) state:  
*ləge* "built", *lədgər* "dead";

ma-	for abstract nouns and masdars from static verbs: <i>ma-laṭ</i> "love" side by side with the masdar <i>li-lāṭ</i> "loving", "to love";
ma-	for agent nouns from medial verbs: <i>ma-šed</i> "leader";
ma-(ēn)e	for the superlative degree of comparison: <i>ma-mṣx-e</i> "the blackest", <i>ma-hwr-ēne</i> "the smallest", <i>ma-š-ēne</i> "the biggest";
me-	for agent nouns from intransitive verbs: <i>me-qed</i> "comer", <i>me-zelāli</i> "goer", <i>me-laṭ</i> "lover";
me-e	for verbal nouns with an active resultative meaning from the intransitive verbs of the group II: <i>me-ṭx-e</i> "who has returned", <i>me-qd-e</i> "who has come";
mē-e	for ordinal numbers: <i>mē-sm-e</i> "the third";
mo-, me-	for agent nouns from intransitive verbs: <i>mo-laṭ</i> "lover";
mə-	(see under lə-: <i>mə-šir</i> "wetted");
mə-	for agent nouns from transitive verbs: <i>mə-māre</i> "preparer";
mə-	for nouns and adjectives indicating nationality: <i>mə-zān</i> "Megrel", <i>mu-šwān</i> (2.3.2) "Svan";
mə-, mə-a	for the approximative degree in comparing colours (4.2.6);
na-	for resultative nouns: <i>na-gām-w</i> "smth. (place, remnants) of what has been built", <i>na-xṭaw</i> "painting (picture)" (i. e. "smth. remained after painting");
na-i	for abstract nouns: <i>našwādi</i> "length";
na-un	for the verbal nouns of material: <i>nā-gm-un</i> "building material";
na-wīrw, L. B.	
na-(w)er, -(w)ier	for the verbal nouns of the destination of action: <i>nā-qd-wīrw</i> "smth. for coming";
-ob	Georgian loan-suffix for the abstracts: <i>dagr-ob</i> "mortality";
-ōl	for diminutives: <i>dīn-ōl</i> "a small girl";
-ra	for the collective names of plants: <i>icx-ra</i> "pears" ( <i>icx</i> "one pear"), <i>had-ra</i> "azalea shrub";
u-a	for negative deverbals (nouns or adjectives): <i>u-txēl-a</i> "invisible";
-ūl(d)	for diminutives: <i>xijad-ul</i> "a small joy" = "dear";
-əl[d(a)]	for diminutives: <i>čqinṭ-əlda</i> "a small boy";
xo-a	for the comparative degree of comparison: <i>xo-mx-a</i> "never"

5.2. A good example of the quantitative ablaut in derivation is *berg* "hoe" → *li-bērg-e* "to hoe".

5.3. Compounding is common in Kartvelian as well as in the Caucasian languages. Similarly to Georgian, Svan uses adjunctive and coordinative compounding:

*maxeγwāš* "young (brave) man" (*maxe* "new", *γwāšār* "males");  
*kwinləmgene* "animal" (*kwin* "soul", *ləmgene* "stood", i. e. "stood at", "adjoined" – cp. Latin *animal*); *dīnagzal* "daughter" (*dīna* "girl", *gzal* "child"); *xexw-čāš* "spouses", "wife and husband"; *lezweb-letre* "food and drink", etc.

Compounding takes place on the other levels of the language structure, too, cf. in preverbs:

ži + an-, ad-, es-, la-;

ču + an-, ad-, es-, la-;

sga + an-, ad-, es-, la-;

ka + an-, ad-, es-, la-, e. g.

*a-x-ywa* "he carries" + *sga* →

*sg'āxywa* "he carries in", or

*es-ywa* "he carries" + *sga* →

*sg'ēsya* "he carries in" (for elision, see 2.1.4).

Compound postpositions (*-te-iswa*, etc.) are examined in 4.6.3.

5.4. For reduplication, cf.

*mērme-mērme* "various" ("other-other");

*ɟwɪr-ɟwɪr* "seldom";

*kāw-kāw* "equivocal".