# AFFIXION IN SIAMESE[*]

## By

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Despite their considerable importance, affixes (apart from San-skrit-Pali prefixes and suffixes) are not even mentioned in the more than a dozen Siamese grammars and manuals written in Latin, English, French and German I have so far seen. The subject is treated by Siamese grammarians, but neither fully nor systematically. As will be shown in the following pages, affixion in Siamese follows the Khmer system throughout, thus demonstrating the truth of Aymonier's dictum: "Il est difficile de connaître scientifiquement la langue Siamoise sans une étude préalable de l'idiome Cambodgien".

## PREFIXION

Siamese uses the Khmer system of affixion in its entirety; it has the same methods of reduplication. It employs, furthermore, certain prefixal forms derived from elements of compounds, and others that are nothing but euphonic additions. Finally, Sanskrit-Pali prefixes and suffixes are used, almost exclusively with Sanskrit-Pali roots.

| Khmer employs as prefixes: | | | Corresponding to Siamese: |
|---|---|---|---|
| the vowel | a | (always nasalized) | อำ |
| the guttural | k | forming adjectives or participles | ก ข (ค) |
| the palatal | c | forming nouns | จ ฉ ช |
| the dental | t | forming nouns | ต |
| the labial | p | forming the causative | ป ผ (พ) |
| the dental | d | (always nasalized) forming nouns | ด |
| the labial | b | (always nasalized) forming the causative | บ |
| the liquid | r | (and, as a variant, l) | ร (ล) |
| the sibilant | s | forming nouns | ส |

Of these the labial prefix is most frequent.   The nasals, "n", "m", "ng", semi-vowels "y", "v", the liquid "l" (except as a mutant of "r"), and the aspirate "h" are never used in prefixion.

Prefixes may be used    1)  simple.

                                2)  nasalized.

                                         a)  by nasal increment (n, ng)

                                         b)  by "am" (*damleu*)

                                3)  followed by r.

A prefix with subsequent "r" denotes the reflexive or recipro-city.   In Siamese the distinction between the simple prefix and the "r" form is scarcely felt; there is a tendency to insert "r" after ป and ก in writing, whereas it is rarely audible in speech.

The simple prefix is as a rule aspirated in Khmer; aspiration is optional before semi-vowels ("y", "v"; ย, ว) and the liquid "l" (ล) and never occurs before "d" and "b" (ด, บ).   This rule is dis-carded in Siamese, non-aspirated simple prefixes being much more prevalent.   In some instances, however, the aspirated form survives, used interchangeably with the non-aspirated: ข for กะ (กระ);  ผ for ปะ (ประ), etc.

Aspirates lose the aspiration if nasalized v. i. p. 79.

(Only the aspirated surds ข, ค, ผ, พ, etc. — not ก, ป, ด — are here considered "aspirated").

Simple prefixes are not permissible with root-words beginning with a consonant of the same class (ก or ข before ก, ข, ค, etc.) These rules do not apply to reduplication; cf. p. 77.

Nasalization is obligatory with the prefixes "a", "d" and "b" (อ, ด, บ) and with all prefixes used before a consonant of the same series.   "r" may follow every prefix with the exception of "d" and "b" (ด, บ); it is always allowed after "p" (ป); after "k", "c", "t" (ก, จ, ต) only before a non-aspirated labial, the semi-vowel "v", the liquid "l" and the aspirate "h".   These latter restrictions are neglected in Siamese.

Theoretically each root-word may in Khmer form derivatives with all existing prefixes.   One and the same root can in principle

form with one and the same prefix four derivatives (by using the simple prefix, the prefix with a nasal, with "am" or with "r"). Actually even in Khmer more than two derivatives from the same root are comparatively rare; still more so in Siamese.

Khmer does not form derivatives by prefixion from derivatives by infixion and vice versa.  In some rare instances, an infix-derivative may form a sub-derivative by nasalization: *kang-krank-kamrang.* Examples in Siamese are :

ช่วย, ชำร่วย to help.

ขาด to be torn, defective, absent, ขจัด, กำจัด to expel, disperse, to drive away.

Two rather exceptional examples of multiple affixion to the same root will illustrate the Khmer system :

| in Khmer : | | in Siamese |
|---|---|---|
| kat | cut, carve, decide | |
| th-kat | bodily pain | |
| s-kat | cut, erase | สะกัด chisel out, chip |
| bang-kat | cut, carve, clip | |
| sang-kat | range, division | สังกัด limit, confines, boundary |
| dam-kat | pain | |
| kh-n-at | rule, measure | ขนัด series, small piece, measure |
| k-amn-at | slice, fragment | |
| | | |
| bek | to be broken, explosion | แผก to be broken, divided |
| pra-bek | to be divided | |
| bam-bek | to break | |
| kam-bek | broken | |
| p-l-ek | changed | แปลก changed, strange |
| ph-n-ek | part | แผนก division, department |
| p-ran-ek | crash | |
| b-amu-ek | fragments | |

Siamese has adopted the Khmer system of prefixion.  The different values of the prefixes tend, however, to become vague or are disregarded, being recognizable only occasionally; the euphonic rules are no longer strictly observed, aspirated and non-aspirated prefixes being employed side by side with the same root-word; many

prefixes, and especially the four forms each prefix may adopt—where they occur—are apt to be used interchangeably, often without distinction of meaning or function. In some instances prefixes are confused or applied indiscriminately by analogy.

Similar tendencies appear, however, in modern Khmer as well. Many of the following examples are of Khmer origin; others are Thai or Chinese, treated in exactly the same way by analogy, just as Khmer may form derivatives from Chinese, Sanskrit-Pali or Thai roots.

## PREFIXION IN SIAMESE

### The vowel "a"

The "am" prefix is doubtful in Khmer; according to Maspero possibly always originally "ram"

ลา, (ลํ่าลา), อำลา (?) to bid farewell, take leave.

### The guttural series กะ, กรร*, กำ, กระ, ข

จ่าย, ขจัดขจาย, กะจัดกะจาย, กระจัดกระจาย, to distribute, disperse, scatter.
มุบมิบ, ขมุบขมิบ, กระหมุบกระหมิบ, to twitch, pucker, throb.
เง้างอด, กะเง้ากะงอด, กระเง้ากระงอด, angered, irritated.
บัง to screen, conceal, กำบัง to cover, make a shelter, กะบัง shelter.
แชง to go alongside, กรรแชง nearby.
กะแทก, กระแทก, กรรแทก to hit, collide.
ค is rare: ลาด (to spread down, go around, cruise), คลาด (to be separated, to slip, miss); คลา (to go away, withdraw), from ลา (take leave).

### The palatal series จะ, ฉะ, ชะ, จำ, ชำ, จระ, ชระ

งอย near the edge, จะงอย extreme tip.
ง่อน tottering, threatening to fall, ชะง่อน overhanging (rocks).
และ, แฉละ, ชำแหละ to cut, carve.
ฉลุ, ชระลุ to perforate.
บัง to conceal, จำบัง (this form is not considered correct) to hide, secrete.
พวก, จำพวก group.

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\* *I fail to understand why the "an" prefix should almost invariably be spelled with รร in Siamese.*

จมูก, จระมูก nose (the root has disappeared in Khmer; it is preserved
    in Mon: "muh").

มั้ว dim, ชระมั้ว dawn.

มุ่น worried, ชระมุ่น to be perturbed.

ลัด to take a short-cut, ชระลัด short-cut.

## The dental series   ตะ, ตำ, ตระ

เพิง projecting roof, ตะเพิง ledge, overhanging rock.

เวน in turn, ตะเวน, ตระเวน to patrol, be on guard.

ลอด to pass through, ตลอด, ตระลอด throughout (?)

แบน flat, ตระแบน to throw down (?)

ริ to consult, plan, ตำริ to consider, resolve, plan.

อวด to boast, display ostentatiously, ตำอวด (จำอวด) clown, ostentatious.

Occasionally interchanged with guttural prefixes:

ตะไกร, กรรไกร, กันไกร scissors.

ตะบอง, กระบอง club, truncheon.

ตระบัด, กระบัด instantaneous.

ตระเวน, กระเวน to patrol.

## The labial series   ป, ปะ, บรร, บัน, บัง, บำ, ประ, ผ

จุ contain, full, ปะจุ, ประจุ, บรรจุ to fill.

ราบ flat, level, ปราบ, บำราบ to level.

เพ็ญ ful, บำเพ็ญ fulfil.

เกิด, บังเกิด to be born, originate, occur.

ราย, ปราย scatter.

เรียบ smooth, well-arranged, compose, เปรียบ to place side by side,
    compare.

ควร, บังควร becoming, suitable.                          ●

อาจ able, daring, bold, บังอาจ bold, daring.

ชุม, ประชุม, ผชุม (ผะชุม) to assemble.

ผจง (พะจง), ปะจง, ประจง, บรรจง elegantly, neatly.

ดาล to make, create, บันดาล to originate, produce.

เดิน, บันเดิน to walk.

เจิด (เฉิด) beautiful, ประเจิด, บรรเจิด to beautify.

เดิม origin, beginning, ประเดิม, ผะเดิม to begin, initiate.

Occasionally interchanged with guttural prefixes:

บันได, กะได, กระได stairs.

ประตัก, กะตัก, กระตัก goad, spur.

Sometimes พ is used instead of ผ :

เผยิบ, พะเยิบ to flutter.

เผอิญ, เพอิญ accidentally.

## The liquids ระ, รัง, รำ, ละ, ลำ

คาย rough, irritating, ระคาย angered, peeved.

ยัง to remain, ระยัง to restrain (?)

ยั้ง to stop, desist, ระยั้ง restrain.

ทอด, ระทอด cast off.

ย้อย, ร้ายย้อย to hang down loosely.

คึก impetuous, ละคึก to hasten, accelerate.

วาด draw, sketch, ละวาด resembling a drawing.

อาย, ละอาย ashamed.

วัด measure, รังวัด to survey.

เอียง, ลำเอียง inclined (According to Maspero the root "ieng" has dis-
appeared Khmer—it is still in current usage in Siamese—whereas
several derivatives ["pa—" or "pha—", "ro—", "lo—", "lom—ieng"]
survive).

## The sibilant สะ, สัง, สำ (สม), สระ

บั้น portion, piece, สะบั้น to be broken, in pieces.

เวียน revolve, encircle, สังเวียน arena, enclosure.

รวม to collect, gather, สำรวม regulate, control.

เริง, สำเริง cheerful.

นึก think, imagine, สำนึก reflect, recall.

อ้าง indicate, call as witness, สำอ้าง, สมอ้าง claim falsely, offer oneself
        as a witness for money accomplice.

ละ, สระละ abandon, forsake (?)

สะท้อน, สระท้อน to rebound.

Sometimes interchanged with gutteral prefixes :

สะเทือน, กระเทือน to shake, tremble.

สะท้อน, กระท้อน to rebound.

สะไอ, กะไอ, กระไอ to cough.

Apart from these there are in Siamese several prefixes derived
from frequent elements of compounds, especially in names of plants
and animals. Then again, the apparent prefix may be nothing but
a euphonic addition preserved by analogy with genuine prefixes.

Thus มะ is derived from หมาก meaning "fruit" in มะม่วง, มะพร้าว and other names of fruits or fruit trees. In other languages of the Thai group (Ahom, Shan, Lao, Tho, etc.) and in old Siamese texts names of fruits are invariably compounded with "mak", e.g., *mak pao* (coconut), *mak kuei* (banana). In *Tai Blanc* "mak" is shortened to "ma". On the *stele* of Rama Kamheng mango (มะม่วง) is spelled หมากม่วง (in Ahom it is surprisingly *mak mo-mong*), tamarind (มะขาม) หมากขาม. ตะเลงพ่าย has both spellings: หมากพร้าว, but มะขาม, มะเกลือ, etc. Prefixed "m" is not permissible in the Khmer system (cf. p. 69); there are a few cases of an apparent ม prefix in Siamese, as also in Khmer. Maspero explains the latter as corrupted nasalized prefixes ("am−", "ram−", etc.). Instances in Siamese occur apparently only before initial ล (and are never spelt มะ). This suggests that some cases at least are really infixed ล, as in เม็ด,-เมล็ด; เล็ด being an abbreviated form. Ahom has "ml−" and "mr−" as initial groups: *mrat* (camel), *mleng* (white ant), *mlep* (lightning), *mlen* (to open the eyes), *mlon* (mulberry, egg), *mleo* (cat). Others, as มลน, มลาน, are perhaps originally couplets (มลน มลาน), the euphonic prefixes of which seem often quite arbitrarily chosen (cf. p. 77). The reduplicated form ละลนละลาน also occurs. มลาก and มลัก are obviously derivatives of มาก and มัก, not of ลาก and ลัก with which they became associated afterwards. มลาย means "to be destroyed", the supposed root ลาย (striped, streaked, of diverse colours). Khmer *leay* means "to mix", *rom-leay* "to melt, to disolve". Thus Siamese ละลาย and มลาย might conceivably both be corrupted forms of a lost derivative รำลาย or ลำลาย. Actually, however, the root is not ลาย at all, but ราย (to scatter); Khmer *reay-ro-l-eay* (to dissolve) − *rom-l-eay* (to scatter, disperse), with infixed "l". ล and ร vary in Siamese as in Khmer, thus *ro-l-eay* becomes *lo-leay*=ละลาย and *rom-l-eay* is corrupted to มลาย. A secondary association with ทำลาย (from the root ทะลาย) seems probable. Similarly ล้าง-มล้าง: Khmer has *leang* (to wash)− *rom-leang* (to cause to disappear). In Siamese, ล้าง means "to wash" or "to destroy" มล้าง and ม้าง have only the latter significance. มล้าง could be corrupted รำล้าง; in ม้าง the ล is lost. Dropped ล and ร is common enough in spoken Siamese and is the rule in the northern group of the Thai languages, if preceded by

another consonant. "Scalding" is in Khmer *roleak*, with a deriva-
tive *ro-m-leak* (to burn, scald).    ลวก apparently is the root, (lost in
Khmer) มลวก the relic of the nasalized form. The same explanation
might account for ล้า-มล้า; ลื่น-มลื่น.   I cannot think of any probable
explanation for ลาว-มลาว.

ตะ is shortened ตา (eye) in ตะวัน (sun; always *tă van* in other
Thai languages; cf. Malay *mata hari*); ตะปู (crab-eye) = nail (alter-
natively spelt ตาปู) and, according to Siamese authors, ต้น (tree) in
names of trees; ตัว (body) in names of animals, e.g., ตะเข้ later
changed to จระเข้; ตะแบก becomes กระแบก or กะแบก by analogy with
Khmer prefixes.

A peculiar origin is claimed for prefixed ก in some cases:
Siamese dislikes consonant groups and is apt to insert a short "a"
(similarly in Sanskrit compounds the final consonant of the first
term is vocalized, but is mute when the word is used alone: ราชการ is
pronounced ราดชะการ; บทจร–บดทะจร, etc.) จักจั่น and ตักแตน are mostly
pronounced (and sometimes written) จักกะจั่น and ตักกะแตน.    Thus
นกจาบ becomes นกกะจาบ and นกกระจาบ, in the same way นกกะจอก,
กะจิบ, กะยาง, etc.    The vocalized final consonant of the first term is
preserved and added to the second term even if the first term is
dropped.    In กะดุม, กะต้น, กะโดน the prefix would be the ก of ลูก;
similarly ผักกะเฉด, กะโถม, etc.    *Tai Blanc* drops the final "k" of
"mak" and "bok" (flower) prefixing it to the following word (?): *ma
ka tum* (strawberry), *bo ka dao* (rose). The same prefix is used with
names of birds: *nok ka yo* (magpie) and insects: *meng ka do p* (cock
chafer), perhaps by analogy.    Phya Anuman discovered a similar
mechanism in Siamese มะกล่ำ, originally หมากล่ำ.

However, these explanations seem doubtful if one considers
the fact that names of plants and animals beginning with "k", "kh",
"kra" and "t", "ta", "tra" are very common in Khmer, which has
neither นก, ลูก, ผัก nor ตัว and does employ "deum" (dom) with names
of trees and other plants including vegetables.    Khmer has no
difficulties in pronouncing consonant groups; so that the ตักกะแตน
mechanism would not arise.    The following are a few examples:

| Siamese | Khmer |
|---|---|
| ตะแบก, ตระแบก, ตราแบก, กะแบก, กระแบก | *dom trabek* |
| ตะแปง | *dom theng* |
| ตะโหนด | *tnot* |
| กะดาด, กระดาด | *kdat* |
| กะทิง, กระทิง* | *khting* |
| กระทุ่มหุ | *khtom* |
| ตะกวด, จะกวด | *trakuot, takuot* |
| ขมวน | *khmuor* (?) |

The question requires further study. In poetry ก or ส is often added to monosyllabic words for the sake of metre or euphony, as in

แห่ ซ้าย หลาย สระพร้อม

แห่ ขวา ล้อม สระพรั้ง (ตะเลงพ่าย)

where สระ is added to พร้อม to make it correspond to สระพรั้ง

# Reduplication

Reduplication of the initial consonant (denoting frequency or intensity) should not be confused with prefixion. The former is possible with whatever consonant the root-word begins. In Khmer only non-aspirated consonants are reduplicated; reduplication of "y", "v" and "r" is not found. These restrictions are not applied in Siamese.

มี–มะมี; ใคร–คระใคร; เตรียม–ตระเตรียม;
ปน–ปะปน; ยิ้ม–ยะยิ้ม; เรื่อง–ระเรื่อง;
ครึม–กระครึม.

# Couplets

Reduplication of the whole word is only considered here in cases showing prefixion. Maspero notes the following phonetic changes in the formation of euphonic couplets:

The last vowel of the second term is lengthened or changed or both; sometimes a final consonant is added if the first term ends on a vowel; the final consonant is dropped, modified or supplanted by "y". The same holds good for Siamese:

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*Spelt กทิง on the stele of วัดมหาธาตุ.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ตะปุ่มตะป่าม | ประจ๋อประแจ๋ | กระวีกระวาด | กระสับกระส่าย |
| สะอิดสะเอียน | กะอ้อมกะแอ้ม | อะร้าอร่าม | ขจัดขจาย |
| ปะงับปะงอน | กระหมุดกระหมิด | ละเลาะละลอง | อะลุ้มอล่อม |
| ปะติดปะต่อ | ระห้องระแห้ง | ทะเยอทะยาน | กะฟุ้มกะฟาย |
| ประคับประคอง | กระย่องกระแย่ง | พะเน้าพะนั่ง | ระวาดระไว |
| กระยิ้มกระย่อง | ขะมอมขะแมม | ตะครั่นตะครอ | ทุรนทุราย |
| ละมุนละม่อม | ทุลักทุเล | ละเอียดละออ | ทะยาทะแยแส |
| ฉวัดเฉวียน | | อะดักอะแด้ | |
| | | อะลักเอลื่อ | |
| มลังเมลือง | | คะยั้นคะยอ | มะรุมมะตุ้ม |
| | | ละลอบละเล้า | |

The prefixes used in these couplets are quite often employed for purposes of euphony and rhythm only, sometimes apparently in their turn produced by reduplication (as in ละเลาะ ละลอง). In several instances prefixes are used that have no place in the regular system of affixion, e.g., มะ, อะ, ทะ, คะ, ทุ.

## Sanskrit prefixes

Siamese authors note a few old exceptions to the rule that Sanskrit—Pali prefixes are used only with loan words from these languages: ทร (bad) added to Siamese หู, หน meaning "hard of hearing" and "a difficult or dangerous way", respectively.

# INFIXION

Maspero distinguishes infixion by nasalization of the initial consonant of the root-word and infixion by infix proper.

## Nasalization

The most common infix is am (อำ), the so-called *"damleu"* infix (forming verbal, causative, or substantival derivatives in Khmer).

If the root begins with two consonants, อำ alone is inserted:
ครบ, คำรบ complete.
แสลง, สำแลง harmful.
กราบ, กำราบ to do obeisance

Khmer initial "cr" is sometimes changed to ทร (alternatively spelt ซ) in Siamese. With "am" the original spelling re-appears: แทรก to insert, ซำแรก to penetrate, permeate. (cf. Khmer *crek*, *c-am-rek*).

If the root begins with a single consonant, it is nasalized by "*damleu*", the second syllable beginning with น having the original vowel of the root-word:

เกิด, กำเนิด originate.
เดิน, ดำเนิน walk.
จ่าย, จำหน่าย distribute.
ติ to censure, reproach, ตำหนิ fault, failing.
แต่ง arrange, appoint, assign, ตำแหน่ง position, rank.
จับ, จำหนับ (จำนับ) catch, arrest.
เทียบ, ทำเนียบ compare.

(ห before infixed น seems to have the function to preserve the original tone (วรรณยุกต์) in Siamese, which is, however, even without it often unchanged as, e.g., in กำเนิด).

In Khmer, aspirates lose the aspiration if nasalized, or else the aspiration is shifted to the second syllable. Remnants of this rule in Siamese are:

ขลัง strong, กำลัง strength.
ฉัน to eat, จังหัน food for monks. •
ถกล (ถะกล), ดำกล to establish.
ตรง straight, direct, ดำรง to straighten, stand, direct.
ถวาย, ตั้งวาย give, present.
แถลง, ดำแลง tell, announce. •

In Khmer the nasal infix is "n" (exceptionally "m") if the initial consonant of the root is single and "k", "c", "t", "p", or "s"; "y" or "v"; or if it begins with a vowel. If the root begins with two consonants, "ng" is inserted before a vowel, guttural, "v", "r", or "h"; "ñ" before a palatal; "n" before a dental.

In Siamese the following occur:

น ขด to coil, roll, ขนด crookedness, being curled, twisted (?)
บวก, ผนวก to add (Non-aspirates are aspirated if they become

part of a consonant group).

บวช, ผนวช to enter the priesthood.

เบิก, เผนิก to open.

แผก broken up, divided, แผนก section.

ราบ flat, level, ระนาบ to lie flat or level.

<u>ม</u>  เฉียง deviating, ชะเมียง to look away.

<u>ง</u>  รม to fumigate, ระงม fumigated.


## Infixion proper

In Khmer only the labial "p" (Siamese ป), the semi-vowel "y"
(ย), and the aspirate "h" (ห) are never infixed.   All the other con-
sonants of the original Khmer alphabet ("k", "c", "t", "d", "b", "v",
"r", "l", "s") occur as infixes.   They form as a rule the instru-
mental, the "m" infix denotes the agent.

In Siamese we find:

<u>ก</u>  เฉียง deviating, เฉลียง oblique, inclined.

ถก, ถลก to flay, skin.

ม่อย, มล่อย drowsy.

<u>ว</u>  เฉียง deviating, เฉวียง leaning to one side.

<u>บ</u>  รำ to dance, ระบำ a solo dance.

ราญ, รำบาญ to fight.          c

ลัด, ละบัด to sprout.

เรียบ in good order, smooth, ระเบียบ order, method.

ลือ, ละบือ to be rumoured.

โลม, ละโบม to caress.

<u>ร</u>  ไคล to go, กระไล to go away (?)

ช่วย, ชำร่วย to help.

<u>ส</u>  ราย, (ระส่ำ) ระสาย to scatter, be scattered (Khmer: *reay, ro-s-ay*)

<u>จ</u>  ขาด to lose, be torn, lacking; ขจัด expel, disperse; กำจัด
     (Khmer has *khāt; kh-c-āt; k-amc-āt* with the same mean-
     ings).

Cases of more than one derivative from the same root are
comparatively rare in Siamese:   เดิน–บันเดิน–ดำเนิน;  เกิด–บังเกิด–

กำเนิด;   จ่าย–ขจาย–จำหน่าย;   สะกัด–สังกัด–ขนัด;   บัง–กำบัง–กะบัง–จำบัง;
ลัด–ละบัด–ชระลัด;   ราบ–ปราบ–บำราบ–ระนาบ.

ลาด spread down, go around; พลาด slip; คลาด be separated; ระบาด be
scattered (Khmer: *leat* to spread; *ph-leat* slip, glide; *kh-leat* to move
away; *lo-bat* explore, go around).   Only before the liquids ร and ล
(and the semi-vowel ว) does Siamese allow non-vocalized initial
consonants.   (Is *Divi piat* [to slip], a coincidence or is there a
common Chinese root ?)

Maspero finds traces of suffixes ("k", "ng", "r", and "s") in
Khmer, giving as example:

*leu* (on); *leuk* (to lift) (เลิก); *leung* (rise) (เหลิง); *leus* (more) (เลิศ, เลิด)
*be* (deviate) (แบ); *bek* (separate) (แผก); *beng* (divide) (แบ่ง);
*bes* (gather, collect);

*ca* (engrave); *cak* (pierce); *car* (engrave) (จาร).

This method of forming derivatives is, however, entirely lost.

Similar systems of affixion are widespread in Austronesian
and Austro-Asiatic languages.   Blagden gives the following survey:

|  | Achinese | Cham | Khmer | Mon |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PREFIXES** | | | | |
| Verbs of action, | | | | |
| causative | pe, pu | pạ | p, ph | p, ph, b, ma |
| intransitive | me, mu | moe | ? | ma |
| **INFIXES** | | | | |
| Verbs of state, | | | | |
| intransitive | -em- | -moe- | ? | • -m- |
| substantives | ? | -moe- | -m-, | -m- |
|  |  |  | -amn- |  |
|  | -en- | -an- | -n-, | (-an-?) |
|  |  |  | -an- |  |

Prefixes "m", "b", "p", "k", "t", infixes "-in-", "-m-" less widely
spread "-l-" and "-r-", are common to Indonesia (besides suffixes
"-n" and "-i"). "P" is everywhere a causal prefix, "k" forms verbal
adjectives and abstract nouns.   Infix "-r-" denotes duration or in-
tensity; "-l-", plurality, reciprocity, etc.   Thus also Sakai: *lŏt* (ex-

tinguished); *perlöt* (to put out a fire, cf. Mon: *plat* to be extinguish-
ed; *palat* to extinguish).    Again Mon: *kawng* (firm); *pakawng* (to
make firm); *pawt* (break off); *thapawt* (to sever); *klon* (to work);
*kamlon* (work); *klot* (to steal); *kamlot* (thief).    Bahnar has the pre-
fixes "p", "k", "t" ("k", as in Malay, giving a passive nuance) and
the infix "-n-".    An infixed "-d-" occurs before "r".    According to
Maspero, the derivative by *"damleu"* often follows its root (in
Siamese it may precede it) in poetry or improvised recitation;
similarly in Malay: *gilang-gemilang*; *turun-temurun*; *silir-semilir*,
etc.    Reduplication and couplets are also found in Cham and in
Malay; *gasing-gegasing*; *layang-lelayang*; *berapa-beberapa*; *beng-
kang-bengkok*, etc.

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