

Lesson 7

Causative verbs – denominative verbs – compound verbs – interrogative pronouns

To the four verb classes that we have so far encountered can be added 56
a fifth class of derivative stems that shows rather different inflection in some instances. These are the so-called (1) causative and (2) denominative verbs. Causatives are formed from verbs of classes I-IV and convey the notion of causing the action of the *verbum simplex* to be performed, e.g. **mwā-ye (mwāt-)** “to be alive” > **mwāca-k-e** “to bring (back) to life”. Denominative verbs, on the other hand, are formed on the basis of action nouns or participles borrowed from Indo-Aryan, e.g. Skr. **siddha-** “accomplished” > **siddha-lap-e** “to accomplish, attain”. This process of denominal stem formation is one of two strategies that Classical Newari employs for the incorporation of verbal loans (compound verbs being the other strategy – see below). In this lesson, we will only look at the forms introduced so far; all other forms will be introduced together with the corresponding forms of classes I-IV in due course.

Causative verbs. These are formed by adding a causative marker 57
{-kal-} to the second grade stem of the *verbum simplex* in classes I, II, and IV, and to the verb noun of class III verbs: **mune** “to assemble” > **muna-kal-** “to gather”; **hāye (hāt-)** “to say” > **hāta-kal-** “to convey (a message)”; **juye (jul-)** “to become” > **juya-kal-** “to cause to happen”. The causative stem in its turn is subject to gradation.

Tab. 18: Gradation of the causative stem

<i>Zero grade</i> <i>First grade</i> <i>Second grade</i> <i>Third grade</i> <i>Extended stem</i>	V yātak- yātaka- yātakal- yātakala- yātakalañā- “to make (cause to exist)”
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NB – Causative stem formation is subject to a number of irregularities that will not be examined here in detail. Only two points should be noted: (1) The irregular copula verb **date** “to exist” forms a regular causative **dayake** (instead of the expected **datake**) “to make (cause to exist)”. (2) Class II verbs sometimes retain the original *auslaut* of the *verbum simplex*, e.g. **yācake** ~ **yātake** “cause to make” < **yāye** (**yāt-**) “to do, make”, Old Newari **yāca**; see § 56 above for another example. This is frequently found in verbs that do not seem to have an original *auslaut* -c, e.g. **mocake** “to (cause to) kill” < **moye** (**mol-**) “to perish, die”. Note also that the verb noun of class III verbs is never spelt <ye> in connection with the causative marker, but always <ya>; this will be reflected in our transcription throughout.

- 58 Of the forms introduced so far, the verb noun, the perfective participle, the converb in {-**āwo**}, the stative participle (marker: {-**u**!}), and the non-past (marker: {-**i(wo)**}, {-**i(na)**}, never {-**u**} etc.) are formed from the zero grade stem; the stative participle may also be formed from the first grade stem (marker: {-**wo**}). The perfective past is formed from the second grade stem (*tab. 19*):

Tab. 19: Forms of the causative: dayake “to make”

<i>Verb noun</i>	daya-k-e	“to make”, “I will make”, “will you make?”
<i>Perf. pst.</i>	daya-kal-ā	“(he/she/it) made”
<i>Perf. part.</i>	daya-k-ā, dayā-k-ā	“made”, “I made”, “did you make?”
<i>Conv. in {-āwo}</i>	daya-k-ā-wo	“made, and ...”
<i>Stat. part.</i>	daya-k-u (!), <i>var.</i> (daya-ka-wo)	“being made”
<i>Non-past</i>	daya-k-i daya-k-i-wo daya-k-i-na	} “will make”, “usually makes”

NB – The semantic relationship between *verbum simplex* and causative verb is not without complications. In some instances, the causative verb expresses the same (non-causative) action as the *verbum simplex*, or otherwise merely seems to express a different nuance thereof; e.g. **liye** (**lit-**) “to pursue”, **licake** “to follow, accompany”. The causative verb **seyake** “to cause to know” is frequently used synonymously with **seye** (**sel-**) “to know”, as are the verbs **dhunake** and **dhune** “to finish (doing something)”. No causative element is readily discernible in verbs like **teyake** “to be about to, to start doing s.th.” – formally, the causative of **teye** (**tel-**) “to put”.

- 59 **Denominative verbs.** These are mostly based on nouns or participles borrowed from Indo-Aryan to which is added a denominative formant

{-lapal-}. The pattern of stem gradation is by and large the same as with causative verbs, although as we shall see in due course, the distribution of forms differs somewhat.

Tab. 20: Gradation of the denominative stem

Zero grade	V
First grade	cinta-lap-
Second grade	cinta-lapa-
Third grade	cinta-lapal-
Extended stem	cinta-lapala-
	cinta-lapalañā-
	“to think”

As with causative verbs, the verb noun, the perfective participle, the 60
 converb in {-āwo}, the stative participle (marker: {-u}!), and the non-
 past (marker: {-i(wo)}, {-i(na)}), are formed on the basis of the zero
 grade stem; the perfective past is formed from the second grade stem.

Tab. 21: Forms of the denominative: cintalape “to think”

Verbal noun	cinta-lap-e	“to think”, “I will think”, “will you think?”
Perf. pst.	cinta-lapal-ā	“thought”
Perf. part.	cinta-lap-ā	“thought”, “I thought”, “did you think?”
Conv. in {-āwo}	cinta-lap-āwo	“thought, and ...”
Stat. part.	(cinta-lap-u), var. (cinta-lap-o)	“thinking”
Non-past	cinta-lap-i (cinta-lap-iwo) cinta-lap-ina	} “will think”, “usually thinks”

Compound verbs. The other strategy employed by Classical Newari 61
 for forming verbs on the basis of nouns is the combination of a nominal
 component – more often than not, an Indo-Aryan loan – with a function
 verb, e.g. Skr. *krīḍā* “play, dalliance” + *yāye* “to do, make” > *krīḍā*
yāye “to make love”. Most of these compound verbs are formed with
yāye, e.g. *upacāra yāye* “to treat, cure”, *kayāgal yāye* “to quarrel”;
 other function verbs used in this formation include *biye* (*bil-*) “to give”
 (e.g. *ādeśa biye* “to speak (*hon.*)”, *āsīrbāda biye* “to bless”), and *cāye*

(cāl-) “to awaken”, which is regularly used with (Sanskrit) loanwords denoting a mental state, e.g. **kautuka cāye** “to be curious”, **bismaya cāye** “to be astonished”.

- 62 *Syntax of compound verbs*: As a general rule, the nominal component is marked for absolutive case. The case marking on the “subject” is determined by the syntactical properties of the function verb, i.e. a transitive/controlled verb like **yāye** or **biye** requires ergative case marking, and an intransitive/non-controlled verb like **cāye** requires absolutive case marking. Case marking on any further complement (“object”) is likewise governed by the function verb.

NB – There are instances where the action expressed by a compound verb with **yāye** is involuntary, and the “subject” is marked for absolutive, rather than ergative case – see the note on (5.5) above.

- 63 **Interrogative pronouns**. There are two of these, one animate: **su-** “who?”, and one inanimate: **chu-** “what?”. The animate pronoun inflects regularly (paradigm: **khicā**) with the exception of the ergative case marker, which is added to the extended stem **sunā**: **sunān** “by whom?”. Of the inanimate pronoun, only the genitive and dative cases are attested: **chuyā** “why?”, **chuyātā** “for what purpose?”. Interrogative adverbs are usually formed from the stem **ga-**: **ganā** “where?” **ganān** “from where?” **gathē** “how?” **gathiña** (var. **gathīgwo**) “how, of what kind?”

Exercise 7

Translate the following sentences:

- 1) छन सिद्धि साधरपिन ।
chan siddhi sādhalapina.
- 2) ओ नगरस महाधनी हिरण्यगुप्त नाम बनिया बसरपो ।
wo nagaras mahādhanī hiraṇyagupta nām baniyā basalapo.
- 3) हे सखे । थ्व कन्या सू । गनान वला । सुया पुत्री । छु नाम । थ्व गथे सेयके ।
he sakhe, thwo kanyā su? ganān wolā? suyā putrī? chu nām? thwo gathē seyake?
- 4) थ्व खंस वेतालन राजायाके सेयकरं ।
thwo khās betālan rājāyāke seyakalā.
- 5) थ्व खंडाव गृहस्थ ब्राह्मणन थव मन्त्रपुथी जोडाव सिद्धमन्त्रन काय म्वाचकलं ।
thwo khañāwo gṛhastha brāhmaṇan thawo mantraputhī joñāwo siddhamantran kāya mwācakalā.
- 6) थ्व कन्या अग्निसंस्काल याडान लि छम्हं ब्राह्मणन जटाधारी जुयाव ओया भस्मन थव देह लेपलपाव नाना देश भ्रमलपाव जुलं: ॥
thwo kanyā agniśamskāra yāñān li chamhā brāhmaṇan jaṭādhārī juyāwo woyā bhasman thawo deha lepalapāwo nānā deśa bhramalapāwo julā.
- 7) लिथे राजा सुद्रकन सुरतसम्भोग याडान अती परिश्रम जुयाव सीतल वायु सेवलपे धकं कवसी था हालं ॥
lithē rājā śūdrakan suratasambhoga yāñān ati pariśrama juyāwo śītala bāyu sebalape dhakā kawosī thā hālā.

Notes

- 3) **wolā**: the Bhp. variant of **wolā**; see above, § 38.
- 6) **yāñān li**: after performing; see below, §§ 106 sq.; **chamhā brāhmaṇan**: “one brahman (ERG)”; **julā** is here used as a stative auxiliary which may be ignored in the translation; see below, § 152.
- 7) **yāñān**: a causal converb “by doing”, “because ... did”; see below, § 101.

