

PRE-VERBAL AFFIXES IN KĪMWĪMBĪ

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Prefixes are affixes that occur before the root. They confer upon the verb meanings that have to do with focus, grammatical person, tense and aspect, modality and negation and condition. This poster presents all the prefixes that precede the macrostem, as well as the object marker that is part of the macrostem in Kĩmwĩmbĩ, in an order from the ones in verb initial position to the ones coming immediately before the macrostem.

1. THE FOCUS MARKER

The focus marker in Kĩmwĩmbĩ takes the form nĩ- and it may occur clause-initially for subjects and for objects thus:

- a. Nĩ Njoki akaruga.
Nĩ Njoki a- ka- rug- a.
Fm 1.Njoki sm1- fut- cook- fv
It's Njoki who will cook.
- b. Ni mũcere Njoki akaruga.
Ni mũcere Njoki a- ka- rug- a
Fm 3.rice 1.Njoki sm1- fut- cook- fv
t's rice that Njoki will cook.
- I
In wh-interrogatives in Kĩmwĩmbĩ the focus marker is procliticized before the wh-word.
Nĩ mbi Njeri akaruga?
Nĩ mbi Njeri a- ka- rug- a
Fm what 1.Njeri sm1- fut- cook- fv
What will Njeri cook?

3. SUBJECT AGREEMENT MARKER

- a. 1st Person Singular
Nĩthĩ cukuru ru.
N- tĩ- thi cukuru rũ
1sg-neg-go school tomorrow
I won't go to 9.school tomorrow
- Mbonire Kaarĩ mũgũndani.
Mb- on- ir- e Kaarĩ mũgũndani
1sg-see-perf-fv 1.Kaarĩ in the farm
I saw Kaarĩ in the farm.
- b. 1st Person Plural
Tũkwĩja.
Tũ- ku- tĩ- a
2pl ncp15-come-fv
We have come
- c. 2nd Person Singular
Ūgũkinya?
Ū- gũ- kiny- a
2sg-cur-arrive-fv
Have you arrived?
- d. 2nd Person Plural
Bugakinya rĩ?
Bũ-ga- kiny- a rĩ
2pl-fut-arrive-fv when
When will you arrive?

2.4.5 3rd Person Affixes

The bulk of person prefixes in Kĩmwĩmbĩ lie in this category. They are a determined by the noun class belongedness.

SUBJECT AGREEMENT AFFIXES IN KĪMWĪMBĪ

Noun class Agreement	Prefix	Subject
1	mũ	a
2	a	ba
3	mũ	ũ
4	mĩ	ĩ
5	ĩ /rĩ	rĩ
6	ma	ma
7	gĩ/kĩ	gĩ/kĩ
8	i	i/ji/bi
9	N/mb/ng/nj	ĩ
10	N/mb/ng/...	ĩ
11	rũ	rũ
12	ka/ga	ka/ga
13	tũ	tũ/tw
14	ũ	bũ
15	gũ/kũ	gũ/kũ
16	gũ	gũ
17	a	a

2. MODAL PARTICLE

- a. Ga/Ka : Supplies an affirmative reading
Nĩkambĩjĩle.
Nĩ- ka- mb- tĩ- tĩ- e.
Fm-mod-1sg-come-pft-fv
I am coming.
- b. –batĩtĩ: denotes strong advice
Nyaga nĩabatĩ kũthĩ Nairobi rũ.
Nyaga nĩ a- batĩ kũ- thi Nairobi rũ
1.Nyaga fm sm1- mod ncp15-go Nairobi tomorrow
Nyaga ought to go to Nairobi tomorrow.
- c. Ethwa: Conveys the equivalent of used to in English:
Njeri nĩethagwa aringĩle.
Njeri nĩ- a- ith- ag- w- a a- ring- tĩ- e
1.Njeri fm-sm1-mod-hab-psv-fv sm1-call-pft -fv
Njeri has usually called (by that time)
- d.Amba: conveys the meaning "you should first" do X before doing Y
Nĩ ambe athĩ Nairobi.
Nĩ ambe a- thi Nairobi
Fm mod sm1-go Nairobi
Let him/her go to Nairobi first.

- e. /Nz/: confers three readings upon a verb:

- i. possibility.
Nyaga no athĩ Nairobi rũ.
Nyaga no a- thi Nairobi rũ
1.Nyaga mod sm1-go Nairobi tomorrow
Nyaga might go to Nairobi tomorrow
- ii: eventuality
Nyaga no akathi Nairobi rũ.
Nyaga no a- ka- thi Nairobi rũ
1.Nyaga mod sm1-fut-go Nairobi tomorrow
Nyaga will eventually go to Nairobi
- iii: compulsion
Nyaga no athiire Nairobi.
Nyaga no a- thi- ir- e Nairobi
1.Nyaga mod sm1- go- perf-fv Nairobi
Nyaga must go to Nairobi.

- f. /Z/: occurs in mutual exclusion with the focus marker
It conveys three readings on the verb

- i. Possibility
Nyaga to athĩ Nairobi rũ?
Nyaga to a- thi Nairobi rũ
1.Nyaga mod sm1-go Nairobi tomorrow
Might Nyaga not go to Nairobi tomorrow?
- ii. Seeking confirmation of an eventuality
Nyaga to athiire Nairobi rũ?
Nyaga to a- thi- ir- e Nairobi rũ
Nyaga mod sm1-go-perf-fv Nairobi tomorrow
Isn't it a must that Nyaga will go to Nairobi tomorrow?
- iii. Emphasising the obligation
Nyaga to athiite Nairobi rũ?
Nyaga to a- thi-tĩ- e Nairobi rũ
1.Nyaga mod sm-go-pft-fv Nairobi tomorrow
Isn't Nyaga still going to Nairobi tomorrow?

- g. Mwanka
Carries the reading of compulsion. It is usually preceded by no or to discussed above to emphasise or negate the compulsion respectively.

No mwanka Nyaga athĩ Nairobi rũ.
No mwanka Nyaga a- thi Nairobi rũ
Mod mod 1.Nyaga sm1-go Nairobi tomorrow
Nyaga must go to Nairobi tomorrow.

To mwanka Nyaga athĩ Nairobi rũ.
To mwanka Nyaga a- thi Nairobi rũ
Mod mod 1.Nyaga sm1-go Nairobi tomorrow
Nyaga does not have to go to Nairobi tomorrow.

- h. Umba confers the reading of possibility
Nyaga aũmba kũthĩ Nairobi rũ.
Nyaga a- ũmba kũ- thi Nairobi rũ
1.Nyaga sm1-mod ncp15-go Nairobi tomorrow
We might go to Nairobi tomorrow.

- i.Tiga: Confers three meanings on a verb
i.let me

Tiga mbĩje nau ūrĩ.
Tiga mb- tĩ- e nau ū- rĩ
Mod 1sg-come-fv there 1sg-be
Let me come where you are

- ii.were it not for

Tiga aũk-a tũtĩngĩmwona.
Tiga a- ũk- a tũ- tĩ- ngĩ-mu- on- a
Mod sm1-come-fv 2pl-neg-con-om1-see-fv
Were it not that he/she has come we would not have seen him/her.

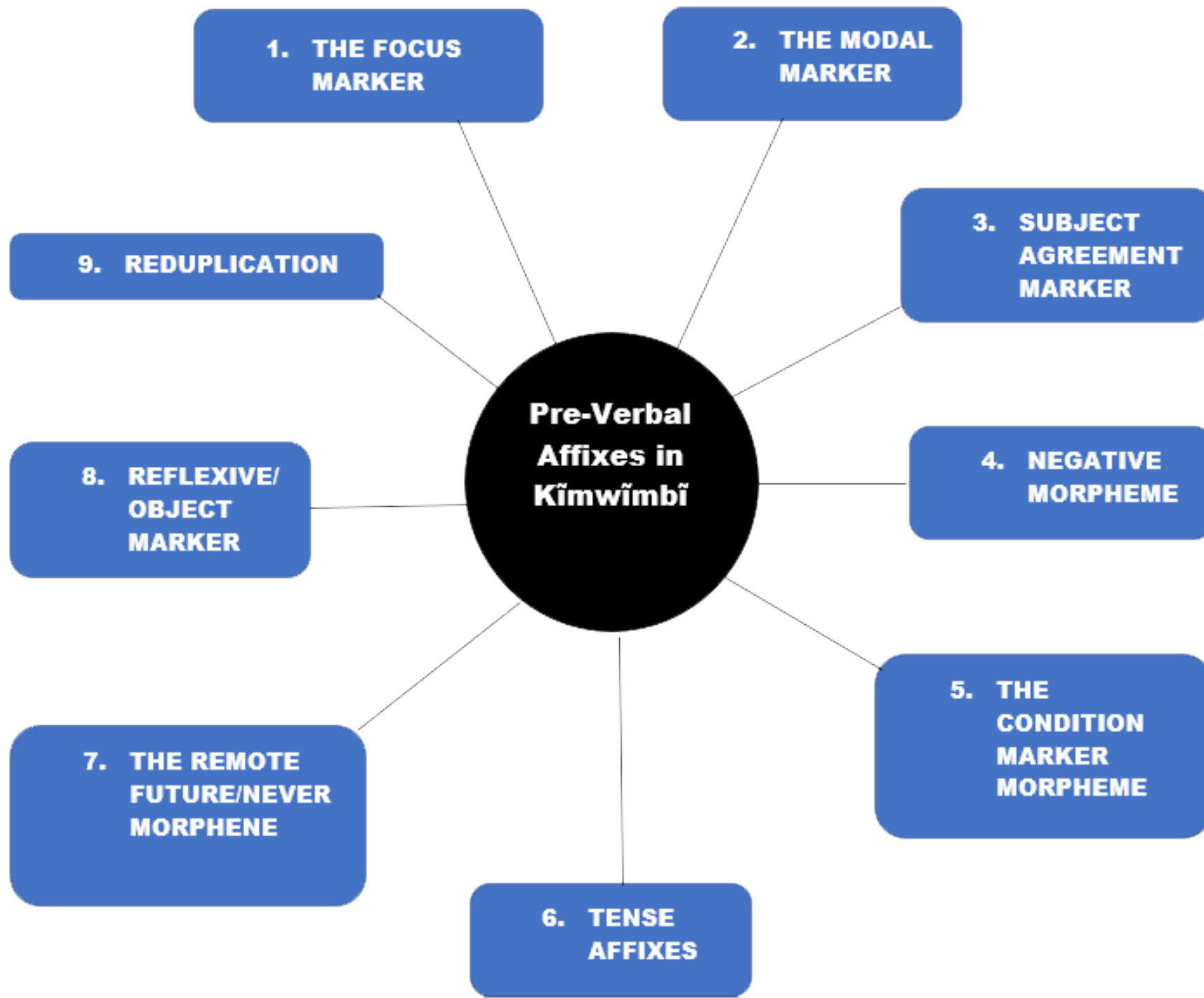
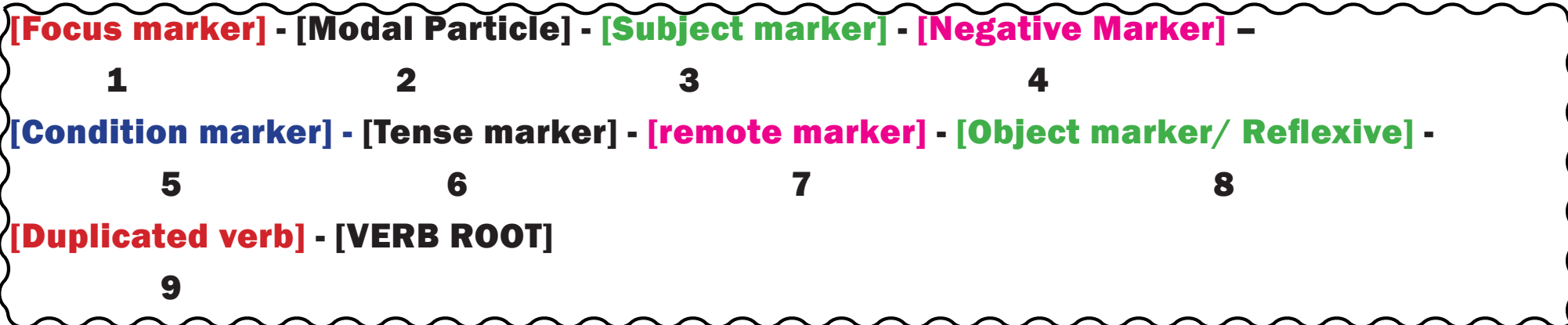
- iii.unless:

Tũtĩmwona tiga tũmũringĩre thimũ mbere.
Tũ- tĩ- mu- on- a tiga tũ-mũ- ring- tĩ- e thimũ mbere
2pl-neg-om1-see-fv mod 2pl-om1-call-appl-fv 9.phone first
We won't see him/her unless we call him/her first.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify all the pre-verbal affixes in Kĩmwĩmbĩ.
2. To determine the order in which the affixes occur.

ORDER OF PREVERBAL MORPHEMES IN KĪMWĪMBĪ



SUBJECT AND OBJECT AGREEMENT AFFIXES IN KĪMWĪMBĪ

NOUN CLASS	PREFIX	SUBJECT AGREEMENT	OBJECT AGREEMENT
1	mũ	a	mũ
2	a	ba	ba
3	mũ	u	u
4	mĩ	ĩ	mĩ
5	ĩ /rĩ	rĩ	rĩ
6	ma	ma	ma
7	gĩ/kĩ	gĩ/kĩ	gĩ/kĩ
8	i	i/ji/bi	i/bi/ji
9	N/mb/ng/nj	ĩ	mĩ
10	N/mb/ng/...	ĩ	ĩ
11	rũ	rũ	rũ
12	ka/ga	ka/ga	ka/ga
13	tũ	tũ/tw	tũ/tw
14	ũ	bũ	bũ
15	gũ/kũ	gũ/kũ	kũ/gũ
16	gũ	gũ	kũ/gũ
17	a	a	a

NOUN CLASSES IN KĪMWĪMBĪ

Noun class	Prefix	Example	Gloss
1	mũ	mũka	woman
2	a	antũ	people
3	mũ	mũtĩ	tree
4	mĩ	mĩtĩ	trees
5	ĩ /rĩ	ĩiga / riiko	stone/fireplace
6	ma	maiga/mariko	stones/fireplaces
7	gĩ/kĩ	gikombe/kiara	cup/finger
8	i	ikombe/jiara	cups/fingers
9	N/mb/ng/nj	njogu/mbũri/mbuku	elephant/goat/book
10	N/mb/ng/...	njogu/mabuku	elephants/books
11	ru	rũgoji	horn
12	ka/ga	kaana/kabũri	child/small goat
13	tũ	tũbũri	Small goats
14	ũ	ũcũrũ	porridge
15	gũ/ku	gutũũra/kũrwara	living/sickness
16	gũ	gũntũ	Place (general location)
17	a	antũ	Place (specific location)

4. THE NEGATIVE MORPHEME

Negates the proposition
Nyaga atĩgũra mũgũnda.
Nyaga a- tĩ- gũr-a mũgũnda
1.Nyaga sm1-neg-buy- fv land
Nyaga won't buy land

5. THE CONDITION-MARKER MORPHEME

Aringĩringa thimũ kethwa....
A- rĩ- ngĩ-rĩng- a thimũ kethwa....
Sm1-wp- con-call-fv 9.phone if

7. THE REMOTE FUTURE/NEVER MORPHEME

Tũkaroina ndwimbo jia kwendia.
Tũ- ka- ro- in- a ndwimbo jia ku-end-i-a
1pl-fut- rĩ- sing- fv 11.songs for ncp15-sell-tr-fv
We will sing songs for sale at one time (in the future.)

8. OBJECT MARKER

OBJECT AGREEMENT AFFIXES IN KĪMWĪMBĪ

Noun class	Prefix	Object
1	mũ	mũ
2	a	ba
3	mũ	u
4	mĩ	mĩ
5	ĩ /rĩ	rĩ
6	ma	ma
7	gĩ/kĩ	gĩ/kĩ
8	i	i/bi/ji
9	N/mb/ng/nj	mĩ
10	N/mb/ng/...	ĩ
11	rũ	rũ
12	ka/ga	ka/ga
13	tũ	tũ/tw
14	ũ	bũ
15	gũ/kũ	kũ/gũ
16	gũ	kũ/gũ
17	a	a
9.		

8. REFLEXIVE PRO-NOUN AFFIXES

Tũkwĩgũrĩr- a irio.
Tũ- kũ- t- gũr- tĩr- a irio
2pl-cur-refl- buy-appl-fv 8.food
We've bought ourselves food.

9. REDUPLICATION

Mũtugi nĩamũringaringagĩra thimũ ntukũ ino.
Mũtugi nĩ- a- mũ-rĩnga-ring-ag- tĩr- a thimũ ntukũ ino
1.Mutugi fm-sm1-om1-call-call- hab-appl-fv
9.phone 9.day this
Mũtugi calls him/her from time to time nowa-days.