

A purposive puzzle

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1 Introduction

- The purposive is a derivational suffix in Kanien'kéha
- It generally conveys the meaning 'to go', as well as adding the meaning of movement ('over there'). It can also convey the purpose or intention of someone ('I am going to...') (Martin 2023)
- Michelson & Price (2011) call the purposive the 'dislocative,' and state that it conveys the idea that the action carried out by the actor or doer involves movement to a different location (the actor goes to a location other than the one he or she is at in order to perform the action described by the verb)

2 Puzzle

- Martin (2023) lists the forms of the purposive as: *-h-*, *-(a)'n-*, *-hn-*, *-hr-*, *-(a)'nh-*, *-hser-*, and *-'ser-*. He also states that determining which purposive suffix a verb uses isn't simple because there aren't really patterns or rules, but all purposives end with the same suffixes in their conjugations.
- However, after working with Wári on imperatives and looking more closely at the conjugations provided in Martin 2023, I noticed that there is an *a* that occurs after the purposive suffix in imperative forms that is not usually listed as part of the suffix.
- Here are some examples of imperatives with the purposive suffix from Wári's dissertation:

- (1) a. Sáhseht!
s-ahseht
2SGA-hide
'Hide it!' (Bare imperative)
- b. Óksa sahsehtà:na!
oksa s-ahseht-a-'n-a
hurry 2SGA-hide-JR-PURP-?
'Hurry and hide it over there!' (Imperative with purposive)

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- (2) a. Sathónkia'k!
s-at-hont-ia'k
2SGA-SRFL-green-cut
‘Cut the grass!’ (Bare imperative)
- b. Há:nio sathonkià:kha!
hanio s-at-hont-ia'k-h-a
come.on 2SGA-SRFL-green-cut-PURP-?
‘Come on, go cut the grass over there!’ (Imperative with purposive)
- (3) a. Saterí:io!
s-ate-riio
2SGA-SRFL-fight
‘Fight!’ (Bare imperative)
- b. Ha' wá:s sateriióhsera!
ha' was s-ate-riio-hser-a
now go 2SGA-SRFL-fight-PURP-?
‘Now go and fight over there!’ (Imperative with purposive)

- That first *a* before the purposive in some of the suffixes above is the joiner, but what about the final *a*?
- Looking at the forms in Martin 2023, I noticed that this *a* appears in the punctual as well:

- (4) a. wa'katawénha'
wa'-k-atawen-h-a'
FACT-1SGA-swim-PURP-PUNC?
‘I did go to swim’
- b. wa'tkatska'hòn:na'
wa't-k-atska'hon-'n-a'
FACT.DUP-1SGA-eat-PURP-PUNC?
‘I did go to eat’
- c. wa'khninòn:ra'
wa'-k-hninon-hr-a'
FACT-1SGA-buy-PURP-PUNC?
‘I did go to buy it’

3 Possible analyses

- In talking with both Akwiratékha' Martin and Karin Michelson, two different possible analyses for this final *a* were suggested to me.

3.1 Analysis 1

- There are two allomorphs of each purposive suffix: one without the final *a*, and one with the *a*.
- Comparing the forms of the purposive in each of the other aspects:

‘Presents’ (habitual and intentive aspects):

- (5) a. khninòn:re’s
k-hninon-hr-e’s
1SGA-buy-PURP-HAB
‘I go to buy it over there’ (Habitual)
- b. khninòn:re’
k-hninon-hr-e’
1SGA-buy-PURP-INT
‘I’m going to buy it (here)’ (Intentive)
- c. wa’khninòn:re’
wa’-k-hninon-hr-e’
FACT-1SGA-buy-PURP-INT
‘I am going to buy it (there)’ (Intentive + factual)

Statives:

- (6) a. wakhninòn:ron
wak-hninon-hr-on
1SGP-buy-PURP-STAT
‘I am/have gone to buy it’ (Stative)
- b. wakhninonhrónhne’
wak-hninon-hr-on-hne’
1SGP-buy-PURP-STAT-REM.PST
‘I had gone there to buy it (and came back)’ (Stative + remote past)

- Based on this data, Akwiratékha’ pointed out that it looks like the present and stative add on their aspectual suffixes *-e’(s)* and *-on*, making the purposive suffix (for this verb) *-hr*
- But if the punctual only adds its glottal *-’*, and we know that commands are the barest form of the verb, this would make the other form of the purposive *-hra*.
- Under this analysis, the purposive allomorphs are conditioned by, on the one hand, the habitual and the stative and on the other hand, the punctual and the imperative.

3.2 Analysis 2

- A different way of looking at it would be to say that the punctual has another allomorph: *a’*. Under this analysis, imperatives are formed by subtracting the final glottal or final *-e’* of the punctual.

- There are a couple other data points that point towards this analysis: one is the behavior of the inchoative

Habitual:

- (7) kenòn:we's
 ke-nonhwe-'-s
 1SGA-like-INCH-HAB
 'I like it'

Stative:

- (8) wakenonhwè:'on
 wake-nonhwe-'-on
 1SGP-like-INCH-STAT
 'I have liked it'

Punctual/imperative:

- (9) a. wa'kenòn:we'ne'
 wa'-ke-nonhwe-'n-e'
 FACT-1SGA-like-INCH-PUNC
 'I did like it' (Punctual)
- b. Kenòn:we'n!
 ke-nonhwe-'n
 1SGA-like-INCH
 'Let me like it!' (Imperative)

- The forms of the inchoative are listed in our glossing doc as -', -'n, and -en'(n)
- Under Analysis 1, the inchoative has two allomorphs: -' (before the habitual and the stative) and 'n (before the punctual and in the imperative).
- But Karin instead analyzes the inchoative consistently as -', and the punctual has an allomorph ne' after the inchoative.
- Another benefit of this analysis comes from the behavior of imperative verbs whose punctual form ends in -en'
- Analysis 1 would predict that the imperative form of the verb ends in the stem, i.e. the punctual 'minus' the -en' ending. Analysis 2 would predict that the imperative form ends in en, so the punctual form 'minus' the glottal - and this is indeed the case

- (10) wahshá:ren'
 wa-hs-har-en'
 FACT-2SGA-hang-PUNC
 'you hung something up' (Punctual)

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- (11) shá:ren
s-haren
2SGA-hang
'Hang it!' (Imperative)

- Analysis 1 could also posit allomorphs for verbs that take the punctual *en'* - these verbs would have an allomorph of the root that ends in *en* (parallel to the purposive allomorphs with *a* and the inchoative allomorphs with *'n*).

Summarizing the two analyses:

- **Analysis 1:** Each of the purposive suffixes have two allomorphs, one with the final *a* (in the imperative and punctual forms) and one without (in habitual, intensive and stative forms). The inchoative suffixes also have two allomorphs: *'n* (in the imperative and punctual forms) and *'* (in habitual and stative forms). Additionally, verbs that take the punctual *en'* ending have an allomorph of the root that ends in *en* which appears in imperative forms.
 - **Pros:** No need to posit subtractive rules for the formation of imperatives
 - **Cons:** Have to posit more allomorphs for the purposive and the inchoative (particularly a con for the inchoative, which only has one form under Analysis 2), and an extra allomorph for certain verb roots
- **Analysis 2:** Each of the purposive suffixes has only one allomorph, and the inchoative also only has one allomorph. The punctual has additional allomorphs: *a'* following the purposive and *ne'* following the inchoative. Imperatives are always formed by 'subtracting' the final glottal or final *e'* from the punctual ending.
 - **Pros:** Fewer allomorphs for the purposive and the inchoative, and the fact that the imperative form of verbs that end in *en'* in the punctual end in *en* makes more sense
 - **Cons:** Have to posit a subtractive rule for the formation of imperatives, and the only time the punctual takes the form *a'* is after the purposive (and I think the only time it takes the form *ne'* is after the inchoative?)
- Ultimately comes down to whether you want to place the burden of more allomorphs on the aspectual morphology or on the derivational morphology (and how comfortable you are with a subtractive rule for the formation of imperatives)

4 Discussion/further questions

- Thoughts on either of these two analyses?
- Imperatives trigger some interesting morphological rules in other areas; for example, commands trigger factual forms of pre-pronominal prefixes. In the following example, instead of the *t-* cislocative prefix, you get *ta-* (CIS.FACT) in the imperative:

(12) tkà:rats
t-k-ahrat-s
CIS-1SGA-count-HAB
'I count / I am counting' (Habitual)

(13) Tasà:rat!
ta-s-ahrat
CIS.FACT-2SGA-count
'(You) Count!' (Imperative)

- Additionally, as the example above shows, pre-pronominal prefixes in imperatives don't trigger the 'ghost h' that appears before certain second-person pronominal prefixes when another prefix is in front of them
- Could the behavior of the purposive be connected to any of these patterns?

References

- Martin, Akwiratékha. 2023. *Tekawennahsonterónnion Kanien'kéha morphology*. Kahnawà:ke: Kanien'kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language & Cultural Center.
- Michelson, Karin & Catherine Price. 2011. *Native Languages: A support document for the teaching of language patterns (Oneida, Cayuga, and Mohawk)*. Ontario Ministry of Education.