

WORD AFFIXATION IN JEH

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1. Nominalizing Affixes
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Basically words in Jeh¹ are monosyllabic. Disyllabic words do occur, but are relatively infrequent. The first syllable of disyllabic words is considered to be a presyllable. These presyllables are sometimes prefixes and at other times have no discernible meaning. The language employs only eight presyllables, all of a CV variety. The most frequent are pa-, ta-, ka-, ma-, and ra-; less frequent are ja-/ji-, si-, and ?a-.

This paper makes a distinction between presyllables, the general term for all CV- syllables attached to the main syllable, and prefixes, which are presyllables that in themselves make a semantic contribution to the word. Thus, all prefixes are considered presyllables, but not all presyllables are prefixes.

This paper, therefore, considers as affixed any disyllabic word which has an unaffixed, monosyllabic counterpart.

Word affixation in Jeh, as in many Mon-Khmer languages, seems to be disappearing. Several explanations for this may be given.

(1) There is a strong preference for monosyllabic words, to the extent that presyllables are often dropped in some dialects.

(2) The grammatical environment of some affixed words, primarily causative actions, has developed alternate constructions which omit the causative affix altogether (cf. Sec. 4.2.1.).

(3) The encroachment of civilization is slowly causing the extinction of many affixed words referring to tribal instruments. As various earlier practices, such as weaving and shaping of implements, die out, the specific words fall into disuse and will disappear unless applied to modern items being imported.

Affixation of the word in Jeh can be broken down into several categories.

1. Nominalizing Affixes.

Jeh has one nominalizing infix, -an-, and possibly up to three nominalizing prefixes, ka-, si-, and ra-, depending on how they are analyzed. These nominalizing affixes are attached to various verbs which depict precise actions, thus creating specific nouns brought about exclusively by their relation to the verbs. Because the nature of these verbs and generated nouns is so specific, the list is conceivably exhaustible. An attempt has been made to glean as complete a list as possible. The total list for comparative purposes will be included in a later paper or the dictionary.

The -an- infix often changes form morphophonemically conditioned by its phonological context. Example: prăt 'to switch' padrăt 'a switch'; -an- becoming -ad-, the nr cluster not being found in Jeh.

Also, the infix may cause a change in the initial consonant of the word into which it is inserted. There are explanations for some of these; others till further research defy explaining. (1) buh 'to hammer' manuh 'a hammer', pôi 'to fan' manôi 'a fan'; the presyllable ba- does not occur in Jeh, and pa- is rarely a presyllable unless it is affixed to verbs to show causative action (cf. 4). Some affixed nouns do retain pa- however, but only when there is a consonant cluster word medially (cf. padrăt above). (2) chuam 'to muzzle' hnuam 'a muzzle'; neither cha- nor ha- are used as presyllables, whereas voiceless nasals and laterals (hn-, hl-, etc.) are common. (3) phai 'to paddle (a boat)' pa'nai 'a paddle'; pha- presyllable does not occur, and the glottal, creating a consonant cluster word medially, is necessary for the retention of pa-.

All of these nominalizing affixes create nouns of various types, primarily the following.

1.1. Nominalized Instrument.

A nominalized instrument is a specific instrument used only for the purpose of carrying out one specific activity. These instruments come from verbs that indicate a specific activity carried out with the aid of some specific instrument. The instrument in this couplet is more restricted in use than the verb, as other instruments can be used to perform the same activity. Approximately 70 such affixed verb bases have been found thus far. All aid in transitive actions with the exception of one, which aids intransitive action.

1.1.1. Instrument aiding intransitive action.

The verb in this instrument-action couplet is also affixed, by the intransitive prefix ta-.

tapāl 'to fly' manāl 'a wing, wings'
Chīm tapāl tām manāl.
Birds fly with wings.

1.1.2. Instrument aiding transitive action.

Word alternates are included to show dialectical differences.

-an- infix

- tīl 'to wrap tightly' tanīl/hnīl 'a tourniquet'
 Chōk tanīl la tīl jong.
 Get tourniquet and wrap leg.
- prayh 'to comb hard' padrayh 'thick-tined comb'
 Chōk padrayh la prayh sūk.
 Get comb and comb (knots out of) hair.
- gap 'to hold (with slit stick)' kanap 'a slit stick'
 Chōk kanap la gap ka.
 Get slit-stick and hold fish.
- siā 'to press woven strands together' taniā/hniā 'bamboo batten'
 Chōk taniā la siā sikā.
 Get batten and press (together strands of) basket.
- ot 'to saw' ranot 'a saw'
 Chōk ranot la ot 'long.
 Get saw and saw wood.
- srot 'to comb out lice' ranot 'long-tined, fine-toothed comb' (homonym of ranot 'a saw')
 Chōk ranot la srot kachay.
 Get long-tined comb and comb (out) lice.
- klāp 'to cover (pan)' kalāp 'a lid'
klem 'to patch' kalem 'a patch'
- srai/khai 'to tie foot-bridge' sidrai 'tying strands'
sraih/khaih 'to comb' sidraih 'a common comb'

ka- prefix -- With a few exceptions, ka- has been found only with the -dr- cluster.

- bēt drāp 'to spear & anchor' kadrāp/ddrāp 'an anchor post'
- draā 'to brace' kadraā 'a brace'
- trau/krau 'to poison (fish)' kadrau 'poison tree-sap'
- drep 'to stab and pin down' kadrep/ddrep 'a split stick'
- chei 'to sting' kajei 'a stinger'

si- prefix -- The prefix si- seldom occurs, and is usually found with the -dr- cluster like ka-, and, in fact, sometimes alternates with ka-.

<u>trùyh/krùyh</u> 'to rake'	<u>sidrùyh</u> 'a scraping implement'
<u>trih/sikih</u> 'to spread woven strands'	<u>sidrih</u> 'a porcupine quill (for spreading bunched-up woven threads)'

ra- prefix -- Prefix ra- seldom occurs and often has the further connotation of repetition of the same activity or intensity of one activity (cf. 5.1.).

<u>wiã</u> 'to cut grass (by grabbing bunches and cutting)'	<u>rawiã</u> 'a saw-bladed sickle'
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1.2. Nominalized Result.

Verbs indicating a specific activity producing a specific result may be nominalized to give a specific object created by a specific work. The verb in this couplet is more restricted than the result, as the only activity of the verb is that of making the specific object, while the object made may have many uses. Approximately 20 such couplets have been found thus far. All actions are transitive.

-an- infix

<u>pra</u> (pĩ) <u>madra</u>	spread-out (make) trellis
<u>dien</u> (pĩ) <u>nnien</u>	cut (make) firestrip
<u>glōk</u> (pĩ) <u>kalōk</u>	notch (make) steps
<u>pung</u> (pĩ) <u>pa'lung</u>	drill (make) drilled-peep-hole

ka- prefix

<u>trùm/krùm</u> (pĩ) <u>kadrùm</u>	to fence (make) fence around plant
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ra- prefix 'repetitive result' (see Sec. 5.1.)

<u>tãp</u> (pĩ) <u>ratãp</u>	insert-in-ground (make) pole-fence
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Some affixed forms can take both the result and the instrument meanings.

chet (pĩ) <u>hnet</u>	to tailor-make-thatch (make) <u>special-thatched-area-under-eaves</u>
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chōk hnet la chet glang nhiah
get special-thatch and thatch end-of house

pàng (pĩ) manàng
pound (make) wood-stake

chők manàng la pàng blung 'long
get iron-wedge and pound pierce-through wood

1.3. Nominalized Quantity.

Some verbs indicating a specific activity producing a specific quantity may be nominalized to produce a specific quantity brought about only by the specific work. The verb in this couplet often has a much broader use than merely producing a specific quantity. This is one sense in which it differs from the action-result couplet. Another is its differing context. Approximately 30 of these have been found thus far, all with transitive actions.

-an- infix

kaĩ chők ku kabaĩ
scrape-up take one double-handful

plők chők ku pa'lők
peel-off take one leaf (e. g. of lettuce)

chon chők ku mon/ta'non/pa'lon
slice take one slice (of cucumber or spear of pineapple)

tuy chők ku tanuy/hnuy
shoulder-carry take one load (on pole in hand over shoulder)

ka- prefix

pot chők ku ka'mot/pot
compress-in-hand take one compressed-handful (compressed in one hand)

trüt dòh ku kadrüt
pour-out for one quantity (of water to wash hands)
(Note: New forms can still be coined with ka-; kadrüt was coined during our research.)

dram chők ku tăng kadam
stack-up take one cl. pile (of wood)

si- prefix

bon chők ku sibon
stack take one stack (of wood strands to make thread)

ra- prefix

yũm chők ku rayũm
pick-up-between-hands take one such-quantity

Residue -- Some of the verbs in this category have also become

affixed, creating verb-noun homonyms.

kadom chōk ku kadom
cup-hands-together take one double-handful

kasōng chōk ku kasōng
cup-one-hand take one handful

apuy/puy chōk ku apuy
tie-up take one bundle

Some affixed forms can take both the quantity and the instrument meanings.

bǎ chōk ku manǎ
back-carry take one back-load

bǎ tǎm manǎ
back-carry with back-carrying-board

tùang chōk ku tanùang
dual-carry take one carrying-pole-load (2 people)

tùang tǎm tanuang
dual-carry with carrying-pole

1.4. Nominalized Location.

Some verb bases indicating a specific activity performed at a specific place, may be nominalized to produce a specific place, being the site at which the action is performed. Verb and noun are equally restricted in usage. Approximately 20 of these have been found thus far, including both intransitive and transitive actions.

Intransitive action-location couplets:

'way trang/krang pa kadrang
be snagged in the-matted-vines-&-branches-of-tree

tùal tieũ tanùal
go-across follow tight-rope

pring tieũ trùang padding
go-horizontally follow road level-path-along-steep-slope

yōk pa rayōk
climb-up on top-of-a-knoll (highest point)

Transitive action-location couplets:

-an- infix

tìeng mau pa tanìeng/hnìeng
sun-dry rice at sunny-place

sop/srop chǎng pa ranop
sheathe knife in sheath

ka- prefix

trong/krong 'long pa kadrong
store poles on rafter-under-the-eaves

tron/kron rōk pa kadron
to-corrāl cow in (side) corral

trùng/krùng iel pa kadrùng/sidrùng/ddrùng
to put chicken in chicken-basket

Residue

beng kadōng pa tapeng/ppeng
shoulder-carry shoulder-bāsket on shoulder

Some affixed forms can take both the location and the instrument or quantity meanings.

sīl kāl pa hnīl-kāl
lay head on pillow

sīl kāl tām hnīl-kāl
hold-up head with pillow (Instr.)

gleh chũ pa kaleh
hang-up set on a-hook

gleh tām kaleh
to-hook with a-hook (Instr.)

tù pa tanù
stack on stack-of-wood

tù ku tanù
stack-up one stack-of-wood (Quant.)

bāk pa manāk
spīn-thread on spindle

bāk ku manāk
spīn-thread one spindle-full (Quant.)

yol pa nnol
poke-meat on kabob-stick

yol ku nnol
poke-meat-on-stick one stickful (Quant.)

1.5. Nominalized Object.

Some transitive actions may be nominalized to produce a specific item existing primarily to have one specific activity performed on it. The verb in this couplet often has a broader use than merely acting on the object. The object is very restricted. Approximately 10 of these have been found so far, all with transitive actions.

-an- infixpo mano

raise the-part-of-roof-made-to-be-raised-to-let-in-light

Tau dei ei mano, hay po 'nhai?

If not have raisable-part, we raise what?

'we mane

pull-trigger trigger

Tau dei ei mane, hay 'we 'nhai?

If no have trigger, we pull-trigger what?

pl pa'le ayoh

to-button buttons (of the) shirt

ka kan

to-graze grass

ka- prefixtra kadrai

to-set (or re-set) spring-pole-snare

ra- prefixsot rasot

to-zip zipper

koh rakoh

cut-down (general term for) dried-bamboo-at-base-of-clump

Some verb-object couplets can also take a verb-instrument meaning.

tieu hnieu

put-on belt

tieu ch am hnieu

carry knife with belt

Some verb-object couplets can also take a verb-result meaning.

tra kadrai

to-set spring-pole-snare (i. e. , already in place)

tra (p) kadrai

to-set-up (make) spring-pole-snare (i. e. , build it)

tieu hnieu

put-on belt

tieu ch pa hnieu

carry knife on belt

1.6. Nominalized Actor.

A few verbs of a specific activity performed by a specific actor may be nominalized and give a specific actor carrying out one specific activity. The verb can take other subjects besides the nominalized actor. Both subject-intransitive stative and actor-transitive action couplets have been found, approximately 10 altogether.

Intransitive subject-state couplet:

pa'nat pat ăm
steep-place steep very

kadrap trap/krap lăm ũng
stuck-foodstuffs stuck inside (i. e. , around sides of) pot

Transitive actor-action couplets:

tanung tung mahĕk
robber robs things

kalang klang dak
water-trough troughs water

Some actor-action couplets can also take a verb-object meaning.

manih bih kanei
snap-trap springs-on (traps) rat

kanei bih manih
rat springs the-snap-trap

taneh teh chĭm
crossbow-trap traps bird

chĭm teh-teh taneh
the-bird that-springs crossbow-trap

Some actor-action couplets can also take a verb-instrument meaning.

kadraã draã prièt
the-brace braces banana

draã prièt tãm kadraã
brace banana with a-brace

kadrau trau ka
sap-poison poisons fish

trau ka tãm kadrau
poison fish with sap-poison

kadrai trai iel
spring-pole-snare traps grouse

trai iel tãm kadrai
trap grouse with spring-pole-snare

The following example is a nominalized supportive actor-verb couplet -- a specific activity carried out as a result of the presence of a specific item, or a specific item enabling an object to carry out a specific intransitive action. Only one has been found thus far. By affixing a causative prefix, this couplet fits with the actor-action couplets.

rayòl 'bamboo floats' yòl 'to float'

rayòl pī doh nāk la yòl
bamboo-floats make for net result float

rayòl pī payòl nāk
bamboo-floats make cause-float net

1.7. Residue.

Following is a list of words that appear linked by affixes but do not fit the above categories, because both words in the couplets are the same morphologically--nouns, descriptives, verbs. Also, some of these are near synonyms, indicating loss of meaning.

bǎl 'speech, dialect' manǎl 'spoken words'
đak tǎl 'white rice-
water in pan' tanǎl 'muddy water'

kriem 'crossbow string' kadriem 'crossbow string'
pran 'strong, much
endurance' padran 'strong, muscular'

(pa) ten 'do nothing' tanen 'mild-mannered'

The following four couplets indicate action supporting or making possible another, resulting action. In the first three couplets the supporting action is affixed. In the last the resultant action is affixed.

hmǎ 'to place on another's back'
bǎ 'to back-carry'

hmũ 'to put baby up to breast'
bũ 'to suckle at the breast'

phang 'to place above the fire in order to toast or warm'
hang 'to feel heat of fire'

troh 'to pull away debris so water will flow swiftly'
taroh '(of water) to flow swiftly'

2. Intransitive Prefix ta-.

The prefix ta- is attached primarily to a class of transitive verbs which portray actions that are of a specific but often permanent nature. The result is that the verb, when the object is transformed into a subject, becomes stative through the addition of the ta- prefix.

Au pah 'long, 'long jeng tapah 'I split wood, wood result is-split'.

Also, as in the verb of the example above, the action can often

take place intransitively or unintentionally, with no apparent cause.
'Long tapah èih dǐ-dǐ 'Wood split by-itself alone'.

All verbs in this class can be changed into constructions showing an intransitive state with the ta- prefix. However, not all the verbs can become intransitive actions.

2.1. Both intransitive state and intransitive action.

Intransitive State

Au siek paĩ ayoh, ayoh jèng
tapāĩ.

I tear rip shirt, shirt become
ripped.

Intransitive Action

Ayoh tapāĩ èih dǐ-dǐ.

Shirt ripped by-itself alone.

Au lùh lòi kasei, kasei jèng talùh. Kasei talùh èih dǐ-dǐ.

I untie away string, string
become untied.

String came-untied itself alone.

2.2. Intransitive state only.

No intransitive action transform on these verbs is possible.

Au wat meněng, maněng jèng tawat.

I cock crossbow, crossbow become be-cocked.

Au plǎ kanei, kanei jèng taplǎ.

I released rat, rat become be-released.

3. Reciprocal Action Prefix ta-

In contrast to intransitive ta- there is a homophonous form attached primarily to a class of transitive verbs which indicate actions that are of a specific but often temporary nature. The primary sense carried with the prefix is that the action is reciprocal and often takes place spontaneously and intentionally.

tap 'to slap'

tatap bǎi ri 'to slap each other'.

The ta- reciprocal action prefix is almost always affixed to words which convey intense feeling or action. The informant reacted to using this construction for benefitting actions. For example, he would not accept tapòì bǎi ri (to fan each other) from pòì (to fan). Ta- thus indicates reciprocity with intensity of action or feeling.

The object in this construction is very restricted (usually bǎi ri 'their group [i. e., each other]'; sometimes sǐ ri 'only themselves' is used), and the transitive verb cannot become intransitive, two distinct differences between the reciprocal ta- and the intransitive ta-, besides the fact that reciprocal ta- is attached to a different class of verbs. In some instances ta- alternates with a doubled initial consonant, and sometimes it is dropped altogether from the construction, which still remains reciprocal.

<u>klùh</u> 'to slug'	<u>taklùh bǎi ri</u> 'to slug each other'
<u>phong</u> 'to accuse'	<u>taphong bǎi ri</u> 'to accuse each other'
<u>joh</u> 'to peck'	<u>tajoh/jjoh bǎi ri</u> 'to peck each other'
<u>kǎp</u> 'to bite'	<u>takǎp bǎi ri</u> 'to bite each other'

This affix can also be attached to a few descriptive words and intransitive verbs, making them in a sense transitive.

<u>liem</u> 'good'	<u>taliem/liem bǎi ri</u> 'to make peace with each other'
<u>'moồ</u> 'bad'	<u>ta'moồ/'moồ bǎi ri</u> 'to become angry with each other'
<u>lăp</u> 'to promise'	<u>talăp bǎi ri</u> 'to be committed to each other'
<u>hồi</u> 'to bawl out'	<u>tahồi/hồi bǎi ri</u> 'to bawl each other out'

Jeh has another reciprocal construction which is interchangeable with reciprocal ta- when the emphasis is on only two participants.

muaỷ prăt mamuaỷ
the-one (participant) switches the-other (& vice versa)

muaỷ blah mamuaỷ
the-one (country) fights the-other

4. Causative Action Prefix pa-

The emphasis of pa- is not so much on A making or inciting B to perform an action, but rather on two more specific emphases.

4.1. In the first of these emphases, A causes B (or something belonging to B) to experience an action which A performs on B (or something belonging to B). That is, B carries on the experience of the action rather than carrying out the performance of the action.

Au pahũm dỏh kon dak, ẽn jẻn hũm.
I cause-bathe for child water, it becomes bathes.

The verb in this case is usually, but not always, an intransitive verb or a descriptive word which, because of the causative affix, is performed transitively by A on B. One of at least two possible facts about B is implied in the causative, that the action performed is against B's will or beyond B's ability.

Ễn pĩ pachải lỏi au, au jẻn chải.
He do cause-wound detriment me, I become wounded.

Au pĩ paloh lỏi ẽn, ẽn jẻn loh.
I do cause-exit detriment him, he become exited.

Ĕn pĩ panham lòi ěn, ěn jèng nham.
He do cause-cry detriment him, he become cried.

Au pĩ palĕk lòi tamou, ěn jèng llĕk.
I do cause-roll detriment stone, it become rolled.

Ĕn pĕk padũm dòh nhìah, nhìah jèng dũm.
He paint cause-red for house, house become red.

In some instances pa- can be affixed to disyllabic words, including words affixed with intransitive ta-. In usual speech, however, unless specific emphasis is desired, the pa- is deleted. Because the word pĩ 'to do, make' also occurs whenever the pa- affix is used (or another verb), redundancy results (cf. 4.2.2.).

Ĕn pĩ patakliħ/takliħ lòi au, au jèng takliħ.
He do cause-fall detriment me, I become fell.

Ĕn pĩ pakachièt/kachièt lòi ěn, ěn jèng kachièt.
He do cause-die detriment him, he become died.

4.2. In the second emphasis, A takes bodily possession of B and forces (or sometimes, but rarely, assists) B to perform an action on C.

Ĕn pĩ patap dòh tì au pa si'nĕk kon.
He do cause-slap for hand my at body child.
(He made my hand slap the child.)

The verb in this case is usually transitive, but B becomes more the instrument rather than the actor of the action. The ultimate goal (C) on which the action is performed is often shown to be the place or focus of the action rather than the object of the action.

This construction is rare in Jeh (cf. 4.2.2.), and only actions that can be bodily forced are possible. When the construction is used, a double causative prefix papa- is possible (alternating with pa- plus doubled initial consonant), perhaps indicating that A bodily and willfully (against B's will) forces B to perform an action on C (e. g., A grabs B's hand and makes B against B's will slap C).

Ĕn pĩ papapāk pappāk dòh tì au pa si'nĕk kon.
He do cause-cause-stab for hand my at body child.
(He grabbed my hand and made me stab the child.)

Ĕn pĩ papahol dòh tì ěn pa kasei.
He do cause-cause-pull for hand his at string.
(He took his hand and made him pull the string.)

Ĕn pĩ papatièm dòh tì ěn pa chou.
He do cause-cause-hurl for hand his at dog.
(He took his hand and made him hurl (stone) at dog.)

4.2.1. Preferred causative construction.

The causative affix is seldom used in ordinary speech, and it never occurs without the support of pĩ 'to do, make, cause' or some other verb. It seems to be dying out, perhaps partially due to the fact that it is so specific. Jeh speakers, when using a causative construction, seem to prefer a construction that does not employ pa- at all, a construction which indicates more generally that A makes or incites B to perform an action.

Ĕn pĩ dòh au la taklih.

He make for me result fall.

Ĕn pĩ dòh au la nham.

He make for me result cry.

Ĕn pĩ dòh au la tap kon.

He make for me result slap child.

Ĕn pièk dòh nhiàh la dùm.

He paint for house result red.

5. Secondary Affixes.

A few types of affixes considered secondary to those that have been covered exist in Jeh. They are called secondary because the affixed-unaffixed couplets seldom occur in the same context and are not readily recognized as related. But as lists are made, the similarities become obvious.

5.1. Frequentative or Intensifying Prefix ra-.

The function of ra- in this context is to convey the idea of repetitive or frequentative action (doing the same thing over and over again), or of intensity of one action. Many ra- words have no unaffixed counterparts.

<u>top</u> 'to pounce on'	<u>ratop/ttop</u> 'to ride double, to fall on fallen person'
<u>kanhõk</u> 'to jump up'	<u>ranhõk</u> 'to jostle up and down'
<u>la</u> 'leaf'	<u>rala</u> '(of leaves) to leaf out'
<u>cha</u> 'to eat'	<u>racha</u> '(of tire) to wear down'
<u>tăp</u> 'completed (i. e., around once)	<u>chũ ratăp</u> 'set several-layers'
<u>kăt oih</u> 'to lie down'	<u>kăt ra'òih</u> 'many lying down in same place'
<u>prět</u> 'to spit in spurt-ing manner'	<u>raprět</u> 'to keep spitting here and there'
<u>glăm</u> 'to collide'	<u>raglăm</u> 'to collide hard'
<u>chiêu reng</u> 'go searching'	<u>chiêu rareng</u> 'go searching in many places'

<u>tằp</u> 'to set (pole) in ground'	<u>ratằp</u> 'pole fence'
<u>rien</u> '(of dog) gnaw bone'	<u>rarien</u> 'to grind teeth (in sleep, anger)'
<u>ngoh ngoi</u> 'to tilt head back & look up'	<u>bống rangoh</u> 'to fall and hit back of head on ground'
	<u>rasắng</u> 'to slam (door) hard'
	<u>raba</u> 'to chop up meat finely'
	<u>kống ranhắm</u> 'to club (hit) a second time'

5.2. Resultative Prefix a-

The function of a- is primarily resultative, the affixed word being an extension of the unaffixed counterpart, adding to it or indicating something related but ensuing from it.

<u>rah</u> 'ruined, worn out'	<u>arah</u> 'to suffer loss'
<u>jiắ</u> 'sick, hurt'	<u>kadố ajiắ</u> 'a scab'
<u>cheh pheí</u> 'to put rice into boiling water'	<u>acheh hneh</u> 'to put meat and flour mixture in boiling water'
<u>jòh jòi</u> 'to swing back and forth (hanging in air)'	<u>ajòi</u> 'to be hanging still in the air'
<u>puy/apuy</u> 'to tie up'	<u>apuy</u> 'a bundle'

5.3. Augmentative Lax (or deep) Vowel.

Jeh has several tense-register words that have lax-register (˘) counterparts. The words are nearly identical in meaning, except that those with tense vowels refer to something small, while those with lax vowels refer to something large. Laxness or deepness of vowel can be considered an affix in a restricted sense, since the adding of it to some words changes by amplification the idea of the word.

<u>drẻm drem</u> 'tall and thin'	<u>kadrẻm</u> 'tall and husky'
<u>lủ</u> 'slightly protruding'	<u>lủ</u> 'greatly protruding'
<u>tablủng</u> 'to pierce thru (small hole)'	<u>tablống</u> 'to crash thru (large hole)'
<u>gủng</u> 'bent over (something large or small)'	<u>gống</u> 'bent over (something large only)'
<u>oìh</u> 'to lie down'	<u>ra'òìh</u> 'many lying down in same place'
<u>kak</u> 'yelp of small dog'	<u>kắk</u> 'yelp of large dog'
<u>wẻk</u> 'scream of little pig'	<u>wốk</u> 'scream of large pig'

<u>jimrong</u> '(emphasizes) bloated abdomen of child'	<u>jimròng</u> '(emphasizes) bloated abdomen of adult'
<u>kabūp</u> 'indented mouth'	<u>kabōp</u> 'hollow cheeks & mouth'
<u>ka'rūp</u> '(of small frog) to hop'	<u>ka'ròp</u> '(of large frog) to hop'
<u>troi</u> 'emphasizes long-distance jump (small animal)'	<u>tròi</u> 'emphasizes long-distance jump (large animal)'
<u>rual arual</u> '(of small fruit on tree) abundant'	<u>rùal arùal</u> '(of large fruit on tree) abundant'
<u>bem</u> 'corner of mouth'	<u>bèm</u> 'emphasizes protruding lips (about ready to cry)'

6. Vestigial Affixes.

There are indications in the Jeh vocabulary of an earlier more extensive affix system than now exists on the surface, a system that would require more concentrated study to unveil than is possible here. A few interesting observations can be made, however.

6.1. Similar meanings of rhyming words.

Words with the same vowel and final consonant that have the same broad area of meaning, particularly if there are several such words, may at one time have been linked by affixes. Affixes have been shown to affect, sometimes drastically, word initial consonants, but they do not affect final consonants. Hence, final consonants are more stable in Jeh. Analyzing words that have the same vowel and final consonant may give clues to types of affixation in the earlier stages of the language. Below are two examples of the extensiveness of similarity in meaning of words with the same vowel and final consonant.

(1) Final -ah words conveying the idea of divisiveness, being disjoined, dispersed, or sided.

- bbah 'outer side of'
- blah 'broken up kernels of rice'
- tablah 'to fight each other with weapons'
- jal brah 'circular fish net with widely spread holes'
- pachah 'to scatter or fly out (from explosion)'
- ku ddrah 'one-half (year, pill)'
- pajah 'to argue'
- klah 'to separate, split up (a group)'
- lah 'to spread out vertical strands in weaving'
- talah '(of limb) to break off where it joins the trunk'

hlah 'fork in the road'
'lah '(of animal horns) widely spaced'
nah 'side'
nah 'ma, nah ieu 'right side, left side'
ku ma'nah 'one of a pair'
nhah 'chaff'
kanhah 'chips from hewing tree'
pah 'to split, cleave'
plah 'to buy out from under another person'
prah-prung 'in a scattered fashion'
si'nek prah 'meat on side of animal'
rah 'full of holes, worn out'
arah 'to suffer loss'
mrah 'to be set out sparsely to sun'
srah 'one arm length from shoulder'
tah 'to be off target'
trah 'to chip out wood by chopping'
tawah 'to distribute, portion out'
yah 'to scatter fire to put it out'

(2) Final -ĕk words conveying the idea of quick, back & forth motion.

taklĕk 'to click tongue'
lĕk 'to flick corn kernels off cob'
lūk lĕk 'crooked (morally)'
hmĕk 'to flip out of winnowing basket'
plĕk 'to flick out (pebble), to button'
pa'lĕk 'a button'
nhūk nhĕk 'to shake back and forth'
tangĕk '(of buffalo) to shake head back and forth'
sūk sĕk 'shake winnowing basket in circular motion'
'wĕk 'to pick nose'
palĕk 'to roll'
llĕk 'to roll'

tamĕk 'small biting fly'

pĕk 'to pierce nose or ear'

taglĕk 'to be out of joint'

chĕk 'to snap off greens'

dĕk 'to squeeze, press'

6.2. Dissyllabic Verbs. The overwhelming majority of dissyllabic verbs in Jeh are intransitive active and stative. The suspicion is that these dissyllabic verbs were created by means of affixation, perhaps related to the intransitive prefix ta- (c.2.). Because of more extensive use, these affixed words took the place of their unaffixed counterparts. Further research is needed on dissyllabic words to discover the affixes of which they now have become but vestiges.

kachiĕt 'to die' Jeh does not use active construction 'to kill'.

taklih 'to fall' Jeh does not use active construction 'to drop'.

tagayh 'to break' (i.e., be broken) Jeh seldom uses active construction 'to break'.

talang 'to shatter' (i.e., be shattered) Jeh seldom uses active construction 'to shatter'.

kadok 'to hide' (i.e., be hidden) Jeh does not use construction 'to hide something'.

mahāl 'to snub, resist' (almost always intransitive)

pachong 'to race'

paday 'to rest'

tapāl 'to fly'

tapĕng 'to jump'

FOOTNOTES

1. Jeh is a North Bahnaric Mon-Khmer language of Kontum province, South Vietnam. The author's research on Jeh was begun under the auspices of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The present study was produced at the University of Hawaii under a grant from the National Science Foundation (GS-2685).