



The Authenticity of Diminutive in Kurdish

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Abstract

This paper is a descriptive study of diminutive forms in Kurdish morphology as concerns form, morphological process and parts of speech. In addition, it sheds some lights on the senses of these structures. The materials and data are taken from the southern dialect of the Kurdish language and mainly taken out from the (Kurdistan) dictionary written by Gîw Mukriyanî and other accessible related resources in the Kurdish language. The morphological process which the diminutive forms go through is known as clipping and affixation. In reality, this procedure requires adding a suffix or suffixes at the end of a specified word. In this respect, it is of greatest importance to say that much of the word formation in Kurdish takes place externally, i.e. affixing. However, such a process is not random, but it follows some fixed patterns totally in accordance with the morphological structure of any given form to be diminuted. The aim of using diminutive names is to show a specific aim which reveals the feelings about the speaker to the hearer. The purposes of diminutives are either to convey positive or negative meaning and at other times for making those names easy for articulation.

Keywords: *diminutive formation, diminutive meaning, diminutive functions, diminutive of proper names, diminutive of adjectives*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 AIM

Since the diminutive forms exist in many languages, the present research is an attempt to investigate how they are formed, which morphological process they undergo and which parts of speech they incorporate. Moreover, the research is also expected to shed some light on the meaning (s) these forms convey.

1.2 DATA COLLECTION

The material which could adequately serve as a basis for the present research stems largely from some authentic data extracted mainly from the (Kurdistan) dictionary by Gîw Mukriyanî and other available relevant references in the Kurdish language.

1.3 WORD FORMATION PROCESSES

One of the distinctive properties of human language is creativity, by which we mean the ability of native speakers of a language to produce and understand unknown forms in their language. Even though creativity is most apparent when it comes to sentence formation, it is also manifest in our lexical knowledge, where new words are added to our mental lexicon regularly. There is, of course, numerous word formation processes that do not arouse any controversies and are very similar in the majority of languages. These processes are clipping, acronymy, blending, back formation, derivation, borrowing, coinage, and compounding.

The required processes here are clipping and derivation (affixation). Clipping is the word formation process which consists in the reduction of a word to one of its parts. Examples are *ad* (advertise), *doc* (doctor), *exam* (examination), *gas* (gasoline), *math*



(mathematics). The derivation is used to form new words, as with happiness and unhappy from happy, or determination from determine. (Plag, 2003, p.13)

1.4 DIMINUTION OF WORDS

Daily equipment, materials, things which have concrete size and with increasing by human demands for fulfilling those gaps in different fields is growing continually. Words like *goze* (vase) and *xanu* (house), which are examples of things in nature. Sometimes to form unused names to new things, to some extent, they are alike in basis but in some features such as *size* and *surface* are different. Their semantic features realize those words into the language. These again are a developing product and things (names) to meet human needs. For instance, *goze* is a container used to put a flower in or for decoration; *xanu* is a building that someone lives in.

Then with all of these, the demand for creating the likes with smaller ones in size, surface...et c. has increased. This process applies for adjectives too, which by adding the morpheme is a way for making something valuable or reducing the grade of adjectives. (Marf, 2014, p.149) Due to not having a concrete structure so the action is as follows:

For example:

Base	+	diminutive morpheme	→	a new word
<i>Teşpî</i>		<i>le</i>		<i>teşpîle</i>
<i>Sebete</i>		<i>wlke</i>		<i>sebetwlke</i>
<i>Req</i>		<i>êlê</i>		<i>reqeêlê</i>

Also English shows a significant conventional of diminutive suffixes counting:

Base	+	diminutive morpheme	→	a new word
<i>girl</i>		<i>een</i>		<i>girleen</i>
<i>cock</i>		<i>rel</i>		<i>cockrel</i>
<i>cabin</i>		<i>et</i>		<i>cabinet</i>
<i>room</i>		<i>ette</i>		<i>roomette</i>
<i>Ann, John</i>		<i>ie (-i, -y)</i>		<i>Annie, Johnny</i>
<i>Simon</i>		<i>kin</i>		<i>Simkin</i>
<i>weak</i>		<i>ling</i>		<i>weakling</i>
<i>book</i>		<i>let</i>		<i>booklet</i> (Stageberg, 1971, p. 102)

1.5 DIMINUTIVE FORMS IN KURDISH

Diminutive forms like *peşk* (a small book), *xanûçke* (a small house) and *brale* (little brother) occur in Kurdish, and they are defined as the forms (mostly nouns) that are derived from other forms (i.e. nouns) to express many meanings, including smallness, familiarity, endearment, and contempt.

The morphological process which the diminutive forms undergo is known as clipping and affixation. Actually, this process involves the insertion of a suffix or suffixes at the end of a given word.

In this respect, it is of utmost importance to say that much of the word formation in Kurdish takes place externally, i.e. affixing. However, such a process is not random, but it follows some fixed patterns totally in accordance with the morphological structure of any given form to be diminished. The formation of diminutive names in Kurdish is poorly produced, though not very well documented, and inadequately analyzed. Therefore, it represents a prime target for investigation.

Normally, diminutive is used for many cases, which are undergoing smallness (as to decrease the size of something). Here, one studies it as a field of linguistics. Crystal states that it used in morphology to refer to an affix with the general meaning of (little), used literally or metaphorically (as a term of endearment). Examples for diminutive morphemes include *-into* in Italian *-zinho* in Portuguese, and *-let* in English. (Crystal, p.145)



Adjectives are used as diminutives by adding certain affixes for abbreviating proper nouns as well. So, using this term as an adjective it means *little*. If we consider it in morphological structure, it involves nouns and adjectives. By adding it to a number of affixes new forms of diminutive words will appear.

One can classify the words according to size in Kurdish into two types. The first type is called basic morphemes or free morphemes. They are those which occur in language, whether concerning size or age to mean littleness or small quantities. They do not need any affixes as in *mindal* (child), *berx* (sheep), *toz*, (dust). The second type is known as combined morphemes. They contain those forms that need to add affixes to be considered as diminutives as in *gozele*, *baxçe*, *wirdile*, *xncile*.

1.6 DIMINUTIVE MORPHEME DESCRIPTION

In spite of the lack of a convincing definition of the diminutive morpheme, as a group of derivational morphemes, generally to involve all its aspects and to view the opinion of linguists in describing and viewing it. A number of views are mentioned below:

Cruse has noted, "An affix which modifies the meaning of a noun to make it refer to a smaller or less important version of what the un-affixed noun denotes" (Cruse, 2006, p.49). Katamba reports that "a morpheme indicating smallness or endearment" (Katamba and Stonham, 2006, p.350). Marf (2014, p.130) confirms that it used mainly for smallness or to convey the meaning of pampering, but some of them convey other meanings. As we note the agreement point in those definitions is paying more attention to the meaning of those morphemes. In general, they convey the diminution of size, express passion, and feelings. Here, one can view the diminutive morpheme as follows:

They are the morphemes that express the concept of diminution, delicateness and pampering issues with the help of noun and adjective bases. In dictionaries, they help to make innovative names. This process is done with minimizing some of the features of the meaning of the bases. To convey different purposes or they become symbols of natural elements. Alongside with those, it may be used as proper names to express positive or negative meanings.

2. LITERARY REVIEW

Until now, in a wide and independent way, in a scientific framework, the topic has not been investigated. We will try to state the viewpoint of some of them.

Saeed S. Kaban claims that "the diminutive name is a small name, and it describes its large name." He views the morphological suffixes semantically and from the aspect of size. (1928, p.9). He did not go beyond the depth of their different functions. He called the morphemes as a "particle." He divided them into four parts: *le*, *wke*, *wlke*, and *wçke*. as in *dêzele*, *teşpîle*, *berxole*, *mêşûle*, *menceloke*, *mindaloke*, *paçulke*, *dasulke*, *xanuçke*, and *malôçke*. (Ibid, p.9)

His book is considered as a first step, in central Kurdish dialect in analyzing diminutives. However, because his aim was not investigating about diminutives so as we note that he did not classify the morphemes well, and he mentioned those four morphemes briefly but there are more than those. Besides, he mentioned the "çe" morpheme as the only compound morpheme which is *wçke* and he forgot about mentioning *kele*.

In *le* morpheme, he said that in some words before diminutive morphemes, there is a *u* (*û*) to adjust it like *berxûle* and *mêşûle* (Ibid: 9-10). It seems that the *ule* form was not a diminutive morpheme according to him because he showed that in using *le* with some words, we need to use *u*. because of that; in general, he did not mention the structures and the different allomorphs of those morphemes which actually in recent linguistics *ule* is counted as one of *le* allomorphs.

Tofiq Wahbi in Kurdish Language Grammar like Saeed S. Kaban also due to the reason that his book is about Kurdish grammar in general, he had not the opportunity to discuss the



specification and function of those morphemes. He said very few of them, that when a noun attached to particles like *ole, ok, oke, ek, and eke*. It adds a smallness to them such as *berxole, brale, pşile, danûle, tîrok, and mencełoke...etc.* (1929, p.59-60)

As one notes that for Wahbi the diminutive morphemes are *le* and *ke* with their allomorphs, but he has not mentioned *çe*. Besides, it minimizes names in simple and compound forms. Meanwhile, Kaban declared it in a compound form. Because of that in compound forms, he only mentioned this morpheme, which creates if it links with *le* and *ke*. Then he regarded that the smallness particles (morphemes) are *l, k*, and the end *e* give strength to the meaning of small. This is a disagreement with his former opinion, which determines the suffixes in a different way. (Ibid, p.60)

Nuri A. Amin in the second edition of his book entitled “Kurdish Grammar in Morphology and Syntax”; called those morphemes as elements. He believes that each word, if linked with the morphemes like *le, olê, olke, oke, île, kele, ûle, çke, oçke, çk, and ûlke*, they convey smallness as in *gozele, dizele, kîjole, gçole, grdolke, keproke, baroke, teşpîle, karîle, sîrkele, rêşkele, mêşûle, mêtûle, xanûçke, rêçke, maloçke, binçk, dasûlke, ...etc.* (1958, p.56)

He pointed out in the book (Filling a Gap in Kurdish Grammar) in a wide way. He determines the suffixes with examples: (*-o, -k, -ûk, -ok, -oke, -û, -el, êle, -ole, -ol, -îl, -île, -ole, -ke, -ûle, -ûlke, -kele, -olke, -îlke, -çe, -çke, -o çke*) in words *ceмо, xeco, řank, desk, bçûk, denûk, aîşok, tîrok, keproke, krmoke, trşoke, fîřfroke, dasû, řejû, trşel, gozele, dizele, sezele, řûtele, kîjole, kçole, krmol, mecol, seol, wirdil, angustîle, berxole, pûşke, caşûle, dasûle, teştûlke, paçûlke, xirkele, pankele, girdolke, tepolke, teştîlke, baxçe, tiançe, xanûçke, pêçke, mnałoçke, maloçke, ...etc.* (1958, p.10-20) After that in the book Kurdish Grammar, in an article under the name (Noun Suffix Letters) he determined some suffixes which with nouns (*-o, -ok, -oke, -û, île, -ole, -ol, -ol, -île, -ole, -ûle, -ûlke, -çe, -çke, oçke*) they can form diminutive nouns as in: *gondok, bzinoke, dasû, pûşû, gozele, çngole, krmol, askol, abol, angustîle, berxole, danûle, mêşûle, camûlke, baxçe, guêçke, mnałoçke, ...etc.* In Kurdish Grammar in an article entitled (Declarative Adjective Suffix Letters), he viewed the suffixes that they go with declarative adjective in Kurdish such as *oke, ele, ole, ol, île, kele*) in words like *gêloke, şetoke, seuzele, řûtele, nermol, wirdile, xncîle, sîrkele, spîlke*) (Amin, 1960, p.73-76)

3. MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF DIMINUTIVES

As a structure, generally, two types of morphemes are realized by mentioned Kurdish writers:

1. Simple form: it includes those morphemes which consist of one morpheme. They divided into three groups:
 - a. *Ke* and its allomorphs/ *-oke, ke, -e, -û, -eke, -k, -ek, -ok, -ûk/*
 - b. *Le* and its allomorphs/ *-île, -ele, -le, êle, -ol, -ol, -ole, -île, -ûle, -el/*
 - c. *Çe* and its allomorphs/ *-îje, -êje, -îçe/*
2. Compound forms: it includes those morphemes that formed by uniting or linking two simple morphemes. They classified into three groups:
 - a. *Çke* and its allomorphs/ *-çk, -şk, -oçke, -jole/*
 - b. *Îlke* and its allomorphs/ *-îlke, -ûlke, -olke/*
 - c. *Kele* which formed by *ke* and *le*. This one is used with adjectives only.

3.1 THE FUNCTION AND AIM OF DIMINUTIVES

Forming entries are for making a certain function and to convey a special aim. Inbound morphemes, diminutive morphemes are apart from them; they are used for several aims, including the following:

1. When they are linked to general names, their function is to derive new diminutive words for decreasing their semantic marks (distinctive features). In Kurdish, they are



used for passion or belittling matters. These decreasing covers some aspects such as (Mirawdaly, 2007, p.46)

- a. The aim of its use is to lessen the volume of the object like:

das + wlke=daswlke

das +inanimate
+agricultural device
+concrete
+iron
+normal

daswlke +inanimate
+agricultural device
+concrete
+iron
+small

- b. Area: to increase or limit the width or space of a place like *şar+oçke=*

Şaroçke

Şar +inhabitant place
+stable
+wide
+large population

Şaroçke +inhabitant place
+stable
-wide
-large population

- c. Age : to increase a stage of animate ages like *berx+ole=berxole*

berx +animate
+old (age)
+beauty
+gentle

berxole +animate
- old (age)
+beauty
+gentle

2. They participate in forming new words for things and nature phenomenon such as *krmek, gułnke, xalxaloke, talişk, sûreje, ...etc.*
3. When they link with proper names, they convey passion, hatred or putting down someone.
4. They link with adjectives and give them their semantic marks, which mean the new product in some marks will be different from its base. They are used pragmatically such as *wrdile, narmole, naskole ...etc.*
5. They are used for economic reasons for using language. Which means to convey meaning by using fewer elements and efforts? Fasold states "Derivation is a kind of shorthand system that allows us to economize by packing more information into shorter utterances." (2006, p.74)

As one observes in other languages, diminutive forms like 'buwayb' (a small door), 'ubayd' (a little servant) and 'ukhay' (my little brother) occur in Arabic, and they are defined as the forms (mostly nouns) that are derived from other forms (i.e. nouns) to express many meanings, including smallness, familiarity, endearment and contempt (An-Nailah, 1988, p.270). The morphological process which the diminutive forms undergo is known as infixation or minor derivation (Abu-Mughli, 1987, p.411). In English, diminutive forms are formed by the addition of a diminutive suffix like -ette, -et, and -let to a noun as mentioned above, or by adding prefixes like *mono* (monolingual), *uni* (unilateral), and many more. (Hornby, 1974, p. 547, 1017)

Most of the nouns that can be diminuted are either personal proper nouns as in 'Bobbie' or common nouns as in 'leaflet'. A distinction between noun and name implies that noun refers to a single word while the name 'may consist of more than one word (Quirk et al, 1985, p.259). Diminutive forms in English can be produced either by suffixation as in *cabinet* or prefixation as in *minimarket*.



3.2 THE RELATIONSHIP OF MORPHOSYNTAX WITH SOME ADJECTIVES (DIMINUTIVES)

The rules that determine the relationship between one linguistic form and another, defined by morphological and syntactic criteria are known as morphosyntax. In Kurdish grammar, both levels (syntax and morphology) are intertwined. So by studying morphology, we come by syntax and vice versa. They complete each other. The features of elements are revealed in sentences. In accordance, the productive entries are tested in syntax. For instance, by comparing the derived word with its base in syntax, one can realize the difference between them and its significance is revealed as it is noticed in the following example:

- a. *Banazy hawrêm wrde*
- b. *Banazy hawrêm wrdîleye*

There is a semantic difference in both sentences. In the first one, the third element means (she is accurate in her job) while in the second it means (she is young and delicate in her appearance). The meaning of the base is changed after it linked with the morphemes. Another word (adjective) such as *bçûk* is used for conveying the smallness, but if it linked with *ole* the meaning will be smaller for another degree. At that time, a new adjective is formed, which is different from the former one. For instance:

1. *Xanûyeky bçûkm krî*
2. *Xanûyeky bçûkolem krî*

It can be explained by using distinctive features to indicate the difference:

<i>bçûk</i>	+small	<i>bçûkole</i>	+smaller
	-passion		+passion
	+human		+human
	+object		+object

Furthermore, *bçûkole* also can be linked with another morpheme such as *ane* to form another adjective to convey the smallest meaning. For instance:

Be rasty jûrêky bçûkolaneye.

Likewise, words like *wrdîle- wrdîlane*, *xncîle- xncîlane*

One cannot use those adjectives wherever wanted because they are not logical. Consider the following examples:

- a. *Xanûyeky wird/ wirdîle/ wirdîlanem kry**
- b. *Otombîlêky wird/ wirdîle/ wirdîlanem kry**
- c. *Aspêky wird/ wirdîle/ wirdîlaneman heye**
- d. *Aram piawêky xncîle/ xncîlane bû**

Using those adjectives in the above examples is semantically unacceptable.

3.3 DIMINUTIVES WITH PROPER NAMES

Proper names like any other language form have a distinctive structure. They are formed from some sounds, so in some specific cases due to culture, society coincidence and proper sounds when they meet for special aims, diminutive names are made from them. So demunitizing proper names are not acceptable by everyone, every time and everywhere. It needs some factors and initiator reasons. Above all is social communication or strong friendship between the speaker and the hearer. Moreover, the relationship should be at a level that helps to create a suitable circumstance in that context. In another case, the reason behind demunitizing is used by children as they face difficulties in uttering some words like adults, so they use them in a simple and easy way. This phenomenon exists in other languages like English, Arabic. etc. In Kurdish, diminutive names are applied to proper names whether they are local or foreign names. So due to linguistic rules, organs of speech, and phonetic aspects,



the Kurdish language allows applying diminutives to proper nouns according to a specific style.

3.4 DIMINUTIVES AND PROPER NOUNS

In Kurdish, to make a diminutive from a proper noun, it has to go through two steps: in the first step, it starts with the changes that undergo the structure with the name by reducing and moving a sound or more at the end of a word (mostly the last syllable); before adding any type of diminutive morphemes. A minimized form will be provided so that it can accept diminutive morphemes.

As one notes in some names (especially Arabic ones) the structure with the name will be damaged without taking any morpheme. This phenomenon is bound to social convention. Sometimes a new sound will appear. For instance: *Behaeddin* – *Bawe*, *Abdulqadr* – *Qale*. For the second step, one diminutive morpheme will be added so we get a diminutive name. This happens to those names that consist of more than one syllable. Such as *Nasrîn*- *Nese*- *Nesol*, *Saeed*- *Seée*- *Seéol*..etc. At this stage the complete form will be divided into syllables following this rule: if the first syllable ends with a consonant sound, it can take (-e and -ol) morphemes like *Fatime*-*Fate*- *Fatol*. But if it ends with a vowel sound, the first sound of the second syllable will be added to the first syllable then it can take (-e and -ol) morphemes as in (*Reşîd*- *Reşe*- *Reşol*). This is due to the rule of that in Kurdish two vowels will not come one after another.

On one hand, there are exceptions that not every word consists of two syllables, and they cannot be diminutive names like *Ála*, *Bála*, *Zana*, *Haje*, *limo*, *Aso*, *Srwe*,...etc. It seems that those names end up with vowels so the pronunciation of them somehow easy. On the other hand, there are one syllable words that generally cannot be minimized. In their applying diminutive to them, a /-e/ is added to them to make them diminutives like *Ban*- *Bane*, *Şad*-*Şade*, *Van*- *Vane*, *Naz*- *Naze*,...etc.

3.5 DIMINUTIVE MORPHEMES OF NOUNS

1. /-e/ is an active one. It can be added to a large number of nouns, especially new ones. For instance: *Rojan*, *Zryan*, *Kajaí*, *lauko*, *Naşmîl*. /-e/ is a diminutive morpheme because those words are difficult to be pronounced after minimizing them. They are either meaningful forms and without any relation to the original nouns, or just they accepted sounds without any meaning. Like:

Kejaí - *Keje*
Gelauêj - *Gele*
Nesrîn - *Nese*
Zirng - *Zere*

2. /-oll/, /ol/, /ole/ they can attach to a large number of nouns like:

Reşîd - *Reşol*
Ayşê - *Ayşol*
Behê - *Behol*
Aske - *Askol*

3. /-ke/, /ok/, /oke/ they are not active and they can be attached to some names. Like:

Nesrîn - *Neseke*
Wely - *Weleke*
Alî - *Aleke*
Braîm - *Braîmok* – *Braîmoke*
Bekr - *Bekrok*

Compound names can be diminutive names like:

Abduía - *Abe* - *Abol* - *Abeke*
Muhammedamin - *Hemeumîn*



Fathûla - Fatho - Fethy - Fethok - Fetok
Saîfedîn - Seîfe
Mhêdîn - Mhe, Mho, Mhê, Mhok

4. CONCLUSIONS

Generally, the aim of using diminutive names is for the following points:

1. Using former morphemes with proper names is to show a specific aim which reveals the feelings about the speaker to the hearer. Here two different directions can be seen:
 - a. Conveying positive meaning which is uttering passion, love, giving delicate meaning from the speaker for closeness, to enhance social relations.
 - b. Conveying negative meaning aiming at belittling, hurt feelings, offending the hearer. From this aspect, those morphemes convey hidden feelings.
2. Minimizing Arabic original name is to make them sound to Kurdish ones so that they can be easier to use like: *Osman- Ose, Salh – Sale*
3. The aim of minimizing those names which are complex ones is for economic reason or to make them easy to be uttered without any reason except linguistic ones.

As one notes that clipping and affixation are the two processes that used in forming diminutive name in Kurdish so that the user uses less energy and reduces sounds for pronouncing it. Even though the form to the word changes, the reference is the same for the word, before it goes through the process of forming the diminutive name and after. So diminutives have no serious role in dicti- onary entries. Not every proper name has the will to undergo the process of diminutive, especially those names who end in /a, o, e/ sounds. In addition, concerning complex structure names, only the first part is taken. There are names which can take all of the three morphemes (-e, -le, -ke) such as *Nasrîn - Nese - Nesole - Neseke*. The morpheme -çe does not take part in forming proper diminutive names, but the three morphemes (-e, -le, -ke) do. The process of forming diminutive in proper names is not only including Kurdish names but foreign names also. So the rule of forming diminutive from proper names is first, clipping the name, and then adding diminutive morphemes to the clipped name to get the diminutive (proper name).

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پوخته

ئهم تويزينه وه به پوانان بچوكردنه وه له مرقولوجي زمانى كورديدا دهخاته روو. ههروهها پهيوهست بوونى به فورم و پروسه مرقولوجي و بهشهكانى ئاخوتندا باس دهكات. لهگهه له مهشدا، ههنديك تيشك دهخاته سهر واتاي ئهم پيكهاتانه. كه رهستهكان و زانبارى بهكارهينراو له م تويزينه وهدا له دياليكتى باشوورى زمانى كوردى و به تايبهتي له فهرهنگى كوردستان، كه له لايهن گيو موكرانييه وه نووسراوه، و له ههنديك سهراوهي پهيوهنديدارى زمانى كوردى وهريگراوه. ئهو پروسه مرقولوجيهي كه پوانان بچوكردنه وه پيكدههينيت برتين له ههردوو پروسه قرتاندن و پيكهوهلكاندن. له راستيدا، ئهم پروسهيه پيويستى به زيادكردى پاشگريك يان چهند پاشگريك بو ووشه مبهست ههيه. له م تهوهردها، زور گرنگه كه بلتين كه زوربه ي پوانان ووشه له زمانى كورديدا له دهروهوي ووشه كهدا روودهدهن وهك دانان پيشگر و پاشگر. ههريههه ئهم پروسهيه ههريههه كى نيه، بهلكو پهپهوي چهند پيسايهكي دياريكراو دهكات كه پوانان مرقولوجي فورم مبهست بو فورم بچوكردنه وه پيك دههينيت. ئامانج له بهكارهينان ناوي بچوكرهوه بو پيشاندان ههستي قسهكه به بو گوگر. ئامانجهكانى بچوكردنه وه برتين له گهياندى واتاي ئهري و نهري و ههنديك كاتيش بو ئاسان دهريپنى ئهو ناوانهيه.

ملخص

هذه الدراسة هي دراسة وصفية لصيغ التصغير في علم الصرف اللغة الكردية فيما يتعلق بالعملية الصرفية وأقسام الكلام التي تشملها. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإنه يلقي بعض الضوء على معاني هذه الاشكال. المعلومات والبيانات مأخوذة من اللهجة الجنوبية للغة الكردية، وأخذت بشكل خاص من قاموس (كردستان) المكتوبة من قبل جيو موكراني وغيره من الموارد ذات الصلة التي يمكن الوصول إليها باللغتين الكردية والانجليزية. وتعرف العملية الصرفية التي تمر بها صيغ التصغير بالتقطيع والاضافة. في الواقع، يتطلب هذا الإجراء إضافة لاحقة أو لواقع في نهاية الكلمة الهادفة. وفي هذا الصدد، من الأهمية أن نقول إن أكثر الصيغ المكونة في اللغة الكردية تجري خارجياً، أي أن نضيف لها لواحق. ومع ذلك، فإن هذه العملية ليست عشوائية، ولكن يتبع بعض أنماط ثابتة تماماً وفقاً للصيغة الصرفية لأي شكل معين في التصغير. والهدف من استخدام الأسماء التصغير هو إظهار هدف محدد يكشف مشاعر المتكلم إلى السامع. وأغراض التصغير هي إما لنقل المعنى الإيجابي أو السلبي، وفي أوقات أخرى لجعل هذه الأسماء سهلة للتعبير.