

1.2 The Phonetic Phenomena Where Two Morphemes Are Combined

- (1) a. *nə-bərdəm* I did not take
b. *nə-tanəstəm* I could not
c. *ní-nivištəm* I did not write
d. *nú-kudəm* I did not do
e. *nú-goftəm* I did not say

With more careful, somewhat deliberate pronunciation however, the vowel *ə* in the prefix and the negative particle may be retained in all the listed cases:¹

- (2) a. *bəbərdəm* I have taken away
b. *bənivištəm* I have written
c. *bəkudəm* I have done
d. *nə-bərdəm* I did not take
e. *nə-nivištəm* I did not write
f. *nə-kudəm* I did not do

The ending *-ə* of the past participle may also undergo assimilation when that participle is a part of the descriptive, verbal forms and the auxiliary verb *buon* ‘to be’ follows it:

- (3) a. *bukudu bum* < *bəkudə bum* I had done
b. *bukudi bi* < *bəkudə bi* you had done
c. *etc.*

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In the case of the cooccurrence of two vowels, the following phenomena occur where the morphemes are combined.

1. The epenthetic sound *y* is inserted between the vowels. This chiefly occurs in verbs between the stem (when it ends in a vowel) and the personal endings:

- (4) a. *vavərseyim* we asked
b. *amoyidi* they arrived
c. *dayidi* they were giving
d. *etc.*

¹ In our materials, this is chiefly to be observed in the texts compiled and written by Nasirani.

However, in rapid speech the consonant *y* may be omitted:

- (5) a. *vavərseim*
- b. *amoidi*
- c. *daidi*

2. One vowel is deleted. This chiefly happens:

a. In cases of joining the form-building prefix *bə-* or the negative particle *nə-* to a verb beginning with the vowel *a*, the vowel *ə* is deleted:

- (6) a. *bavərdəm* < *bə+avərdəm* I brought
- b. *n-avərdəm* I did not bring

b. In the case of an ending that begins with a vowel joined to a verbal stem ending in a vowel:

- (7) a. *gəm* < *gu+-əm* I am saying
- b. *gi* < *gu+-i* you are saying
- c. *bamom* < *bə+amo+əm*) I came
- d. etc.

3. A sequence of two vowels is replaced by one vowel, different from either vowel making up the sequence. This is observed only in the case of the joining of the prefix *bə-* or the negative particle *nə-* to a verb beginning with the vowel *i*:

- (8) a. *besam* (< *bə+isam*) I stood, 'I stopped'
- b. *nesa bu* (< *nə+isa bu*) He/she did not stand
- c. etc.