0. **Introduction.** Many ancient Khmer inscriptions are scattered throughout Cambodia and in neighboring countries, dating as far back as the 6th century A.D. They are found as far afield as Vientiane in Laos, Sukhothai, Nokor Swan and Nokor Reach provinces in Thailand, and the delta of South Vietnam.

Affixation has been described in Modern Khmer by scholars such as Jenner, Maspero, Jacob, Gorgoniyev, Huffman, Keng Vannsak and others. Lewitz has studied Middle Khmer. An inspection of the ancient inscriptions also shows that Old Khmer used much affixation, as Jacob has commented on, and this paper presents some of the affixal forms of Old Khmer. Many more examples of each affix could be adduced, only one or two of each being given here for illustrative purposes. The purpose of this paper is to give documentation on the different kinds of prefixes used in Old Khmer and to show which ones have parallels in Modern Khmer.

1. **C- Prefixes.** C-prefixes include $p_-$, $t_-$, $c_-$, $k_-$, $r_-$, $v_-$, $s_-$. These prefixes all seem to have denoted an intensification of the meaning of the root morpheme, except for some cases of a negative meaning for $s_-$. 

(1) p-
prañ 'dry season'¹²
rañ 'to be dry, have no rain'³

(2) t-
tpoñ 'high official'⁴
pioñ 'official'⁵
(3) c-
tleñ 'who go up, rebellious'⁶
len 'to go up'⁷

(4) cpoñ 'oldest brother'⁸
pioñ 'older brother'⁹
(5) ckop 'to bury deeply'⁵
kop 'to bury'¹⁰
(6) cloñ 'to cross, transmit'¹¹
loñ 'to pass'¹²

(7) k-
kpat 'to betray'¹³
pat 'to fold, bend, turn'¹²
(8) krau 'outside'⁸
rau 'outer form, shape'¹²
(9) kloñ 'high official of finance'⁵
loñ 'official of finance'¹⁴

(10) r-
raloñ 'to cross over, pass over'¹⁵
loñ 'to cross, pass'¹²

(11) v-
vrāy 'to shoot'¹⁶
rāy 'to scatter'¹²
(12) vrah 'a god'⁵
rah 'to shine'¹²

(13) s-
steñ 'to show, a high official'¹⁷
ten 'to decorate'¹⁸
(14) sgai 'to recognize, know'¹⁹
gal 'to sit near (royal word)'²⁰
(15) slāp 'to die'¹⁴
lāp 'to regain health'¹²
(16) stāc 'to go (royal word)'²¹
tāc 'to loose, unloose'¹²

Prefixes of the shape /C-/ occurred on monosyllabic root morphemes. These prefixes transformed noun roots into derived nouns (nos. 2, 4, 8, 9), verb roots into derived verbs (nos. 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16), and verb roots into derived nouns (nos. 1, 3, 12).

These prefixes are still in evidence in Modern Khmer in forms such as:

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p- pdo 'to make a trade, change'
do 'to trade, barter'
préj 'to shoot, hunt'
ria 'to scatter'
t- tlaēk 'to give off, emit'
leŋ 'to let go, release'
tbiat 'to hold (under the arm or with tongs)'
bias 'to be near'
c- c-
crae 'to get up, rise to one's feet'
ünü 'to rise, stand'
cläk 'to carve, chisel'
leak 'to scratch, cut'
k- k-
kañ 'a covering'
baŋ 'to cover'
kqat 'very small mosquito, small frog, undersized cormorant'
qat 'small'
r- r-
ralé 'to melt, dissolve'
liə 'to mix'
s- s-
stile 'to be keen, shrill'
tiə 'to resound'
skak 'to harden up, be dried up, withered'
kak 'to harden'

Prefix p- in Old Khmer has changed to p- in Modern Khmer, as in vraī > préj 'shoot'.

2. CN- Prefixes. The prefixes p-, t-, c-, k-, r-, s-, combined with nasals -m, -n, -n to form pam-, kam-, sam-, pan-, tan-, can-, kan-, pän-, ran-. The nasals tend to be homorganic with the following consonant.

(17) pampat 'to cause to lose'
pat 'to lose'
(18) pāmcam 'to deposit'
cam 'to wait for (someone)'
pan-
(19) pandval 'a speech, the saying (royal word)'
dval 'to carry on one's head'
(20) panheñ 'to cause to swell'
hem
pañ-pañ-
(21) pañkap 'to cause to bury',
kap 'to bury'
(22) pañket 'to cause to be born',
ket 'to be born'

tan-tan-
(23) tanlap 'a round wooden container used to keep vaseline or medicated balm',
lap 'to fill up, fill in'

can-can-
candal 'a support'
dal 'to support'
(24) kam-kam-
(25) kamton 'very old woman',
ton 'old woman'
(26) kamvok 'something that bumps',
vok 'a bump'
(27) kamvrau 'to get old without being married',
vrau 'old unmarried person'
(28) kamsteñ 'high official',
steñ 'official'
kan-kan-
kantai 'a woman (unlucky word)',
tai 'a woman'
(29) kanmyañ 'an ant (unlucky word)',
myañ 'an ant'
ran-ran-
ranyañ 'to cause to be tortuous',
vañ 'to be tortuous'
(30) saṃsaṃ-
saṃruk 'to goad strongly',
ruk 'to goad'

Prefixes of the shape /CN-/ occurred on monosyllabic root morphemes. These prefixes transformed noun roots into derived nouns (nos. 19, 20, 28, 29), verb roots into derived nouns (nos. 24, 27), and verb roots into derived verbs (nos. 17, 18, 23, 25). Most of these prefixes denoted a superlative or in a few cases a nominalized instrument, except paN- which sometimes denoted a causative.

These prefixes are still in evidence in Modern Khmer in forms such as:

böm-
bombaak 'to cause to break'
bâk 'to break'
bômbuəh 'to cause to be a monk'
buəh 'to be a monk'

bôn-
bônleŋ 'to cause to play'
leŋ 'to play'
bônsa:p 'to cause to be tasteless'
sa:p 'tobbe tasteless'

bôŋ-
bôŋkoː 'to cause to make, to build'
kx 'to make, build'
bôŋkhôm 'to cause to aim at, to struggle for'
khôm 'to aim at, struggle for'

con-
condæə 'a step'
daə 'to walk'
kontûal 'a support'
tuəl 'to support'

kâm-
kâmbaṅk 'to be broken'
bâk 'to break'
kâmbăŋ 'to cause to cover'
bâŋ 'to cover'

kontûal 'a peck, bite'
tuəl 'a swelling'
kîntûək 'broken rice'
tuək 'to crumple, crease'

râŋ-
râŋcoː 'a circle'
râŋ 'to encircle'
râŋviəh 'a measure'
vìəh 'to measure'

som-
somroak 'to goad strongly'
rûk 'to goad'
sômboːk 'a peel'
boːk 'to peel'

The OK p:ModK b shift is just an interpretational shift, though subscribed to by many scholars. The written script form of the words did not change.
3. **Ch- Prefixes.**

The prefixes p-, t- became aspirate consonants ph-, th-.

**ph-**

(33) phgal  'to cause to meet'\(^{20}\)

gal  'to meet (royal word)'\(^{20}\)

(34) phlās  'to transfer'\(^{33}\)

lās  'to abandon'\(^{6}\)

(35) phsāk  'to cause to try'\(^{34}\)

sāk  'to try'\(^{12}\)

**th-**

(36) thleň  'to say, report'\(^{35}\)

len  'to free'\(^{14}\)

(37) thlai  'to price'\(^{36}\)

lai  'to try to make, to be sufficient'\(^{12}\)

Prefixes of the shape /Ch-/ occurred on monosyllabic root morphemes. They transformed verb roots into derived verbs (nos. 33, 34, 35, 36) and verb roots into derived nouns (no. 37). They denoted a superlative except nos. 33 and 35, which denoted a causative. They are not found in inscriptions before the 8th century A.D., and even after that they are often in free variation with their unaspirated counterparts. This is a transcriptional change which may or may not have indicated a phonemic change.

These prefixes are still in evidence in Modern Khmer in forms such as:

**ph-**

phlah  'to transfer, change'

leah  'to abandon, leave'

**th-**

thlaŋ  'to say, repeat'

lēŋ  'to free'

thlaŋ  'a price'

lai  'to try to make, to be sufficient'

4. **Cr- Prefixes.**

The prefixes p-, t-, k-, s- combined with -r as pr-, tr-, kr-, sr-.

**pr-**

(38) prajɛŋ  'to strive in rivalry'\(^{7}\)

jeŋ  'to compete'\(^{12}\)

(39) pralāy  'a canal'\(^{29}\)

lāy  'a fishing instrument'\(^{12}\)

**tr-**

(40) trakāl  'modern, new'\(^{37}\)
kāl  'a time'\textsuperscript{12}

kr-

(41) kravil  'to move round strongly; an earring'\textsuperscript{38}
vil  'to move around'\textsuperscript{12}

(42) kracap  'a device for catching (something)'\textsuperscript{39}
cap  'to catch'\textsuperscript{12}

sr-

(43) sralān  'to love'\textsuperscript{40}
lān  'to ruin, destroy'\textsuperscript{12}

Prefixes of the shape /Cr-/ occurred on monosyllabic root morphemes. They transformed verb roots into derived nouns (nos. 39, 41, 42), verb roots into derived verbs (nos. 38, 41, 43), noun roots into derived adjectives (no. 40), and noun roots into derived noun roots (no. 39). All these prefixes denoted a superlative, except no. 42 which is a nominalized instrument.

These prefixes are still in evidence in Modern Khmer in forms such as:

prə-

prəket  'to touch strongly'
ket  'to touch'

trə-

trəka:l  'modern, new'
ka:l  'a time'
trəsa:j  'spreading, branching, bushy, thick'
sa:j  'to spread out, extend'

krə-

krəvel  'to turn around strongly'
vil  'to turn around'
krəcap  'a device used for catching (something)'
cap  'to catch'

5. \textbf{V-} Prefix.

A- was used as an intensifying prefix.

(44) əcas  '(to be) older'\textsuperscript{41}
cas  '(to be) old'\textsuperscript{42}

(45) ajī  'an older woman who stays in a pagoda'\textsuperscript{41}
ji  'an old woman who stays in a pagoda'\textsuperscript{12}

This prefix occurred on monosyllabic root morphemes. This prefix is no longer used in Modern Khmer.

6. \textbf{VN-} Prefixes.

A- combined with nasals -m, -n, -ŋ, -h, to form am-, an-

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The nasals tend to be homorganic with the following consonant.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{am-} & \\
\text{ąmpěk} & \quad \text{"to cause to break"}^{5} \\
\text{pek} & \quad \text{"to break"}^{12} \\
\text{ąmrek} & \quad \text{"a load carried by a person using a yoke"}^{43} \\
\text{rek} & \quad \text{"to carry with a yoke"}^{12} \\
\text{ąmveņ} & \quad \text{"to cause to be long"}^{18} \\
\text{veņ} & \quad \text{"(to be) long"}^{8} \\
\text{ąmvuḥ} & \quad \text{"a boiling"}^{44} \\
\text{vuḥ} & \quad \text{"to boil"}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{an-} & \\
\text{ąntaṃ} & \quad \text{"a planting"}^{29} \\
\text{taṃ} & \quad \text{"to plant"}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ąn-} & \\
\text{ąncaņ} & \quad \text{"a fishing net"}^{11} \\
\text{caņ} & \quad \text{"to tie, bend"}^{12}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{an-} & \\
\text{ąnveņ} & \quad \text{"long long ago"}^{41} \\
\text{veņ} & \quad \text{"(to be) long"}^{23}
\end{align*}
\]

Prefixes of the shape /VN-/ occurred on monosyllabic root morphemes. These prefixes transformed verb roots into derived nouns (nos. 47, 49, 50, 51), verb roots into derived verbs (no. 46), and adjective roots into derived verbs (nos. 48, 52). They denoted a nominalized instrument or result (no. 51), a superlative (nos. 47, 49, 50, 52), or a causative (nos. 46, 48).

These prefixes are still in evidence in Modern Khmer in forms such as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{qɔm-} & \\
\text{qɔmbaŋ} & \quad \text{"a piece of something broken"} \\
\text{bąŋ} & \quad \text{"to divide"} \\
\text{qɔmpuŋ} & \quad \text{"a boiling"} \\
\text{puŋ} & \quad \text{"to boil"}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{qɔn-} & \\
\text{qɔnteak} & \quad \text{"a snare, trap"} \\
\text{teak} & \quad \text{"to snare, trap"}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{qɔn-} & \\
\text{qɔncaŋ} & \quad \text{"to tread on several times"} \\
\text{caŋ} & \quad \text{"to tread on"} \\
\text{qɔncɔŋ} & \quad \text{"a fishing net"} \\
\text{coŋ} & \quad \text{"to tie, bend"}
\end{align*}
\]
7. Conclusion.

In conclusion, the consonants p-, t-, c-, k-, r-, y-, s-, and the vowel a- were used as affixes in Old Khmer. They sometimes combined with nasals, -h, and -r- as CaN-, Ch-, Cr-, aN-. A- was used as an affix in Old Khmer but no longer in Modern Khmer, but aN- is found in both Old Khmer and Modern Khmer.

Although there are a few observable differences between the simple prefixes, notably the causative specialization of p-, there are not any readily apparent differences between the meanings of the simple prefixes and the meanings of the prefixes with -h-, -N-, or -r-.

This may indicate that the initial consonants carried the main functional distinctiveness in the affixes.

FOOTNOTES:

1. This paper summarizes briefly some of the findings from a study of the inscriptions on the ancient Khmer monuments in both the original forms and in the transcriptions of Coedès. The detailed results of the study are being incorporated in a longer work.

The transcription of Old Khmer in this paper follows that of Coedès.


3. Piedroit de Prâsât Kômbôt, K144 (XIV cent.), IC. VII, p. 34.


5. Stèle de Prâh Kuhâr Lûoî, K44 (674 AD.), IC. II, p. 10.


8. Stèle de Vât Po, K22 (635 AD.), IC. III, p. 143.


12. This word is not found in the Old Khmer inscriptions but occurs in Modern Khmer; so we assume a similar form and meaning in Old Khmer.


15. Stèle de Vât Thlên, Kl, IC. VI, p. 28.
17. Inscription de Pràsàt Taros, K349 (954 AD.), IC.V, p. 108.
19. Piedroit de Nom Vàn, K393 (1055 AD.), IC.VII, p. 64.
20. Stèle de Samrôn, K258 (1094 AD.), IC.IV, p. 175.
24. Inscription de Trapânh Thma, K133, IC.V, p. 81.
27. Piedroit de Tûol Àñ Rolânh Ken, K877, IC.VI, p. 66.
28. Stèle de Tûol Pei, K164 (922 AD.), IC.VI, p. 96.
29. Stèle brisée Kdei Àñ, K56 (966 AD.), IC.VII, p. 3.
31. Inscription de Pràsàt O' Romdüol, K659 (960 AD.), IC.V, p. 143.
32. Stèle de Ban T'at T’ong, K697, IC.VII, p. 94.
33. Inscription de Pràsàt Tâ Kêm, K245 corpus CXXIII (1062 AD.), IC:III, p. 89.
34. Inscription de Vât Dâmâk (Siem Râp), K420, IC.IV, p. 161.
35. Stèle de Phum Dà, K139 (1054 AD.), IC.III, p. 175.
36. Inscription de Vât Bâsêt, K205 (1036 AD.), IC.III, p. 5.
37. Piedroit de Pràsàt Nâñ Khmau, K765 (678 à 687 AD.), IC.V, p. 53.
41. Piedroit de Loñ Vêk, K137, IC.II, p. 115.
42. Inscription de Pràsàt Çâk, K521, IC.IV, p. 167.
43. Inscription de Pràsàt Lâk Nâñ, K265, IC.IV, p. 64.
44. Inscription de Kôk Rokà, K155, IC.V, p. 64.

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