



GRAMMAR NOTES - SINK DOMAIN

These grammar notes are intended to help the language user understand the sentences used when using the sink.

Words can often breakdown into smaller pieces. Words that can do this usually have one main part called the **root**. Pieces of words that come before the root are called **prefixes**. Pieces that come after the root are called **suffixes**. This is important for several languages but especially ones like txʷəlšucid where prefixes and suffixes play an essential role in understanding how the language works. For example, look at the nouns of this lesson and see how they can be broken down.

- (1) (a) t'əsəlqʷu? 'cold water'
t'əs -alqʷu?
cold weather/liquid water
'cold liquid water'
- (b) dxʷc'agʷusali 'sink'
dxʷ- c'agʷ -us -ali
place where wash face place of
'a place of where washing face'

In (1a), there is the root *t'əs* followed by the suffix *-alqʷu?* (The dash (-) in front indicates this part of the word is a suffix). In (1b), there is the prefix *dxʷ-* (The dash (-) afterwards indicates this is part of the word is a prefix). Then the root *c'agʷ* is followed by TWO suffixes.

An important prefix in Lushootseed is *s-*. It transforms a verb (an action) into a noun (a thing). It is called a 'nominalizer' (NMZR). Look at the following noun for hot water and notice this prefix is used at the beginning of the word:

- (2) sqʷələlqʷu? 'hot water'
s- qʷəl -alqʷu?
NMZR hot/cook/ripe water
'hot water'



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Verbs are often more complex because they include prefixes and suffixes that are often more difficult to grasp. The first of these to explain is the suffix *-tx̣w*. Look at the following and notice how the word in (3a) changes in meaning in (3b) with the addition of *-tx̣w*:

- (3) (a) kʷəł̣ ‘pour’, ‘flow’
- (b) kʷəł̣tx̣w ‘**cause** something to flow/pour’

The *-tx̣w* turns the word *kʷəł̣* ‘pour, flow’ to mean ‘**cause** something to pour or flow’. When *-tx̣w* is added to a verb, it means you ‘cause’ the verb to occur. For this reason, *-tx̣w* is called a ‘causative’. When you turn on the faucet, you don’t literally pour the water. You turn the faucet which opens a valve that allows the water to ‘pour’. Therefore, you are causing the water to flow/pour.

- (4) kʷəł̣ -tx̣w
pour/flow cause

Another suffix in Lushootseed is *-əx̣w*. Look at the following:

- (5) (a) kʷəł̣tx̣wəx̣w čəd ti q̣ẉu?.
 ‘I am pour the water.’
- (b) təqṭx̣wəx̣w čəd ti q̣ẉu?.
 ‘I block the water.’

This suffix *-əx̣w* is used in a few different ways. In (5) above, *-əx̣w* marks a sentence with information that bears upon the next sentence. In other words, (5a) occurs with *-əx̣w* because after I turn the water on, I then turn it off in (5b). *-əx̣w* occurs in (5b) because normally, there would be another action after (5b) that the information in (5b) would bear upon, such as taking a towel to dry my hands. We will discuss this suffix in more detail in later lessons.