

### 3. MORPHOLOGY

3.0. The grammatical processes of Dalabon are prefixing and suffixing, as in most languages generally classed as 'agglutinating'. The word classes, however, are not formally distinguished as they are, for instance, in a multiple-classifying language such as Laragia or Maung. Two main classes are found: words which may exist as free forms and those that are found only as bound forms. The former may be both morphological and semantic words in their simplest forms; the latter occur as semantic words only, and that in their various compounds. Verbs are always morphologically complex semantic words, as no verbal root can be a free form. Consequently it is proposed to treat the morphology of Dalabon under these two chief heads:

- A. Free Forms
- B. Bound Forms.

At the same time, however, Group A may not always simple morphemes; many suffixial forms exist, both derivational and inflectional suffixes being found. While /gula?/ is 'skin' and may be used as a free form and a single morpheme, there is also /gula?no/ 'his or her skin' - again a free form though not a single morpheme. Again, such a compounded, free form may be subordinated to the position of an element in a complex holophrase, e.g., /ŋa?djulebun/ 'I make a shade'; /djule/ is here a (possible) free form; but /ŋa?-/ 'I', /-bu/ 'make' and /-n/, 'present tense' are not free forms at any time. The following distributional statement will indicate the type of words included in Group A outlined above, in terms of western European grammatical categories:

Group A: potentially or actually free forms may function as:

1. nouns
2. pronouns
3. adjectives
4. demonstratives
5. interrogatives
6. adverbs
7. question indicators
8. other free forms as indicators of other ideas.

Group B: consists of bound forms, further subdivisible into:

1. compound stems
2. complex stems, combining with suffixes indicating:
  - (i) case relationships with A.1 and A.2.
  - (ii) tense and mood forms with verbal roots of B1, B2.
  - (iii) prefixes indicating person in the same verbal complexes

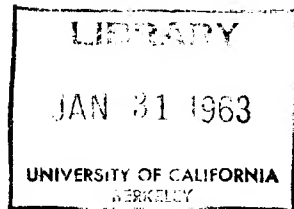
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SOME LINGUISTIC TYPES IN AUSTRALIA

[Handbook of Australian Languages, Part 2]



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