The Syntax of Nouns

13.1 The Annexation Construction

13.1.1 General Remarks

The annexation construction is a syntactic strategy of combining two, rarely more, nouns into a noun phrase. It is formed through attaching the relative particle -ǝd to the first constituent of the phrase, i.e. the head, whereby the final vowel of the head noun is dropped, e.g.:

šülane ‘jobs, work’ + naše ‘people’ → šülanǝd naše ‘the jobs of the people’

The annexation construction has to be distinguished from nominal compounds, the former being a syntactic unit, the latter a sub-category of nouns in the lexicon. Following from this distinction is high productivity of the syntactic strategy of annexation, which encompasses other grammar categories than nouns. The annexation construction displays also a different stress pattern from nominal compounds, with both constituents attested with their own stress. In addition, its semantic meaning is much less arbitrary than in the case of nominal compounds, compare:

šülane ‘jobs’ + naše ‘people’ → šülanǝd naše ‘the jobs of the people’ vs. šəmša ‘sun’ + mita ‘dead’ → šəmša-mita ‘(lit. dead sun) > shade’

When the plural of a noun is formed through changing the final vowel from /a/ to /e/, e.g.: palaxa ‘worker’ → palaxe ‘workers’, the formal distinction between the singular and plural is neutralised in the head noun due to the attachment of the relative particle, e.g.:

palaxǝd mɔta palaxa sg.m., ‘worker of the village’ or palaxe pl., ‘workers of the village’

The phonetic realisation of -ǝd depends on the nature of the following segment on the one hand, and on prosody on the other. Thus, when the first segment of the modifier is a voiced consonant or a vowel preceded by a glottal stop, the stop of -ǝd is voiced. In all other cases, it is devoiced and assimilates with respect to aspiration to the next segment, e.g.:
The realisation of the particle with regard to prosody is outlined below.

**13.1.2 Constituents of the Annexation Construction**

The head noun is most frequently a simple noun, e.g.: šülanød naše ‘the jobs of the people’, but it may also be a verbal noun, an active participle, or the Resultative Participle, e.g.:

- **jraptød talja** ‘shovelling away of the snow’ < jrpta < jrapa ‘pushing’
- **doqanød qadra** ‘welcoming, respectful’ < dwaqa qadra ‘to respect, to welcome’
- **ʾala-munixød mamuni** ‘my late uncle’ < munixa < m-n.y.x. ‘to give rest’

On some occasions, adjectives are used as heads with nouns as modifiers, e.g.:

- **čumtød čosa** ‘of black hair’ (lit. black of hair)

The head noun may be qualified by a preceding pronoun, numeral, or quantifier, e.g.:

- **ʾanne šülanød naše** ‘these jobs of the people’
- **tre ʾerwəd ṱüṛa** ‘two mountain sheep’
- **sama zodød naše** ‘the majority of the people’

The dependent modifier of the noun phrase, in turn, may be a noun, noun phrase, noun with a possessive suffix, or an indefinite pronoun, e.g.:

- **šülanød naše** ‘the jobs of the people’
- **šülanød ʾanne naše** ‘the jobs of these people’
- **šülanød mɒtan** ‘the jobs of our village’
- **betød mani?** ‘Whose house?’

When the modifier of the construction is a personal pronoun, the independent relative particle is employed. The annexation construction may then be the ‘loose one’ (see below), e.g.: