

## **SUPERLATIVE FORMS OF ADJECTIVES BY ARTICLE NA + PREFIX UM- IN TOBA BATAK**

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### **Abstract**

The objectives of this study are to investigate the formation of superlative forms of adjectives by article na + prefix [um-] in Toba Batak. The results show that superlative forms of adjectives by article na + prefix [um-] in Toba Batak result in various morphological and phonological processes as follows: (1) if article na + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives preceded by vowels [a], [e], [i], [o], and [u] the last phoneme of prefix [um-] is doubled i.e [um-] is pronounced as [umm-] sound. (2) if the initial phoneme is a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b], prefix [um-] is pronounced as [ub-] sound as its allomorph. (3) if the initial phoneme is a velar plosive voiced consonant [g], prefix [um-] is pronounced as [uŋ-] sound. (4) if the initial phoneme is a palato alveolar affricate voiced consonant [j] prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-] sound but pronounced as [uj-] sound. (5) if the initial phoneme is a bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] prefix [um-] does not change. (6) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n], prefix [um-] is spelt and pronounced as [un-] sound. (7) if the initial phoneme is a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant [p], prefix [um-] is spelt as [um-] sound but pronounced as [up-] sound. (8) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar rolled voiced consonant [r], prefix [um-] is spelt and pronounced as [ur-] sound. (9) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar fricative voiceless consonant [s], prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-] sound but pronounced as [us-] sound. (10) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar plosive voiceless consonant [t], prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-] sound but pronounced as [ut-] sound.

**Keywords:** superlative forms, morphological and phonological processes, adjectives, inflectional

### **1. Introduction**

Nowadays there are thousands of languages in the world. According to *Ethnologue: Language of the World* (2005) there are around 6.912 languages in the world. From the huge number, there are around 742 regional languages spread in Indonesian archipelago, which place Indonesia as the second country that possess the most languages after Papua New Guinean. All of the regional languages in Indonesia are protected by constitutions because they are considered as the richness of Indonesian culture.

The regional languages have functions not only as identities of regional cultures but also as communication tools among the ethnic members. Besides, they have a role as introductory language in elementary schools in particular areas in the archipelago. Furthermore, regional languages function as stimulus towards the development of Indonesian language as a national language in Indonesia because there are a lot of borrowing words in Indonesian language adopted from vernaculars. Vice versa, Indonesian language also has contributions to regional languages because there are abundant of words derive from Indonesian language adopted by regional language. In other words the interrelationship between these languages complete one and other.

One of the regional languages in Indonesia is Toba Batak. It belongs to Austronesian. The original homeland of the speakers of Toba Batak is located around Lake Toba. In the heart of the Batak territory lies Samosir island and on the northwest bank of

Lake Toba, stands Mount Pusuk Buhit which the Toba Batak believe marks the point of origin of all the Batak people. The speakers of Toba Batak are mostly settle in North Sumatra exactly in *Tano Batak* 'Batak Land', they are, Samosir Regency, Toba Samosir Regency, Humbang Hasundutan Regency, and North Tapanuli Regency.

Nowadays, Toba Batak speakers have spread to various places in Indonesia even to other countries. According to *Summer Institute of Linguistics* (2001) there are 5.150.000 Toba Batak speakers.

Toba Batak as a regional language becomes the topic under discussion in this study. The central issue in this study is comparative forms by prefix [um-]. In Toba Batak, comparative forms is formed by modifying adjectives. Adjective is distinguished from nouns and verbs by differeny types. Nouns have plural markers, verbs have tenses while adjectives do not have such certain markers even if they function as attributive or predicative (Nababan, 1981: 35). In other words, adjective is a word that modifies a pronoun or noun following it (Houghton, 1984: 18). To modify means to change; an adjective modifies a pronoun or noun by describing or limiting or making it more spesific.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

In Toba Batak, adjectives can be preceded by the words *mansai* [massaI] 'very' *tung* [tuŋ] 'very', and *lam* [lAm] 'get like as indicated by the adjectives' (Sitorus, 1986: 94). According to

Ambarita (2018: 81) there are seven affixes that can be attached to adjectives in Toba Batak, *i.e.* prefix

[um-], infix [-um-], suffix [-an], four affix combinations, they are, [*marsi-i*], [*ha-assa*], [*ma-hu*], and [*sa-full adjective reduplication-na*]. The results of attaching affixes to adjectives in Toba Batak are inflectional because the presence of the affixes do not change the word class of the base (Ambarita, 2016: 18). The attachments of affixes to adjectives in Toba Batak result in morphological and phonological processes. According to Nida (1949: 102) the analysis of any language, phonological and distributional data are relevant in establishing the limits of morphological unit.

Adjectives provide the means for creating a mood or a lasting impression of a person, a place, or a thing such as *white*, *black*, *frigid*, etc. Adjectives, however, can also refer to emotional states and abstract qualities. *Innocent*, *angry*, *confusing* are some examples of such adjectives in English. Ambarita (2017: 132) found that adjectives in Toba Batak can be reduplicated in various forms, they are, full reduplication, partial reduplication using prefix, partial reduplication using infix, partial reduplication using suffix, and partial reduplication using affix combinations. According to Quirk *et al* (1985: 402) there are four criteria for adjectives to be considered, they are:

1. They can freely occur in attributive function, that is, they can premodify a noun, epecially between the determiner and the heas of a noun phrase. For instance, a *pretty* lady, a *round* table, etc.
2. They can freely occur in predicative function, that is, they can function as a subject complement and object complement. For example, *The painting is very expensive*.
3. They can be premodified by the intensifier adverbs like *extremely*, *very*, and *so*. For example, *The fruit is very sour*.
4. They can take comparative and superlative forms. The comparison can be formulated by means of the inflections (-*er* and -*est*) or by the addition of the premodifier *more* and *most*. For axample: (a) The children are *happier* now.  
(b) It is the *most* expensive car I know.

Houghton (1984: 134) states to make comparison in English correctly, there some rules to be considered as in the followings:

1. Add the suffix *-est* to form the superlative of modifiers with one or two syllables. In some cases, to form the superlative form correctly, you must change a final *y* to *i*.  
 Example: - big → bigger → biggest  
           - funny → funnier → funniest
2. Use *most* to show the superlative forms with three-syllable words.  
 Example: - beautiful → more beautiful → most beautiful  
           - attractive → more attractive → most attractive
3. Use *least* to form the superlative forms of comparison showing less.  
 Example: - humorous → less humorous → least humorous  
           - hopeful → less hopeful → least hopeful
4. Avoid double comparisons. Use either the word *most* or else the appropriate suffix. Do not combine the two.  
 Incorrect comparison: Sarah is *the most cleverest* of all. Correct comparison : Sarah is *the cleverest* of all.
5. Avoid incomplete comparisons by clearly indicating the things being compared. Example: Incomplete : Joice is *the dilligent* students in her class.  
 Complete : Joice is *the most dilligent* students in her class.

This is a dissemination paper , the data collected and the objectives of this study are to investigate the formation of superlative forms of adjectives by article *na* + prefix [um-] in Toba Batak. in Toba Batak in various morphological and phonological processes

### 3.Results and Discussions

Superlative forms of adjectives by article *na-* + prefix [um-] can be formulated in Toba Batak to all adjectives. Prefix [um-] will undergo morphological and phonological processes if it is attached to the base forms of adjectives as explained below.

#### 1. The initial phonemes of the base forms of the adjectives are vowels, such as, [a], [e], [i], [o], and vowel [u]

Some adjectives in Toba Batak are preceded by vowels like vowels [a], [e], [i], [o], and [u]. Such adjectives can be combined with article *na-* + prefix [um-] to form superlative forms of adjective on condition that morphological process occurs in the combination. The word *arga* [arga] `expensive', for example, if combined with prefix [um-] will be article *na* + [um-] + *arga* [arga] `expensive' → *na ummarga* [na ummarga] `the most expensive'. Other example is *na* + [um-] + *oto* [oto] `stupid' → *na ummoto* [na ummoto] `the most stupid'. Some other adjectives, of which the initial phonemes are vowels, can be seen in the followings together with their superlative forms of adjectives, pronunciations, and meanings.

**Table 1: Superlative forms of adjectives initiated by vowels**

No	Positive Forms	Gloss	Superlative Forms	Pronunciation	Gloss
1	asi	Pity	na ummasi	[na ummasi]	the pitiest
2	asom	Sour	na ummasom	[na ummasom]	the sourest
3	uli	beautiful	na ummuli	[na ummuli]	the most beautiful

Speaking of morpheme, the word *na ummuli* [na ummuli] `the most beautiful' consists of two morphemes, namely, [um-] as a bound morpheme and *uli* [uli] `beautiful' as a free morpheme. Prefix [um-] functions as inflectional morpheme because it does not

change the word class to which it is attached. If article *na* + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives preceded by vowels, the last phoneme of the prefix is doubled. In the sentence above, *na* [um-] + *uli* → *na ummuli* not *\*na umuli*. The word *ummuli* as the integration of article *na* + prefix [um-] and base form *uli* is acceptable in Toba Batak.

On the contrary *\*umuli* is unacceptable. Other example is:

Alai na ummarga sian sude ima hahipason dang  
hamoraon. [alai na ummarga sian ima hahipason dang  
hamoraon] `The most valuable thing of all is health  
not wealth'.

According to the sentence above, there are many things compared, however, *hahipason* [hahipason] `health' is the most valuable of all not `wealth'. Implicitly, the sentence above indicates everything is valuable, however above all *hahipason* `wealth' comes first. Speaking of morpheme within the word *na ummarga* [na ummarga] `the most valuable', the word *na ummarga* derives from article *na* + morpheme [um-] as a bound morpheme and *arga* [arga] `valuable' as a free morpheme. Prefix [um-] gets an addition of bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] because the base form of *arga* [arga] is preceded by a vowel, in this case vowel [a].

As the result of affixation, that is, by attaching prefix to the base form of adjective *arga* above, morphological process occurs to the base adjective. In other words, the base form change according to the neighboring phoneme. The attachment of the prefix to the base forms brings about combination or addition to the two elements. In the example above, phoneme [m] which is added after prefix [um-] and before the base form of adjective *arga* is called nasalization, that is, a process by adding or placing a nasal to the base form. In the example above, prefix [um-] is ended with phoneme [m], and the additional phoneme after the last phoneme of the prefix is also phoneme [m]. In short, it can be said that if prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives preceded by vowels, the last phoneme of the prefix is doubled. Thus, prefix [um-] is pronounced as [umm-] instead of as [um-] sound.

## **2. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b]**

Adjectives of this group can be constructed to form superlative forms by attaching article *na* + prefix [um-] to the base adjectives without neglecting morphological change occurred as shown in the following examples. The word *bagas* [bagas] `deep', for instance, can be constructed to superlative form by adding article *na* + prefix [um-]. Thus, article *na* + prefix [um-] + *bagas* [bagas] `deep' → *na umbagas* [na ubbagas] `the deepest'. Some words in Toba Batak are pronounced differently from their spellings. The word *na umbagas* belongs to this criteria. In *na* [um-] + *bagas* [bagas] `deep' → *na umbagas* [na ubbagas] `the deepest', the word *na umbagas* is not pronounced as it is spelled. It is pronounced as [ubbagas] with double /b/ instead.

Phoneme [m] of prefix [um-] is assimilated and substituted by a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b]. Phoneme [m] of prefix [um-] is pronounced as [b] sound because of the influence of the consonant following it, that is, a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b] in *bagas* [bagas] `deep'. Therefore, if prefix [um-] is attached to base adjectives of which the initial sound is a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b], it is no longer pronounced as [um-] sound, but it is pronounced as [ub-] sound.

The same morphological process also occurs to other adjectives of this kind as in the following data.

**Table 2: Superlative forms of adjectives initiated by bilabial plosive voiced consonant**

No	Positive Forms	Gloss	Superlative Forms	Pronunciation	Gloss
1	balga	Big	na umbalga	[na ubbalga]	the biggest
2	bidang	Wide	na umbidang	[na ubbidan]	the widest
3	birong	Black	na umbirong	[na ubbiroŋ]	the blackest
4	bongak	Roud	na umbongak	[naubboŋak]	the proudest

From the data above, it can be seen that the attachment of article *na* + prefix [um-] to base adjectives results in change to the two combination. Prefix [um-] is no longer pronounced as [um-] sound, but it is pronounced as [ub-] sound. As the result of affixation process, the morphological process results in morphophonemic forms in which phoneme [m] of prefix [um-] changes due to the phonemes following it.

The addition of article *na* + prefix [um-] to the base forms, based on the data above, creates combination that changes the form of the prefix [um-] phonologically. In the data above, phoneme [m] of prefix [um-] is changed to phoneme [b]. Thus, prefix [um-] undergoes morphological process called allomorph, that is, a variant of a morpheme according to its environment. Phoneme [m] as a nasal is changed to phoneme [b] as a plosive because they belong to the same consonant, that is, bilabial voiced consonants. In short, if article *na* + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives preceded by a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b], prefix [um-] is pronounced as [ub-] sound as its allomorph.

### 3. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is a velar plosive voiced consonant [g]

The base form of the adjective *gogo* [gogo] of which the initial sound is a velar plosive voiced consonant [g] can be combined with prefix [um-] to form superlative form. The process will be article *na* + [um-] + *gogo* [gogo] 'strong' → *na unggogo* [na unggogo] 'the strongest'. Word formation of base form of adjective *gogo* [gogo] 'strong' becomes superlative form *na unggogo* [na unggogo] 'the strongest' brings about phonological change. The [m] is pronounced as [g] sound, therefore, the [um-] is pronounced as [ug-] sound.

The following is a sentence which includes adjective with prefix [um-].

Na unggogo di hasiangan on ima hamatean.

[Na unggogo di hasiangan on ima hamatean].

'Death is the strongest in this universe'.

Implicitly, there are many things compared in the sentence above, however, above all *hamatean* [hamatean] 'death' is the strongest. In other words, it is easy to die but it is difficult to survive to live.

### 4. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is a palato alveolar affricate voiced consonant [j]

The base form of adjective *jebu* [jebu] 'passionate', for instance, if added with article *na* + prefix [um-] will be: *na um- + jebu* [jebu] 'passionate' → *na unjebu* [na unjebu] 'the most passionate'. Other example is article *na* + prefix [um-] + *jempék* [jeppek] 'small' → *na unjempék* [na unjeppek] 'the smallest'. In *na um- + jebu* [jebu] 'passionate' → *na unjebu* [na unjebu] 'the most passionate' and in *na um- + jempék* [jeppek] 'small' → *na unjempék* [na unjeppek] 'the smallest', the bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of the prefix [um-] has been changed to alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n] in spelling; it is no longer [m].

The first change occurs in this construction is morphological change, that is, the change of phoneme [m] from a bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] into an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n]. The second change is that the modified [n] is not pronounced as [n] sound, but it is pronounced as a palato alveolar affricate voiced consonant [j]. This latter change can be considered as phonological change.

**5. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is a bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m]**

Article *na* + prefix [um-] + *manat* [manat] 'careful' → *na ummanat* [na ummanat] 'the most careful' is one form of superlative. The word *mura* [mura] 'cheap' which is combined with article *na* + prefix [um-], as another example, will be: *na um- + mura* [mura] → *na ummura* [na ummura] 'the cheapest'. There is not any change in the construction of the word to be comparative form. Prefix [um] remains [um-] both in spelling and in pronunciation and so do the word *manat* [manat] 'careful' and the word *mura* [mura] 'cheap'.

Other example is *na ummahal*. Speaking of morpheme within the word *na ummahal* [na ummahal] 'the most expensive', the word *ummahal* derives from morpheme [um-] as a bound morpheme and *mahal* [mahal] 'expensive' as a free morpheme. Prefix [um-] does not undergo any change either morphologically nor phonologically. It is because the initial phoneme of the base form of the adjective is homogenous nasal with that of the final phoneme of prefix [um-], that is, the bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m].

The same construction also occurs to other adjectives of which initiated by the same initial phoneme [m]. Other adjectives of the same kind are listed below.

**Table 3: Superlative forms of adjectives initiated by bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m]**

No	Positive Forms	Gloss	Superlative Forms	Pronunciation	Gloss
1	mahal	expensive	na ummahal	[na ummahal]	the most expensive
2	metmet	small	na ummetmet	[na ummeʔmet]	the smallest
3	momos	strict	na ummomos	[na ummomos]	the strictest
4	male	hungry	na ummale	[na ummale]	the hungriest

**6. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n]**

One example of adjective preceded by an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n] in Toba Batak is *nipis* [nipis] 'thin'. The construction of this word to form superlative form by attaching article *na* + prefix [um-] will be: *na um- + nipis* [nipis] 'thin' → *na unnipis* [na unnipis] 'the thinnest'. The other example is *na um- + nunut* [nunut] 'diligent' → *na unnunut* [na unnunut] 'the most diligent'.

The only change occurs in forming either the word *na unnipis* [na unnipis] 'the thinnest' or the word *na unnunut* [na unnunut] 'the most diligent' is morphological change, in which prefix [um-] is pronounced as [un-] sound. The bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of prefix [um-] is no longer phoneme [m], but it changes to an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n] as the cause of the integration between prefix [um-] and the base forms of *nipis* [nipis] 'light' and *nunut* [nunut] 'diligent'.

### **7. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant [p]**

The word *padot* [padot] 'diligent', as an example, if modified to be superlative form by attaching article *na* + prefix [um-] will be: *na um- + padot* [padot] 'diligent' → *na umpadot* [na uppapot] 'most diligent'. Other example is *na um- + pistar* [pistar] 'clever' → *na umpistar* [na uppistar] 'the cleverest', *na um- + poso* [poso] → *na umposo* [na upposo] 'the youngest'.

There is morphological change in forming the word *padot* [padot] 'diligent' and *poso* [poso] 'young' becomes superlative form. The bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of prefix [um-] is phonologically pronounced as a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant [p]. Thus, the modified word *na umpadot* [na uppapot] 'the most diligent' is pronounced as [na uppapot] with double /p/ and *na umposo* is pronounced as [na upposo] with double /p/ as well. If *na umpadot* is pronounced as [na umpapot] and *na umposo* is pronounced [na umposo] it is phonologically unacceptable in standard Toba Batak.

From the data above, it can be stated that, if prefix [um-] is combined with adjectives preceded by a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant [p], it does not change in spelling. It remains [um-]; it, however, changes in pronunciation. The bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of prefix [um-] is pronounced as a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant [p]. It is exactly the same with consonant following it. Therefore, [um-] is pronounced as [up-] sound. This change is regarded as a phonological change.

### **8. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is an alveolar rolled voiced consonant [r]**

The word *roa* [roa] 'ugly', for instance, if attached by article *na* + prefix [um-] will become:  
*na um- + roa* [roa] 'ugly' → *na urroa* [urroa] 'the ugliest'. Other example is article *na* + prefix [um-] + *ringgas* → [ringgas] 'diligent' → *na urringgas* [na urringgas] 'the most diligent'. The bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of prefix [um-], both in *na um- + roa* [roa] and in *na um- + ringgas* [ringgas] is changed to an alveolar rolled voiced consonant [r]. The change that occurs in this construction is a morphological change. Hence, from the data above it can be stated that if article *na* + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives of which preceded by an alveolar rolled voiced consonant [r], prefix [um-] is spelt and pronounced as [ur-] sound.

### **9. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is an alveolar fricative voiceless consonant [s]**

One example of the base form of adjective preceded by an alveolar fricative voiceless consonant [s] is *sompit* [soppit] 'narrow'. Article *na* + prefix [um-] + *sompit* [soppit] 'narrow' → *na unsompit* [na ussoppit] 'the narrowest'. The other example is article *na* + prefix [um-] + *sangap* [saŋap] 'respectful' → *na unsangap* [na ussaŋap] 'the most respectful'.

Both morphological and phonological change occur in the construction of the two modified words. The morphological change occurs is that the bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of prefix [um] is spelt as a nasal alveolar voiced consonant [n]. Phoneme [n] is pronounced [s] both in the words *na unsompit* [na ussoppit] and *na unsangap* [na ussaŋap]. Based on the data above, it can be concluded that if article *na* + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives initiated by an alveolar fricative voiceless consonant [s], phoneme [m] of prefix [um-] is spelt as [n] sound, however, pronounced as [s] sound.

#### 10. The initial phoneme of the base forms of the adjectives is an alveolar plosive voiceless consonant [t]

The base form *tibu* [tibu] 'early', for instance, if attached with article *na* + prefix [um-] will be: *na um- + tibu* [tibu] 'early' → *na untibu* [na uttibu] 'the earliest'. Other example is *na um- + timbo* [tibbo] 'tall' → *na untimbo* [na uttibbo] 'the tallest'. There are two changes occurred in the construction of both *na untibu* [na uttibu] 'the earliest' and *na untimbo* [na uttibbo] 'the tallest'. The first change is morphological change in which bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] of prefix [um-] becomes an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n]. Next, the phonological change occurred is that phoneme [n] in the modified words either in *na untibu* or in *na untimbo* is pronounced as an alveolar plosive voiceless consonant [t]. Thus, *na untibu* is pronounced as [na uttibu] with double /t/ and *na untimbo* is pronounced as [na uttibbo] with double /t/ as well.

From the data above, it can be stated that if article *na* + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives preceded by an alveolar plosive voiceless consonant [t], prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-]. Finally, the modified [un-] is no longer pronounced as it is spelled but it is pronounced as [ut-] sound instead. From the discussion about prefix [um-] above, it can be concluded that the meaning of article *na* + prefix [um-] denotes superlative form. It signifies the most meaning of all indicated in the base forms of the adjectives to which article *na* and prefix [um-] attached. The stress of adjective combined with prefix [um-] is put in the second syllable from the end of adjectives.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results and discussions above, it can be concluded that superlative forms of adjectives by article *na* + prefix [um-] in Toba Batak is constructed without considering the number of syllables of the base forms of adjectives as those in English. In Toba Batak, the attachments of article *na* + prefix [um-] to adjectives require the following rules:

- (1) if article *na* + prefix [um-] is attached to adjectives preceded by vowels [a], [e], [i], [o], and [u] the last phoneme of prefix [um-] is doubled i.e [um-] is pronounced as [umm-] sound.
- (2) if the initial phoneme is a bilabial plosive voiced consonant [b], prefix [um-] is pronounced as [ub-] sound as its allomorph.
- (3) if the initial phoneme is a velar plosive voiced consonant [g], prefix [um-] is pronounced as [uŋ-] sound.
- (4) if the initial phoneme is a palato alveolar affricate voiced consonant [j] prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-] sound but pronounced as [uj-] sound.
- (5) if the initial phoneme is a bilabial nasal voiced consonant [m] prefix [um-] does not change.
- (6) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar nasal voiced consonant [n], prefix [um-] is spelt and pronounced as [un-] sound.
- (7) if the initial phoneme is a bilabial plosive voiceless consonant [p], prefix [um-] is spelt as [um-] sound but pronounced as [up-] sound.
- (8) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar rolled voiced consonant [r], prefix [um-] is spelt and pronounced as [ur-] sound.
- (9) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar fricative voiceless consonant [s], prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-] sound but pronounced as [us-] sound.
- (10) if the initial phoneme is an alveolar plosive voiceless consonant [t], prefix [um-] is spelt as [un-] sound but pronounced as [ut-] sound.

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