CHAPTER III

THE NOUN

§71. —Definition: A Noun is a word which signifies the name of anything concrete or abstract.

The Noun Classes

§72. —In Zulu the noun is composed of two formatives, stem and prefix, and is the governing element in the sentence, the form of the noun prefix deciding what shall be the forms of the pronouns, and of the adjectival, relative, possessive and verbal concords, when other parts of speech are brought into relationship with the noun. The stem of the noun is the constant element, being subject to phonetic influences only. Prefixes, on the other hand, may be interchanged to express number, and indicate the class to which the particular nouns belong.

Examples of prefixes indicating change in number:

umuntu (person)  abantu (people)
intaba (hill)      izintaba (hills)
isilo (leopard)  izilo (leopards).

Examples of prefixes indicating change of class:

umuntu (person)  isintu (human race)
ubuntu (human quality).

umuthi (tree)  uthi (stick)
uluthi (poison).

§73. —In Zulu, nouns are divided into 'classes' or 'class genders' according to the form of their prefixes, and of the concordial agreement therewith. The following order is the closest that can be made to that used in Comparative Bantu work:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class No.</th>
<th>Full Sing. Prefix</th>
<th>Full Plur. Prefix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>umu-</td>
<td>aba-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>umu-</td>
<td>aba-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>ili-</td>
<td>ama-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>isi-</td>
<td>izi-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>in-, etc.</td>
<td>izin-, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>ulu-</td>
<td>izin-, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>umu-</td>
<td>aba-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>umu-</td>
<td>aba-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>ulu-</td>
<td>izin-, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>ulu-</td>
<td>izin-, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers in parentheses correspond to Meinhof's system of classification of Ur-Bantu for comparative purposes.

It must be noted that Class [9], derived from Ur-Bantu Class 16, is represented by a short locative prefix; it no longer forms ordinary nouns, nor does it command sentence concord.

§74. —From the above table it will be seen that six of the singular prefixes have corresponding plural forms, while the prefixes of the last four classes do not indicate number. Only the full forms of the prefixes are given above. With the exception of a number of nouns of Classes 1 and 2, which will be treated under the heading of Classes 1a and 2a, every noun in Zulu has one of the above prefixes in the full or in some modified form. As will be seen later, the Class 3 prefix ili- is usually represented by i-., the Class 6 prefix ulu- usually by u-., and the Class 7 prefix in certain cases undergoes a drastic modification.

§75. —It is probable that in proto-Bantu each class of nouns had a definite significance. With certain classes in modern Zulu this significance is still recognisable: with others it is lost. Class 1, for instance, is distinctly the 'Personal Class', and Class 7 the 'Abstract Class'. Indications of significance will be examined in the individual classes.

Class 1

§76. —

Singular Prefix:  umu-,  um-
Plural Prefix:  aba-,  abe-,  ab-

Class indicating persons.
§77.—The full form of the singular prefix is umu-, but in Zulu this is only found with monosyllabic stems, viz.:

\begin{align*}
\text{umuntu} \text{ (person)} & \quad \text{abantu} \\
\text{umuyo} \text{ (man)\textsuperscript{1}} & \quad \text{abafo} \\
\text{umukhwe} \text{ (father-in-law)} & \quad \text{abakhwe} \\
\text{umThwa} \text{ (Bushman)} & \quad \text{abThwa}.
\end{align*}

§78.—Certain speakers pronounce these words merely with a long syllabic \( m \) in place of \( mu \), but the vowel is written except when it ceases to be penultimate as in the diminutive, e.g., umntwana.

§79.—The great bulk of Class 1 nouns, having stems of more than one syllable, take the shortened prefix um- in the singular, e.g.:

\begin{align*}
\text{umfazi} & \quad \text{(wife, woman)} \quad \text{abafazi} \\
\text{umfana} & \quad \text{(boy)} \quad \text{abafana} \\
\text{umnwana} & \quad \text{(child)} \quad \text{abafwana} \\
\text{umumzana} & \quad \text{(headman)} \quad \text{abumumzana} \\
\text{umgane} & \quad \text{(friend)} \quad \text{abangane} \\
\text{umlungu} & \quad \text{(brother-in-law)} \quad \text{abalterni} \\
\text{umzala} & \quad \text{(cousin)} \quad \text{abazala} \\
\text{umThembu} & \quad \text{(a Tembu)} \quad \text{abThembu}.
\end{align*}

§80.—Many personal nouns in this class are formed from verbs, by changing the final vowel of the verb stem to \( -i \), and prefixing the prefixes of Class 1. These nouns indicate the agent of the action signified by the verb.

\begin{align*}
\text{umzali} \quad \text{(parent)} & \quad \text{abazali} \quad \text{<zala} \quad \text{beget} \\
\text{umthakathi} \quad \text{(wizard)} & \quad \text{abathakathi} \quad \text{<thakatha} \quad \text{practise} \\
\text{umneli} \quad \text{(advocate)} & \quad \text{abaneli} \quad \text{<mela} \quad \text{witchcraft} \\
\text{umfundisi} \quad \text{(teacher)} & \quad \text{abafundisi} \quad \text{<fundisa} \quad \text{defend} \\
\text{umfundi} \quad \text{(pupil)} & \quad \text{abafundi} \quad \text{<funda} \quad \text{teach} \\
\text{umshayeli} \quad \text{(driver)} & \quad \text{abashayeli} \quad \text{<shayela} \quad \text{learn} \\
\text{umshayeli} \quad \text{(driver)} & \quad \text{abashayeli} \quad \text{<shayela} \quad \text{drive}
\end{align*}

\footnote{When meaning ‘brother’ this is invariably combined with a possessive to form a compound word. Cf. § 91.}

\footnote{The pronoun oewisise (§ 265) is preferred for ordinary use in Zulu for ‘woman’.}

\footnote{ Pronounced umlam, with final syllabic -m.}

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\begin{align*}
\text{umensi} & \quad \text{(maker)} \quad \text{abensi} \quad \text{<enza} \quad \text{(do)} \\
\text{umakhi} & \quad \text{(builder)} \quad \text{abakhi} \quad \text{<akha} \quad \text{(build)}.
\end{align*}

§81.—A few nouns of this class form their plurals with the prefix \( abe- \). These words indicate tribes or guilds of work.

\begin{align*}
\text{umlungu} \quad \text{(white person)} & \quad \text{abelungu} \\
\text{umSuthu} \quad \text{(Sotho)} & \quad \text{abeSuthu} \\
\text{umTswana} \quad \text{(Tswana)} & \quad \text{abeTswana} \\
\text{umalusi} \quad \text{(herdsman)} & \quad \text{abelusi} \\
\text{umakhi} \quad \text{(basket-maker)} & \quad \text{abelniki}.
\end{align*}

§82.—Note that umZulu (a Zulu) has its plural in Class 3, viz., amaZulu. The individuals of tribes are usually indicated by Class 3 nouns, as i:Swazi (a Swazi), amaSwazi; umZulu is evidently used exceptionally to distinguish it from izulu (sky), the plural form amaZulu, in all probability, being more primitive than the singular. The more usual word for a Zulu, however, is owakwaZulu (pl. abakwaZulu), a pronominal form.

The noun umhlolo (friend), with certain others, takes its plural in Class 2 (see §104).

§83.—Table of Concords for Class 1.

\begin{tabular}{llllll}
Singular: & om- & o- & mu- & wa- & u- & m- \\
Plural: & ab- & aba- & ba- & ba- & ba- & ba-
\end{tabular}

§84.—The concordial agreement with nouns of Class 1 is illustrated in the following sentences:

\begin{enumerate}
\item \text{Umunwana washe omncane ulambile.} (Child)
\item \text{Abantwana bakhe abancane bulambile.} (Children)
\item \text{Abantu bonke basfana ukumbhona umfana.} (People)
\end{enumerate}

\footnote{Notice that the \( m \) is not syllabic before stems beginning in vowels; in these cases \( u \) has been completely elided.}

\footnote{The simple stems of vowel verbs, such as \text{enza} and \text{akha}, are not found such as complete words, the imperative being \text{yenzo} and \text{yakh}.}
(d) Umfundi isi wethu ohlakaniphile
Teacher he-our he-wise
wyabundisa abantu wana abaningi.
he-them-teaches the-children them-many.

§85.—In §84, the nouns are (a) umuntu, (b) abantu, (c) abantu (subject) and umfana (object), (d) umfundisi (subject) and abantu (object).
In (a) wakhe is possessive, omncane adjective, and uma-mbele verb, each in concordial agreement with umuntu (Class 1 sing.).
In (b) bakhe is possessive, abacane adjective, and bala-mbele verb, each in concordial agreement with abantu (Class 1 plur.).
In (c) bonke is quantitative pronoun agreeing with abantu, and basuna is the verb in concordial agreement ; ukunbona is a Class 8 verbal noun in which m- is the objectival concord in agreement with umfana, the object of bona.
In (d) wethu is possessive, oholakaniphile relative, and wyabundisa verb in concordial agreement with the subject umfundisi (Class 1 sing.) ; abaningi is adjective in concordial agreement with abantu (Class 1 plur.), while the ba- of wyabundisa is the objectival concord in agreement.

Class 1a

§86.—Singular Prefix: u-
Plural Prefix : o:, awo-.
Class indicating (a) Proper names.
(b) Kinship relation.
(c) Miscellaneous words, many signifying animals, probably personifications.
(d) Words of foreign origin.
The plural prefix awo- is an older form and is not now so generally used as o:- Note that this prefix o:- is a long vowel.

§87.—All proper names belong to this class.

uMphande (Mpande)
uNgosa (Ngoza)

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uCetshwayo (Cetywayo)
uZashuwe (Zashuke)
uNkulunkulu (God).

Notice also the following terms indicating 'what-do-you-call-him':

unansika (pl. o:nansika)
unokanja (pl. o:nokanja)
inewadi kanokanja (what-d'you-call-him's book).

§88.—The plural of proper names is used in one of two ways, either (a) as a regular plural indicating more than one person of the particular name, or (b) to indicate the person and the people who are with him, those under his charge.¹
(a) o:Jojo (the Jojos)
o:Ntengo (the Ntengos)
(b) o:Zashuke (Zashuke and his people)
   o:Ngosa samukile (Ngoza and his party have departed)
   Kwa fikika o:Sobantu (Sobantu and his people arrived).

§89.—Many terms of kinship relation are found in this class.

uBaba (my, our father) o:Baba or awoba
uyhlo (thy, your father) o:yhlo
uyise (his, her, their father) o:yise
umame (my, our mother) o:mame
unyoko (thy, your mother) o:nyoko
unina (his, her, their mother) o:ni
ukhulu (grandparent) o:khulu
umalume (my maternal uncle) o:malume
ubabekazi (my paternal aunt) o:babekazi
uwabo (one of same age as he is) o:wa
uwethu (one of same age as we are) o:we
unkami (my wife) o:mkami
unkakho (thy wife) o:mkakho
unkakhe (his wife) o:mkakhe.

¹The plural of the Class 1 noun, umnyeni (bridegroom) may be treated in the same way ; abayeni may mean 'the bridegroom and his party'.

§90.—Notice that in Zulu there are no general terms to indicate 'father' and 'mother'; the terms used each imply a possessor, 'my father', 'thy father', etc. The singular possessives wami, wakho, etc., are never used with these terms; but, if the plural possessive ideas of 'our', 'their', etc., are required to be emphasised, wethu, wabo, etc., may be added to the singular forms, and bethu, babo, etc., to the plural forms. Thus 'our father' is ubaha or ubaha wethu; 'your mothers' is o:nyoko or o:nyoko bems.

The forms umalume (my maternal uncle), umyokelume (thy maternal uncle), uminalume (his maternal uncle), are treated as the above forms.

§91.—udade-, together with the Class 1 term unfo-, is used in an exceptional way with respect to the possessives; and, when these terms mean 'sister' and 'brother' respectively, they invariably form one word with the possessives, and are joined thereto. The possessive stem must always be plural in form (-ethu, -emu and -bo) while the possessive concord must always be singular (wa-), even when the plural forms of the nouns, o:dale- and abufo-, are used. Thus:

udadebethu (my, our sister) o:deadebethu
udade bene (thy, your sister) o:deade bene
udade baho (his, her, their sister) o:deade baho
umfoethu (my, our brother) a bafowethu
umfo wethu (thy, your brother) a bafowethu
umfo waho (his, her, their brother) a bafowaho.

§92.—Many miscellaneous words and names of animals are found in this class.

ugamzyi (tobacco) o:gazmyi
umoba (sugar-cane) o:moza
umyazi (moonlight) o:myazi
wjojo (long-tailed finch) o:jojo

1Notice, however, that when the possessive portion of the word is omitted umufo means 'son of', e.g., umufo kaGumede (Gumede's son).
2Exceptionally-used plural indicating variety.

§93.—A certain number of words of foreign origin, mostly derived from English and Afrikaans, is found in this class. For instance:

umponwe (pound) or uponwe o:mponde or o:pondwe
uskeni (shilling) o:skeni
umgayimbayi (cannon) o:mgayimbayi
umse (knife) o:mes.

§94.—The interrogative noun ubani (who ?), pl. obani, belongs to this class. Notice also the following terms:

ubani nobani (so-and-so and so-and-so)
ubani wam (so-and-so)

§95.—Verb stems may be employed as nouns of Class 1a, by prefixing u- (pl. o:-). This applies to all verbs, other than monosyllabic stems, whether in simple or derivative form, and includes perfect stems.

uona (a seeing) o:ona
uhlanipha (a being wise) o:hlani pha
uwile (a having fallen) o:wele.

Examples:

Inkokholo kaBona wakhe noma wani yimbuzi (The payment for his seeing and my going is a goat).
Uwele lo omkhulu lo akaso i:qinis (The fall you have mentioned did not happen).

Also used with tense forms and subject concords:

Kudingeka o:ngiyasebenza hhayi o:ngilele (Only the working people and not the sleepy are required).

§96.—A number of imported words indicating fruits have alternative plurals in Classes 1a and 3, as follows:

umunshi (naartjie) o:munshi or amanunshi
umwolintshi (orange) o:umwolintshi or amawolintshi
umatimisi (tomato) o:umatimisi or amatimisi.

1Pronounced umohem, with final syllabic -m.
2From the English 'by-and-by'; on asking what a cannon was, Natives were told that they would see 'by-and-by'.
3The more usual form is umwese, pl. imwese, Class 2, from Afrikaans 'mes'; umwese differs from umwese in tone.
A further alternative treatment of such nouns is found in Class 2a (cf. §108).

§97.—These nouns form a sub-class to Class 1, because, while the noun prefixes are different, the concords throughout are the same as for Class 1. There will also be noted a special treatment of possessive construction, when a noun in the singular of Class 1a represents the possessor.

§98.—Examples of concordial agreement:

(a) Udadwelethu omncane ufikile i:zolo.

Our-sister she-small she-arrived yesterday.

(b) O:dadwelethu obancane bafikile i:zolo.

Our-sisters they-small they-arrived yesterday.

(c) Uyihi lo olakaniphiile ubithathiile

Thy-father he-wise he-them-took

owmese bobabili.

the-knives them-both.

(d) O:Zashake bobathathu ba:minbonga

The-Zashukes they-all-three they-him-thanked

kakhulu uNtengo.

greatly Ntengo.

Class 2

§99.—Singular Prefix: umu-, um-.

Plural Prefix: imi-, im-.

This is sometimes called the 'Tree' or 'River' class, but in Zulu it is mostly of a miscellaneous nature. ¹

§100.—Examples with full-form prefix umu-:

umu bini (tree) imi bini

umuzi (kraal, village) imi zizi

umunwe (finger) imi nwe

umudwa (scratch) imi dwa.

In these cases all of the stems are monosyllabic. Umthi

and umzi, with long syllabic -m, are often heard instead of the above.

⁵See, however, Bleek, ‘Comp. Gram.’, §§ 438, 439.

§101.—The following words, monosyllabic in stem, are found in the singular only:

umu bini (smoke)

umuza (kindness).

Notice that the word umuso (the morrow) is only used in the singular, and only in conjunction with the adverbial formative nga-, forming the adverb ngumuso (to-morrow).

§102.—Examples with the prefix um-:

umfula (river) imifula

umthombo (spring of water) imithombo

umkhonto (spear) imikhonto

ummbelo (bushed kraal) imimbelo or immbelo

umnyango (doorway) iminyango

umkhabela (earth, land) imihamba

umkhahali (ground, soil) imikhahali

umilo (fire) imililo

umzoyanaf (air, breath) imimoya or immoya

umnyaka (year) iminyaka

umsebenzi (work) imsebenzi

umisindu (noise) imisindo

umkhuzume (cold, fever) imikhuzume

umkhumbi (ship) imikhumbi

ummbila (maize) imimbila or immbila

umzimba (body) imizimba

umilenze (leg) imilenze

umkhono (forearm) imikhono

umilomo (mouth) imilomo

umkhuba (custom) imikhuba

umhlambi (flock) imihlambi

umkhiwane (fig tree) imikhwinhane

umthungulu (Natal plum) imthungulu

umkhoba (yellow-wood) imikhoba

umthetho (law) imithetho

umhawu (jealousy) imihawu

¹There is also a Class 1a word umoya (spirit), which has as plural omoya; this is due to missionary influence.

²Or in Class 1a, umyaka, pl. omnyaka.
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§103.—From the above list it is seen that in addition to several names of trees, this class, in Zulu, includes the names of a number of parts of the body. Amongst the names of rivers placed in this class, notice the following:

- umNgeni (Umngeni River)
- umZumbe (Umzumbe River)
- umHlatuza (Umhlatuze River)
- umVo1hi (Umvoti River).

§104.—Certain personal nouns have the singular in Class 1, but take the plural from Class 2. The principal one of these is umhlobo (friend), with plural imihlobo. It must be noted, however, that there is a tendency nowadays to use the Class 1 plural abahlobo.

Among other nouns using Class 1 singular and Class 2 plural may be noted:—

- umlin-dankosi (King’s body-guard) imilindankosi
- umsheshengwana (sneaking informer) imisheshengwana
- umbonamalhuni (pessimist) imibonamalhuni
- umkhambuma (pilgrim) imikhambuma.

It is noticeable that most of such words are compound nouns.

§105.—Table of Concord for Class 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular : om- o- mu- wa- u- uu-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural : emi- e- mi- ya- i- yi-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§106.—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 2:

(a) Umkhulu wakhe omuki upheli1ke manje.
   Fever it-his it-bad it-is-finished now.

(b) Imikhulu yabo emiti1 upheli1ke manje.
   Fever they-their they-bad they-are-finished now.

1In these words m is not syllabic before the vowel stem.

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§107.—Singular Prefix: u-.
Plural Prefix: i-.

This is a restricted sub-class containing imported words, mainly indicating foreign fruits.

§108.—Examples:

- unantshi (naartjie) inantshi
- unolontshi (orange) inxolonthi
- upopo (paw-paw) ipopo
- utatamisi (tomato) itatamisi.

These nouns may alternatively be treated as belonging to Class 1a (cf. §96), and may additionally take a plural in Class 3.

§109.—These nouns form a sub-class of Class 2, because, while the noun prefixes are different, the concords throughout are the same as for Class 2.

§110.—Examples of concordial agreement:

(a) Upopo omncane uifikile i:zolo.
   The paw-paw it-small it-arrived yesterday.

(b) Ipopo emncane uifikile i:zolo.
   The paw-paws they-small they-arrived yesterday.

(c) Ubaba uyithathile itatamisi yomibili.
   My-father he-them-took the-tomatoes them-both.

Class 3

§111.—Singular Prefix: ili- i:-.
Plural Prefix: ama-.
Miscellaneous class.
§112.—All words in this class may be used either with full form or with contracted form of prefix in the singular. The full form, however, is practically confined to rhetorical and poetical expression, and the contracted form is almost universal in common speech. It is important to remember that the i:- of the contracted form is long.

§113.—Examples of nouns of Class 3:

izwe (country)  amazwe
izwi (word, voice)  amazwi
i:zulu1 (sky)  amazulu
i:langa (sun)  amalanga
itshe (stone)  amatshe
i:khashi (horse)  amakhashi
ifu (cloud)  amafu
i:geja (hoe)  amageja
i:khanda (head)  amakhanda
i:ganda (egg)  amaganda
i:shambo (bone)  amathambo
i:gazi (blood)  amagazi2
i:bubesi (lion)  amabubesi.

§114.—Note the following exceptional plural formations:

iso (eye)  amehlo
iva (thorn)  ameva.

In each of these cases the stem commences with the vowel i-, which explains, by coalescence, the e- of the plural. The reason for the change of s in the singular of the first example to h in the plural is not known.

§115.—Class 3 contains a number of imported words:

i:bukwe (trousers)  Afrikaans ‘broek’
i:hantsi (coat)  ‘baatji’
i:hembe (shirt)  ‘hemp’
i:hansi (goose)  ‘ganse’
i:tagula (table)  ‘tafel’

1The concords of this word are used when talking of the weather, e.g., liyans (it is raining), liyaduma (it thunders), liyakhithika (it snows).
2Plural used to indicate different kinds only.
3As a rule, h in Zulu corresponds to s in Central Bantu. It is possible that a sound-shifting has not taken place in the Zulu singular.

§116.—The names of individuals of many nations or tribes are contained in this class:

i:Ngisi (Englishman)  amaNgisi
i:Bunu (Boer)  amaBunu
i:Lawu (Hottentot)  amaLawu
i:Swazi (Swazi)  amaSwazi.

§117.—The following nouns, amongst others, many indicating liquids, are found in the plural of this class only:

amenzi (water)
amasi (curdled milk)
amakhaza (cold)
amafutha (fat, oil)
amandla (strength)
amanga (falsehood, lies)
amazolo (dew)
amathe (spittle)
amanyala (filth)
amayesi (cloudiness)
amakha (scent).

This type of plural is termed pluralia tantum.

§118.—Care must be taken not to confuse with other classes words such as the following:

(a) Not to be confused with Class 5 sing.
i:nyathelo (sandal)  amanyathelo
i:nseba (wound)  amanseba
i:nsele (left-handed person)  amansele
i:nxiwe (old village site)  amanxiwe.

(b) Not to be confused with Class 4 sing.
i:siko (custom)  amasiko
i:sono (gateway)  amasono
i:zondo (hoof)  amasondo.

(c) Not to be confused with Class 4 plur.
i:zinyane (young)  azinyane
i:zibuko (ford)  azibuko
i:zinyo (tooth)  azinyo
i:zimu (cannibal, ogre)  azimuz.
These words are distinguished by the length of the initial vowel. Several words, however, with long initial vowel but monosyllabic stem, e.g.: inja (dog), imvu (sheep), do belong to Class 5. In these cases the long vowel is always followed by a nasal consonant.

§119.—Table of Concord for Class 3.

Singular: eli- eli- li- la- li- li-
Plural: ama- ama- a- a- wa-

§120.—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 3:

(a) I:hashi lami elihle lihambole.
   Horse it-my it-fine it-has-gone.
(b) Amahhashi ami amahle ahambile.
   Horses they-my they-fine they-have-gone.
(c) Amazimu amnyama afuna ukulipheka
   Cannibals they-black they-want to-him-cook
   i:vi-la.
   the-sluggard.
(d) I:katxi lakho elinnyama liwafulule
   Cat it-thy it-black it-them-killed
   amadada amathathu.
   the-ducks them-three.

Class 4

§121.—Singular Prefix: isi-, is-
Plural Prefix: izi-, iz-

§122.—Examples:

isi:lalo (seat) izi:lalo
isitsha (plate) isitsha
isilo (wild beast) i:ilo
isi:thupa (thumb) isi:thupa
isi:fo (disease) isi:fo
isi:nkwa (bread) isi:nkwa
isi:nhaya (cattle-krakaal) isi:nhaya
isi:khathi (time) isi:khathi
isi:hambi (visitor) isi:hambi
isi:fula (chest) isi:fula

THE NOUN

silonda (sore) ziałonda
isicathulo (shoe) izicathulo
isibamu (gun) izibamu.

§123.—The final vowel of the prefix is elided before stems commencing in a vowel:

isandla (hand) izandla
isalukazi (old woman) izalukazi
isando (hammer) izando
isenzo (deed) izenso
isoni (evil doer) izoni
isono (sin) izono.

§124.—The following words may be used with the prefix either isi- or isa-:

isinkuthu (animal's head cooked
   whole) or isankuthu
isingcokolo (grub in mealie stalks) or isangcokolo
isinkunishane (species of plant) or isankunishane
isi:ga (aphorism) or isaga
isicatehe (person with unpierced
car) or isacathe
isi:ja (water in hemp-horn) or isa:ja.

§125.—Amongst the nouns of this class the following are included:

(a) Groves or clumps of trees or herbs:
   isikhova (banana plantation) < u:khova (banana)
   isidumbi (garden of amadumbi) < i:dimbi (tuber)
   isignayi (tobacco patch) < ugwayi (tobacco)
   isidhube (garden of Kafir beans) < u:di:ube (Kafir bean)
   isikhiwane (grove of figs) < umkhiwane (fig tree).

(b) Languages and characteristics:
   isi:Ngisi (English language)
   isi:Zulu (Zulu language, Zulu manners)
   isi:Xhosa (Xhosa language)
   isi:Bunu (Xhosa language).

1 Pronounced isibam, with final syllabic -m.
2 In all probability this is a case of elision of either the final vowel of the prefix or the initial vowel of the stem, this being -a in each example.
ZULU GRAMMAR

(c) Ordinal Numbers:

isibili (the second)
isithathu (the third)
isihlanu (the fifth)
ngolwelekhulane (on Friday).

(For a full consideration of the Ordinal Numbers, see §785.)

§126.—Table of Concord for Class 4.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular:</td>
<td>esi-</td>
<td>esi-</td>
<td>si-</td>
<td>sa-</td>
<td>si-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural:</td>
<td>esim-</td>
<td>esiz-</td>
<td>zi-</td>
<td>za-</td>
<td>zi-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§127.—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 4:

(a) Isiyo sakhe esibi siphelile manje.
    Disease it-his it-bad it-is-finished now.

(b) Isiyo zabo esinhi siphelile manje.
    Diseases they-their they-bad they-are-finished now.

(c) Isihambi zokhe zifana ukusibona isilo.
    Visitors they-all they-want to-it-see the-wild-beast.

(d) Isibamvu sami esikhulu sizibulele
    Gun it-my it-big it-them-killed
    izilo esinhalu.
    the-wild-beasts them-three.

Notice that the adjectival concord for the plural of this class usually contains a nasal consonant. This is, in all probability, due to false analogy with the plurals of Classes 5 and 6.

Class 5

§128.—Singular Prefix:  im-, in-, iny-, etc.

Plural Prefix:  isim-, isin-, iziny-, etc.

This is generally known as the ‘Animal Class’ on account of the number of names of animals found in it.

§129.—The form of the nasal in the prefix depends upon the form of the initial consonant of the noun stem. Thus labial consonants will be preceded by m-, alveolar consonants by n-, prepalatal consonants by n- (phon. ŋ), and velar consonants by n- (phon. y). The various clicks will either be preceded by n- (velar) or will themselves become nasal.

§130.—impisi (hyena)  izimpisi
    impande (root)  izimpande
    imbuzi (goat)  izimbuzi
    imbenge (basket)  izimbenge
    imfezi (species of snake)  izimfezi
    imfene (baboon)  izimfene
    imvuna (sheep)  izimvuna
    impula (rain)  izimpula.

§131.—intombi (maiden)
    izintombi
    into (thing)  izinto
    indlaba (affair)  izindlaba
    induna (captain)  izinduna
    insiziwa (youth)  izinsiziwa
    insimbi (iron)  izinsimbi
    inzuzo (profit)  izinzuzo
    inxlanzi (fish)  izinxlanzi
    inhliziyo (heart)  izinhliziyo
    indlu (hut)  izindlu
    indlovu (elephant)  izindlovu.

§132.—intshe (ostrich)
    izintshe
    intshintsho (male duiker)  izintshintsho
    inja (dog)  izinja
    injobo (tail of girdle)  izinjobo

1 Strictly speaking this is only true of the bi-labial consonants, p and b, the denti-labial consonants, f and v, being preceded by the denti-labial nasal, ŋ (see § 20); but as this nasal belongs to the same phoneme as m in Zulu, a separate symbol is not used.

2 In ordinary conversation the diminutive, intombazana, is the polite term to use.

3 Plural rarely used.
§133.—**inkomo** (beast, one of cattle)  
**izinkomo**  
**inkhibi** (ox)  
**izinkhibi**  
**inkuku** (fowl)  
**izinkuku**  
**ingane** (baby)  
**izingane**  
**ingubo** (blanket)  
**izingubo**  
**inkluza** (song accompaniment)  
**izingulu**  
**ingcibi** (wise man)  
**izingcibi**  
**ingcosana** (small quantity)  
**izando**  
**ingqungqulu** (species of eagle)  
**izingqungqulu**  
**ingxangxa** (green frog)  
**zingxangxa**.

§134.—**incwadi** (book, letter)  
**izingwadi**  
**incweku** (official of chief)  
**izingweku**  
**ingola** (wagon)  
**izingola**  
**ingama** (ram)  
**izingama**  
**inxonxo** (meat on thigh joint)  
**izingama**

§135.—The following words, amongst others, have no plural forms:  
**imfe** (sweet reed)  
**inhlamba** (obscene language)  
**inzala** (seed).

§136.—The following nouns of Class 5 sing. form their plurals according to Class 3, in ama-:  
**inkosi** (chief)  
**amakhosi**  
**inkosikazi** (chief's wife, married)  
**amakhosikazi**  
**inkosana** (chief's heir)  
**amakhosana**  
**inkosazane** (chief's daughter, unmarried lady)  
**amakhosazane**  
**inzedda** (man)  
**amadoda**  
**indodana** (son)  
**amadodana**  
**indodakazi** (daughter)  
**amadodakazi**

---

**THE NOUN**

 intrusive¹ (little girl)  
 ***amantombazana**²  
 **inkonyana**¹ (calf)  
 ***amankonyana**²  
 **insimu** (land, field)  
 ***amasimu***

Most of these are names of persons. All concords with the plurals of these words are, of course, those of Class 3 plural.

§137.—**Table of Concord for Class 5**:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular:</strong></td>
<td><strong>em-</strong>, etc.</td>
<td><strong>e-</strong></td>
<td><strong>ya-</strong></td>
<td><strong>yi-</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plural:</strong></td>
<td><strong>ezim-</strong>, etc.</td>
<td><strong>ezi-</strong></td>
<td><strong>za-</strong></td>
<td><strong>zi-</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§138.—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 5:

(a) **Imbuzi yakhe enhle iambahle.**  
Goat it-his it-fine it-has-gone.

(b) **Isimbuzi sakhe ezinhle zikambile.**  
Goats they-his they-fine they-have-gone.

(c) **Izinja ezimbili zifuna ukuyluma iimvu.**  
Dogs they-two they-want to-it-bite the-sheep.

(d) **Inkosazane ehlakani phile izihlengile izinkosana.**  
Chief he-our he-wise he-them-bought the-cows ezinhlophile.  
them-white.

In the case of the adjectival concords, where the nasal is retained, the form of that nasal is determined (as with the noun prefixes) by the form of the initial consonant of the adjectival root. For instance, **inkosi embi** (evil chief), **inkosi enhle** (good chief), **inkosi enkulule** (great chief).

---

**Class 6**

§139.—**Singular Prefix:**  
**ulu-**, **u-**.

**Plural Prefix:**  
**izim-**, **izin-**, **iziny-**, **izi-**, etc.

A miscellaneous class in Zulu, in many instances, however, indicating long objects.

¹In each of these cases there is a common variant ending in -e instead of -a, e.g., intombazane, etc.

²The nasal is retained in these plurals.
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§140.—As with the singular of Class 3, all words in this class may be used either with full form or with contracted form of prefix in the singular. The full form, however, is practically confined to rhetorical and poetical expression, and the contracted form is almost universal in common speech. It must be carefully noticed that the u:- of the contracted form is long.

As with the prefixes of Class 5, the form of the nasal in the plural prefix depends on the form of the initial consonant of the noun stem. Thus labial consonants will be preceded by m-, alveolar consonants by n-, prepalatal consonants by n- (phon. n), and velar consonants and clicks by n- (phon. y), while the nasal is usually omitted before l, and a special form of nasalisation takes place before w, y and h (voiced and unvoiced).

§141.—Examples of words with stems commencing in a labial consonant:

-u: Bambo (rib) izimbambo
-u: Phondo (horn) izimpondo
-u: Phapho (feather) izimpapho
-u: Monya (python) izimonya
-u: Fudu (tortoise) izimfudu
-u: Vemvane (butterfly) izimvemvane.

Note that u:bani (lightning) and u: bisi (milk) have no plural forms.

§142.—Examples of words with stems commencing in an alveolar consonant:

-u: Thi (stick) izinti
-u: Donga (ravine) izindonga
-usu (stomach) izinsu
-u: Zipho (claw) izinzipho
-u: Hlobo (species) izinhlobo

§143.—Examples of words with stems commencing in l:

-u: Kwande (sea) izikhwande
-u: Kwembu (spider) izikhwembu
-u: Limi (language, tongue) izikhwimi.

Note that u:laza (cream) and u:laka (ill-temper) are not used in the plural.

§144.—Examples of words with stems commencing in a prepalatal consonant:

-u: Shikishi (quarreler) izishikishi
-u: Nyawo (foot) izinyawo
-u: Nombazi (tear) izinyembazi.

Notice that u:mu (honey) has no plural; and that u:shangushangu (roving person) takes a form of double plural, izinhlangunlashangu, a common formation with reduplicated stems.

§145.—Examples of words with stems commencing in a velar explosive consonant:

-u: Khuni (firewood) izinkuni
-u: Khze (spoon) izinkezo
-u: Gagane (thorn tree) izingagane
-u: Klangakanga (watery food) takes a form of double plural izikhlangankanga.

§146.—Words with stems commencing in w, y, h and hh have alternative plurals; either the nasal is dropped or changes take place as follows:

(a) Nasal + w > w or ngw: u:walaka (very tall person) > iziwalaka or izingwalaka.

(b) Nasal + y > y or ny: u:yaba (swarm) > iziyaba or izinyaba.

1With stems commencing in a nasal the prefix is izi- only.
2Rarely used in the plural, but introduced for purposes of teaching geography.
3Also found as u:lembo.
4When u:limi is used meaning 'tongue', there is an alternative plural izindimi, illustrating the more common Bantu change of l to d under nasal influence.
5With stems commencing in a nasal the prefix is izi- only.
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(c) Nasal + h > h or nk: u: hazane (rapid walker) > izihazane or izinkazane; u: hambo > izihambo or izinkambo.

(d) Nasal + hh > hh or ng: u: hhohho (large hut) > izihhohho or izingohho.

§147.—With stems commencing in clicks, the rules for the form of the nasal in the plural prefix are as follows:

(1) If the click is unvoiced and unaspirated, it becomes voiced in the plural, and is preceded by the prefix izin- (phon. iziy-).

(2) If the click is aspirated it becomes nasalised and is preceded by izi-.

(3) If the click is voiced or nasal, it is preceded in the former case by izin- and undergoes no change, and in the latter case by izi-.

Examples:

u: cezu (slice) izingcezu
u: qunqa (grass stalk) izingqunqa
u: chushele (sharp instrument) izinchushele
u: chachambane (wild berry) izinchachambane
ugxa (digging stick) izingxa
u: xecence (tinkling thing) izinchence.

Note: u: kwene (species of tree) is not used in the plural.

§148.—It is noticeable that in several instances words in this class have parallels in Class 5, e.g.:

into and uho (thing)
indindo and u: thando (love)
indaba and u: dafa (affair)
inkolo and u: kholo (religion).

§149.—Table of Concord for Class 6:

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>olu-</td>
<td>olu-</td>
<td>lea-</td>
<td>lu-</td>
<td>lu-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plural</td>
<td>ezim-, etc.</td>
<td>esi-</td>
<td>zi-</td>
<td>za-</td>
<td>zi-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

§150.—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 6:

(a) U: di: fi lwakhe oluncane lufikile i: zolo.
   Baggage-boy he-his he-small he-arrived yesterday.

(b) Izindi: fi zabo ezincane zifikile
   Baggage-boys they-their they-small they-arrived
   i: zolo.
   yesterday.

(c) U: thi lwami olude izishayile izimwabu
   Stick it-my it-long it-them-struck the-chameleons
   ezinkulu.
   them-large.

(d) Izinsfu: lu zonke ezincane ziluphuzile
   Tortoises they-all they-small they-it-drunk
   u: bisi lwemkono.
   the-milk it-of-the-cow.

Class 7

§151.—Prefix: ubu-.
This class contains abstract nouns for the greater part, and a number of nouns expressing collectivity. The prefix in this class is not definitely indicative of number: there is no real plural form, thus ubuso means 'face' or 'faces'.

§152.—The full form of the prefix is ubu-. A restricted number of nouns is used with camouflaged prefix, due to vowel elision or palatalisation. For rhetorical or poetical purposes these nouns sometimes assume a super-added prefix.

§153.—Examples with normal prefix:

u: buthongo (sleep)
u: buhlala (beads)
ubusuku (night)
ubusika (winter)
ubuso (face)
ubulungu (pain).

§154.—Examples with camouflaged prefix:

u boya (wool, hair)
ubomi (happiness)
ubovu (pus)
utshani (grass)
utshwala (beer).
The origin of these words is interesting. In ubbleya, the root is -oya, the prefix being ubu-, thus ubu + oya > ubbleya. In the cases of ubomi and ubonzi, the roots are respectively -omi and -onzi. In ukshani, the root is -ani, the real prefix ubu- being camouflaged by palatalisation (see §34), thus ubu + ani > utshani, ubwani being impossible to Zulu phonology. Similarly with ushwala palatalisation has taken place, the derivation being ubu + ala, and the semi-vowel w retained. Despite these origins, fuller forms, with an additional ubu-prefix, are used, e.g., ububoya, ubushani, ubushwala, etc.\(^1\)

§155.—Abstract nouns in this class may be formed:

1. With the stems of other nouns by the substitution of the prefix ubu- for the prefixes of those nouns, e.g.:
   - Inkosi (chief) > ubukhosi (chieftainship)
   - Umntwana (child) > ubuntwana (childhood)
   - Ivela (sluggard) > ubulela (laziness)
   - Umuntu (person) > ubuntu (humanity)
   - Inga (dog) > ubunga (rudeness)
   - Indoda (male person) > ubudoda (manliness)
   - I:lele (breast) > ubulele (tenderness)
   - Umthakathi (witch) > ubuthakathi (witchcraft).

2. From adjectives and relatives by prefixing ubu-, e.g.:
   - Bi (evil) > ububi (evil)
   - Bhubhu (great) > ububhu (greatness)
   - Bhe (beautiful) > ubube (beauty)
   - Be (long) > ubube (length)
   - Mwandi (sweet) > ubumwandi (sweetness)
   - Be (naked) > ubuze (nakedness).

§156.—Table of Concord for Class 7:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obu-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)The word ubheti (excrement) has come into this class from some other Bantu language which has the class aka-\(\text{ubu-}\).

\(^2\)After ubu- with relative stems commencing in syllabic -m, as -mnene, -mwanzi, the m is often omitted.

\(^3\)Never ubo- in Zulu, where w is incompatible with a bilabial consonant.

§157.—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 7:

(a) Ushulalu bakhe obuncane bulalekile.
   - Beads they-her they-small they-are-lost.

(b) Utshani bonke obude masibulethe lapha.
   - The-grass it-all it-long let-us-it-bring here.

Class 8

§158.—Prefix: \(\text{uku-}, \text{ukw-}, \text{uk-}\).

This is the class of verbal nouns. All verb infinitives, without exception, may be used as nouns of this class. Whether the noun is singular or plural in intent and meaning, there is only one form of prefix in this class.

§159.—Examples:

- Ukudla (food, eating)
- Ukushisa (heat)
- Ukuphila (health)
- Ubwune (consent)
- Ukubhanya (light, shining)
- Ukulunga (righteousness)
- Ukuhlakahami (wisdom, cleverness)
- Ukuphela (end).

§100.—With verb stems commencing in the vowel a- or e-, the final u of the Class 8 prefix becomes w; with stems commencing in the vowel o-, the final u of the prefix is elided.

Examples:

- Ukubaba (distribution) < -aba
- Ukwenzza (doing, deed) < -enza
- Ukona (sining, sin) < -ona.

§161.—Nouns may be formed in this way by using negative infinitives, e.g.:

- Ukwazi (knowing, knowledge)
- Ukwangazi (not knowing, ignorance)
- Ukuhanda (loving, love)
- Ukwangathandi (not loving, dislike).
$\S 162.$—Table of Converds for Class 8:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oku-</td>
<td>oku-</td>
<td>ku-</td>
<td>kwa-</td>
<td>ku-</td>
<td>ku-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$\S 163.$—Examples of concordial agreement with nouns of Class 8:

(a) Uku\text{\textsc{ul}}la kwethu konke kupheli\text{\textsc{le}}.
Food it-our it-all it-is-finished.

(b) Sipha\text{\textsc{u}}na ukukut\text{\textsc{o}}nza ukukhanya okukhulu
We-desire to-them-see the-lights them-big
them-two.

Class [9]

$\S 164.$—Prefix: \text{\textsc{p}}ha-.  

In Zulu today this class (Ur-Bantu Class 16) is no longer represented by nouns. The prefix is used adverbially as a locative formative (see $\S 602$) and is a pre-prefix without initial vowel, being used before certain nouns which already have a prefix, e.g.:

\text{\textsc{p}}h\text{\textsc{h}}andle (outside), i.e., \text{\textsc{p}}ha- + in\text{\textsc{d}}le
\text{\textsc{p}}he\text{\textsc{s}}ulu (above), i.e., \text{\textsc{p}}ha- + i:zulu.

There are no longer any regular converds to this class in Zulu; in the case of the use of a possessive concord, that of Class 10 is employed (see $\S 604$), e.g., \text{\textsc{p}}h\text{\textsc{h}}andle kw\text{\textsc{e}}nd\text{\textsc{l}}u (outside the house). This class is found represented in the demonstratives, no longer pronominal, but adverbial, e.g., \text{\textsc{l}}apha (here), \text{\textsc{l}}apho (there), \text{\textsc{l}}aphay\text{\textsc{d}}: (yonder), cf. $\S 241$.

$\S 165.$—Prefix: \text{\textsc{u}}ku-.  

This class (Ur-Bantu Class 17) is represented by very few nouns in Zulu, the significance of which is of place (locative), time or indefinite material.

\text{\textsc{u}}kw\text{\textsc{i}}nd\text{\textsc{l}}u (autumn)
\text{\textsc{u}}k\text{\textsc{u}}nto (something— indefinite)
\text{\textsc{u}}k\text{\textsc{u}}n\text{\textsc{u}}ne (the right side)
\text{\textsc{u}}k\text{\textsc{u}}nx\text{\textsc{e}}le (the left side).

Examples of use:

\text{\textsc{u}}kun\text{\textsc{u}}ne\text{\textsc{e}} kw\text{\textsc{e}}nd\text{\textsc{l}}u \text{\textsc{k}}un\text{\textsc{e}}sh\text{\textsc{u}}n\text{\textsc{i}} (The left side of this house is impressive).

$\S 166.$—A short prefix of this class, \text{\textsc{k}}u-, is used adverbially as a pre-prefix forming locative adverbs from nouns of Class 1 and from pronouns, e.g.:

\text{\textsc{k}}um\text{\textsc{u}}n\text{\textsc{u}} (to the person)
\text{\textsc{k}}uh\text{\textsc{a}} (to my father)
\text{\textsc{k}}uy\text{\textsc{e}}na (to him).

See $\S 590-601$.

$\S 167.$—Converds of Class 10 are used when a locative is employed as subject or object of a sentence:

\text{\textsc{e}}nd\text{\textsc{i}}m\text{\textsc{i}} k\text{\textsc{u}}y\text{\textsc{a}}sh\text{\textsc{i}}s\text{\textsc{a}} (In the house it is hot; or
The interior of the house is hot)
\text{\textsc{a}}s\text{\textsc{i}}k\text{\textsc{u}}th\text{\textsc{a}}n\text{\textsc{d}}i e\text{\textsc{n}}s\text{\textsc{a}}m\text{\textsc{o}} (We do not like it at the
back of the hut)
\text{\textsc{p}}h\text{\textsc{h}}andle ak\text{\textsc{u}}k\text{\textsc{u}}\text{\textsc{h}}le nm\text{\textsc{h}}\text{\textsc{l}}\text{\textsc{a}}n\text{\textsc{j}}\text{\textsc{e}} (It is not nice
outside today).

$\S 168.$—Table of Converds for Class 10:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>oku-</td>
<td>oku-</td>
<td>ku-</td>
<td>kwa-</td>
<td>ku-</td>
<td>ku-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that these are the same as for Class 8.

The following are examples of this class being used in locative and 'indefinite' constructions:

\text{\textsc{o}}k\text{\textsc{u}}ng\text{\textsc{u}}m\text{\textsc{u}}\text{\textsc{n}}\text{\textsc{u}}\text{\textsc{n}}\text{\textsc{u}} (that which is a person— derogatory expression)
\text{\textsc{k}}uk\text{\textsc{a}}mb\text{\textsc{a}} iz\text{\textsc{i}}ny\text{\textsc{a}}m\text{\textsc{a}}z\text{\textsc{a}}n\text{\textsc{e}} \text{\textsc{l}}aph\text{\textsc{a}} (There go buck
along here)
\text{\textsc{b}}ek\text{\textsc{k}}h\text{\textsc{h}}\text{\textsc{o}}n\text{\textsc{a}} iz\text{\textsc{i}}nk\text{\textsc{o}}\text{\textsc{m}}\text{\textsc{o}} (There were cattle)
\text{\textsc{a}}m\text{\textsc{a}}\text{\textsc{s}}i nes\text{\textsc{i}}nk\text{\textsc{w}}a ngi\text{\textsc{y}}ak\text{\textsc{u}}th\text{\textsc{a}}n\text{\textsc{d}}a koku\text{\textsc{b}}\text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{l}}\text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{l}}\text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{l}}\text{\textsc{i}} (I like
both curdled milk and bread).

$\S 169.$—Contractions of Prefixes Containing \text{\textsc{z}}i-.

Plural prefixes of Classes 4, 5 and 6, in \text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{z}}\text{\textsc{i}}, \text{\textsc{t}}\text{\textsc{z}}\text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{m}}, etc., are frequently contracted to \text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{z}}, \text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{z}}\text{\textsc{i}}\text{\textsc{m}}, etc.; though the presence of the usual low tone, which accompanies the \text{\textsc{z}},
as well as the lengthening of the vowel, indicate the plural.
The z usually remains in the concordial agreements.

* i:khathi zonke (all times, for izikhathi zonke)
  * i:nkomo ne:nkabi (cattle and oxen, for izinkomo nesinkabi)
  * i:nkomo zidlile (the cattle have eaten).

CHAPTER IV
THE NOUN (continued)

The Derivation of Noun-Stems

§170.—In Zulu noun-stems may be classified under two
main headings: (1) primitive roots, and (2) derivative
stems. **Primitive roots** are those which will bear no reduc-
tion to simpler form, and which show no origin in any other
part of speech. **Derivative stems** are those which are derived
from some other part of speech, or from simpler noun-stems
by the addition of a suffix.

§171.—**Primitive Roots**: Amongst the primitive roots
of Zulu are found many which are common to a large num-
ber of Bantu languages, appearing in varying forms accord-
ing to varied phonetic conditions. Many of these primitive
roots are monosyllabic.

Examples:

- *ntu* (umuntu)
- *thi* (umuthi)
- *fo* (umufo)
- *lo* (isilo)
- *khwe* (umukhwe).

Some, however, are disyllabic in form:

- *ngane* (umngane)
- *sâsa* (usâsa)
- *yihlo* (uyihlo)
- *mame* (umame)
- *zolo* (amazolo).

1 In Meinhold's *Grundriss einer Laulehre der Bantusprachen* (English
edition: *Bantu Phonology*, by Meinhold and V. Warmelo) and Bourquin's
*Neue Ur-Bantu-Wortstämme* is given a representative number of primi-
tive Bantu roots.