(d) There is also a reduplicated diminutive suffix -nyana which refers to something very small, e.g.

*injanyana* (a small little dog) < *injia* (dog);

*umntwanyana* (a small child) < *umntwana* (child).

e) If a noun ends in one of the following syllables sound changes as given below, called palatalization, occur, *ph*, *phu*, *bo*, *bu*, *bho*, *bku*, *mo*, *mu*, *mpe*, *mpu*, *mbo*, *mbu*, *di* and *thi*. E.g.

\[
\begin{align*}
ph > sh & : \text{impushana} \text{ (a little meal)} < \text{impuphu} \text{ (meal)}; \\
b > tsh & : \text{ingushana} \text{ (a small blanket)} < \text{ingabo} \text{ (blanket)}; \\
bh > j & : \text{isigujana} \text{ (a small calabash)} < \text{isigubu} \text{ (calabash)}; \\
m > ny & : \text{insiyana} \text{ (a small field)} < \text{insimva} \text{ (field)}; \\
np > ntsh & : \text{iiposhalana} \text{ (a little gossip)} < \text{iiphombo} \text{ (gossip)}; \\
nb > nj & : \text{intanjana} \text{ (a small thong)} < \text{intombo} \text{ (thong)}; \\
d > j & : \text{incwejana} \text{ (a small letter)} < \text{incwadi} \text{ (letter)}; \\
th > sh & : \text{iskhishana} \text{ (a little time)} < \text{iskhathi} \text{ (time)}.
\end{align*}
\]

(f) Occasionally exceptions occur, e.g.

*intatshana* (a small mountain) < *intaba* (mountain);

*inkonyana* (a small calf) but *inkomana* (a small head of cattle) both from *inkomo* (head of cattle);

*ulinyana* (a little tongue) < *ulimi* (tongue);

*indodana* (son) and *mdedeyana* (a little man) both from *indoda* (man).

(g) Many nouns have a diminutive form but not a diminutive meaning in other words they are stylized forms, e.g.

*impukane* (fly), *igundane* (mouse), *itliviwane* (bat).

TO EXPRESS GENDER

453. As a rule masculine and feminine are expressed by means of separate words, e.g.

*iphude* (cock) and *isikhukhukazi* (hen) and *inkuku* (fowl);

*insivwa* (young man) and *intombi* (girl);

*ikhele* (old man) and *isalukazi* (old woman).

454. The suffixes -kazi and -azi are sometimes used to denote feminine, e.g.

*inkosi* (chief), *inkosikazi* (lady; chieftainess);

*injia* (dog), *injakazi* (bitch);

*inkomo* (head of cattle), *inkomazi* (cow), cf. *inkunzi* (bull) and *inkabi* (ox);

*imbuzi* (goat), *imbuzikazi* (she-goat), cf. *impango* (billy goat).

455. The suffix -azana/-azane denotes the diminutive of the feminine, e.g.

*inkosazana* (princess), cf. *inkosikazi* (lady), *inkosi* (chief);

*intombazana* (a little girl), cf. *intombi* (girl).

Used with the *ulu* class -azane expresses derogation, e.g.

*sifazazana* (good-for-nothing women-folk).

456. Feminine colour names of cattle are derived from male colour names by means of the suffix -kazi, e.g.

*inzima* (black ox/bull), *inzinakazi* (black cow);

*ilunga* (black spotted ox/bull), *ilungakazi* (black spotted cow);

*umkhlope* (white ox/bull), *umkhlopekazi* (white cow).

THE AUGMENTATIVE

457. The augmentative in Zulu is also expressed by means of the suffix -kazi, e.g.

*itshekazi* (a rock), cf. *itshe* (stone);

*umshikazi* (a huge tree), cf. *umshidi* (tree);

*khulukazi* (hug), cf. *khulu* (big).

LESSON 46

THE PAST TENSE WITH -be (Continuous past tense)

46.1. The past tense with -be or continuous past tense is constructed with the auxiliary (or deficient) predicate -be. With the exception of the future tense all the tenses dealt with so far were single verb predicates, i.e. the predicate consisted of one verb only. There are however also other tenses which are formed by means of two verbs. These are called compound predicates whose first verb stem is that of the auxiliary predicate and the second that of the main verb. One such auxiliary predicate is -be.

46.2. By means of a deficient predicate -be a compound tense is formed which denotes that an action or state was continuing in the past.

46.3. The full form is that in which -be as verb stem has its own concord and is followed by the main verb with its own concord. Both concords refer to the same subject although the main verb is in the participial form, e.g.

*ngibe* *ngibona* (I was seeing),

i.e. both *ngibe* are the concords while *ngibona* will always be a participial form as evidenced by the negative, e.g.

*Ngibe* *ngingaboni* (I was not seeing).

Cf. also *Umfana uhe shamba* (The boy was going) negative *Umshanu uhe engashambi*;

*Abantwana babe bediala* (The children were playing) negative *Abantwana babe bengadali*.

46.4. Such full forms are often shortened by omitting the concord before the auxiliary, e.g.

*bengibone* instead of *ngibe* *ngibona* (I was seeing);

*bebebhala* instead of *babe* *bebhala* (they were writing).
Where the concords consist of vowels only the e- of -be is discarded resulting in contractions, e.g.

unfana ubebona instead of unfana ube ebona (the boy was seeing), negative unfana ubengaqabo;
unzzi uvangashii instead of unzzi ube ungashii (the village was not burning);
amathole ubedha instead of ube edha (the calves were eating).

46.5. If the main verb is a vowel verb, its concord is, of course, that of a vowel verb (see 28.3.), e.g.
unfana ube akha or ubakha < *ube elaka (the boy was building);
tzinakhi bezelaswa < *(zi)be zielaswa (the cattle were herded).

46.6. The main verb can take all the tenses of the participial form after -be, e.g.
(a) bengihamba (I was walking), negative bengingahambi;
(b) bengisahamba (I was still walking), negative bengingasahambi;
(c) bengihambile (I had been walking), negative bengingahambanga;
(d) bengisahambile naye, negative bengingahambanga naye;
(e) bengile (I was asleep), negative benginglele;
(f) bengisahambile (I was still away), negative bengingasahambile;
(g) bengisazokuhamba (I would still have been walking) bengingasazokuhamba.

Note that when the full form is used the compound predicate is written as two words; the contracted forms are written as one word only, e.g. ngisho ngihamba but bengihamba.

46.7. -be itself may also be in the participial form, e.g.
uma ebe efuna ukuya (if he wanted to go).

46.8. -be may be followed by the potential form as well, e.g.
Sibe singahamba or Besingahamba (We could have gone).

Terminology for continuous tenses

46.9. We are not going to try to equate the tenses with -be, summarized in 46.6., with conventional English tenses, but suggest the following terms for them [(a), (b), etc. refer to those in 46.6.]:
(a) Continuous past (tense);
(b) Progressive continuous past (tense);
(c) Continuous past (tense) with perfect;
(d) Continuous past (tense) with stative;
(e) Continuous past (tense) with progressive stative;
(f) Future continuous past (tense);
(g) Progressive future continuous past tense.

Examples:

46.10. Ubesapheka ukudla lapho simvakashela (She was still cooking food when we went to visit her).
Lapho umfundisi engena esontweni ibandla belithlabelela (When the minister entered the church the congregation was singing).
Umntwana uhesalele lapho lingena isela (The child was still asleep when the thief entered).
Bengafuni ukuya kodwa wongincenga ukuthi ngiye (I didn’t want to go but he implored me to go).

LESSON 47

EXCLUSIVE -se

47.1. What is known as the exclusive predicate is formed by means of the auxiliary verb -se.

47.2. The full compound predicate consists of -se with its subject concord plus a main verb with its subject concord, in other words the principle is similar to that found with -be (see lesson 46); e.g. nge se nginghamba.

47.3. This compound predicate indicates that an action has already been carried out at a certain time or is being carried out. In translation “already, now, then” is rendered depending on the tense form of the main verb, e.g. Nge se nginghamba naye (I am now going with him).
Base bedile (They have already eaten).

47.4. The subject concord of -se is discarded (like in the case of -be) if it consists of a consonant plus vowel, and the e of -se is discarded if the concord is a vowel, e.g.
Unfana uzelhamba kakhulu (The boy is already going fast).
Sengifane inali yami (I now want my money).

47.5. If the main verb is a vowel verb its concord is, of course, that of a vowel verb, e.g.
Tzinakho sezelo naye (The cattle are now herded by me).
Indlu sisekhwa ngemacembe (The house is now built with leaves).

47.6. The main verb can take all the tenses of the participial predicate except the progressive form, but may in addition have a present tense with -ju-, so that one finds a long and short present tense, e.g. sengiyabuya (I am now already returning) or with a short form sengibuya naye (I am now returning with him);
sengibuyile (I have already returned) or with a short form sengibuya naye.
(have now returned with him);
sengilele (I am already asleep);
sengizobuya (I shall now return);
sengabuya (I had already returned) in which a narrative tense follows -se;
sengizabuya (I can now return) in which a potential predicate follows -se.

47.7. Except for the long present tense the full exclusive predicate (-se plus main verb) may be in the participial form, e.g.
Una sengishamba (If I go now).
Wafula umaama esheambile (I arrived after mother had gone).

47.8. Negative: The predicate forms with -se have no negative forms of their own. The forms used are those with -ka- dealt with in lesson 59.

47.9. The following two negative predicate forms with -se in the participial mood and of course followed by a participial negative, occur:
(onom) (ngi)sengizabuya [(if) I do not return again], i.e. a present tense; and
(onom) (ngi)sengizakubuya [(if) I should not return again], i.e. a future tense.

47.10. Examples: As will be seen from the following examples the English translation depends mainly on the context, e.g.
Una esengizobuya (eso esengabuyi) siziphelela izimpela zakhe (If he does not return again we shall sell his possessions).
Bonke base bemi endlini yokuthanda, sebelindele utshisa (All were already standing by the church building and already waiting for the teacher).
Musa sescizokukulela ukuthi utshini unalume (We shall now listen to what uncle says).
Nxa ngise ngingakubuyi uboke ungihonele izimpela zoni (If I should not return you must look after my possessions).
Una usengifuni ukusebenza yisho njale (If you don’t want to work any longer say so).
Sesayisoxela kaningi le-ndeuba iselukazi (The old woman had already told the story often).

LESSON 48

-be and -se (conclusion)

48.1. Both the auxiliary predicates -se and -be may take a narrative tense concord. With -be it denotes that an action was going on in the remote past; with -se the action was already going on in the remote past, e.g.
Ngabe ngifuna izinto zoni (I was at that time looking for my things).
Ngase sengihamba naye (Then I was already going with him).

The forms with -be

48.2. In the case of -be, -be is more often than not omitted, e.g.
Ngangikhamba instead of Ngabe ngihamba (I was going);
Umfana wayelambha instead of Umfana wabe ekamba (The boy was going).
Note that concord e- (for classes umu- and ama-) becomes -ye- when -be is dropped.

48.3. Like the present tense forms of -be (see lesson 46) the main verb can assume a variety of tense forms of the participial mood, also in the negative, e.g.
Ngangikhamba (I was walking), negative ngingakwhothi;
Ngangishamba (I was still walking), negative ngingagasonyenteni;
Ngangishamba (I had been walking), negative ngingagamane;
Ngiyazamba naye, negative ngingakakho naye;
Ngiyilele, negative ngingakho;
Ngiyazilele, negative ngingazulule;
Ngiyazulule, negative ngingazukuyane;
Ngiyazukuyane, negative ngingazulule.

These tenses may be called the continuous remote past tenses and the corresponding terms explained in 46.9 be used with them.

48.4. Examples:
Isho yayoofuni ukubeshwa kodwa sayibamba sayibophwa (The ox did not want us to insp it but we caught it and tied it up).
Lapho befika seyikhelele nito (When they arrived we had killed the snake).
La-maadlana ayisebenza eGoli elabo asebenza eFifiti elane (These men had been working in Johannesburg in summer, now they work in Pretoria).

The forms with -se

48.5. With -se in the narrative tense the compound predicate is never shortened, but the main verb may assume all the tense forms it assumed with -se in lesson 47, e.g.
ngase ngiyeshoba (then I went away);
ngase ngishamba naye (then I went with him) negative ngase ngingakwhothi (naye);
ngase ngishamba or ngase ngazulule (then I had already walked (with him)), negative ngase ngingazulule;
ngase ngilele (then I was already asleep), negative ngase ngingazulule;
ngase ngingakwhothi (then I would have gone), negative ngase ngingazulule;
ngase ngayembaba (then I walked), negative ngase ngingazulule.

48.6. Examples:
Ngokungena kwaye wase ehlukwane umfundi (When I entered the minister had already been talking).
Lapho sesuka thina yase ingahambange ngezinyowo, yase ihambile ngehashi lapha. (When we left the young man had not left on foot, he had already left on horse back.)

Yathi iyangithethisa induna ngase ngithi: xoisi, nkosi! (When the induna scolded me I said: sorry, sir!)

-be and -se with relative concords

48.7. Relative concords may also be used with -be and -se. Although the full polysyllabic concords may be used, it is customary to drop the second syllable before -be and -se, e.g.
Abafana abe belusa becomes Abafana abe beluza (The boys who herded).
Ukula okuse kuphekiwe becomes Ukula ose kuphekiwe (The food which is already cooked).

48.8. Monosyllabic relative concords remain unchanged, e.g.
Invama ebe yesiwe (Meat which was roasted).
Anadoda ase ebuyile (Men who have already returned).

48.9. Examples:
Isikhwe ebe zikhupha ensimini kaziwi (The wild beasts that ruined the fields are unknown).
Zilethu lapha izinkuni sezenzile (Bring here the fire-wood which is already dry).
Bafuna ukuzidiliza izindlu ebe zakhwe ngodaka (They wanted to demolish the houses which were built with clay).

LESSON 49

THE IDEOPHONE

49.1. The ideophone is a part of speech which has no corresponding equivalent part of speech in English. It qualifies an action with regard to sense perception, e.g. smell, sound, colour. The nearest English equivalents are English onomatopoetic words like “splash”, nevertheless the ideophone is not basically onomatopoetic.

49.2. Because the ideophone includes such expressive words its sounds will in some respects differ from the sounds of other words. A sound such as /t/ which does not occur in Zulu can be used; or a nasal may be nasalized; long vowels may stand in contrast to short ones, etc. Compare the following examples:

- ndr (birds flying);
- phrr (snort of a horse);
- bhu (dust a mat; extinguish a fire);
- bhuw (appear in a swarm, e.g. bees).

49.3. Ideophones are often whispered, e.g.
thwayi, thwayi (walk slowly and softly).

49.4. Reduplication of monosyllabic and disyllabic ideophones often occur, e.g.

bhaxa bhaxa (walk in the mud);

bhau bhau (beat out dust).

49.5. Sometimes one finds voiced sounds opposed to voiceless ones with a difference of meaning, e.g.
kh非洲 (crack off) and gebhu (chip off);
khithi (foam over) and gidli (fall in, as soil).

49.6. A final syllable may be repeated, e.g.
printfj (jump up);
ntínhini (run fast).

49.7. A monosyllabic ideophone is extended by means of an extra syllable to give it another meaning, e.g.
dhu (sink) as against dihuye (do again);
da (thudding) as against dhu (thumping).

49.8. Vocal assimilation (equalizing of vowels) is often encountered, e.g.
cokololo (quiet);
bhudululu (tumble);
khwephala (stretched out);
kimphili (slide).

49.9. A number of suffixes are characteristic of the ideophone, e.g.

-ksi: ngabalazi (swallow something bad);
-ksi: fwepelezi (empty by drinking).

Ideophones are derived from verb roots by means of -iyi, e.g.
hambiyini (catch suddenly), cf. -bamba (catch);
hambiyini (see suddenly), cf. -bona (see).

49.10. The polysyllabic ideophone has no length on the final syllable.

49.11. Use: The ideophone is used alone without further formatives but more often it is preceded by the verb -thi with its concords and tense forms, e.g.
Kwathathi endlini (It was quiet in the house).
Lo-munama unye bhabhalala elele (This boy lies asleep flat on his stomach).
Asisekisa lesi-sitshuse sithe namu (This stamp sticks; one cannot get it loose).
Umangala unye nka nje ngumono? (What are you wondering at with a gaping mouth?).

Zikabazi zikhamba bhaxa bhaxa odakeni (The oxen walk through the mud).

Le-ndlwangisa imhlophe thwa (This cloth is snow white).

Ngamthi hambiyini weleka (When I suddenly caught him he got a fright).