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Off-line morphology: Word-internal nominalization in Inuktitut

There are many word-internal nominalizations from verb to nominal within the Inuktitut polysynthetic words that seem to be superfluous in that a) the nominalizing morpheme (usually the participle *juq(q*) or its allophone *tu(q)*) does not seem to contribute meaning and b) the construction reverts back to a verb either immediately or shortly thereafter (usually by means of the addition of the copula –*u*-).

The pattern is shown in (1a) with an example from the South Baffin dialect in (1b) and a plain verb form for comparison in (1c).

(1) a. V > N > V

b. taqa -**ju**-mmari-alu -**u**-junga (S. Baffin)
feel.fatigue-**Participle**-genuine-a.lot-**be**-part.1s
V N V
'I'm really tired'

c. taqa-junga
feel.fatigue-part.1s.
'I am tired'

This paper will explore two properties of these constructions:

a) that the nominalizing>verbalizing sequence forms a discontinuous morpheme

b) that the nominalizing>verbalizing sequence involves focus or possibly speaker-oriented material.