

SUFFIXES OF CONJECTURE (* marks meanings that aren't really conjecture)

[SS] **RASHI** irregular shiku adj [--/--/ra^hshi /ra^hshi,ra^hshiki /ra^hshi /--]

Most often used in poetry.

1. Very confident conjecture on rational grounds, eg. supposition about something based on direct observation (“It must be X,” “It's surely X,” “It can be seen that X”)
2. Speculation about the reason or cause for something

NOTE: Some *rahen* and *kami* 1 verbs drop their *ru* in front of *rashi* (*kerurashi* -- *kerashi*, *narurashi*--*narashi*, *samukarurashi*--*samukarashi*; *mirurashi*--*mirashi*, *nirurashi*--*nirashi*)

[SS] **BESHI (negatives = maji, bekarazu)**

regular ku adj [beku /beku /beshi /beki /bekere /--]
[bekara /bekari/-- /bekaru/-- /--]

1. Confident conjecture based on knowledge of what is natural or proper (it will surely...; it must be that...)
 - 1a. With question particle (*ka*, *ya*) may be speculation about cause or reason: "Why is it that...? I wonder why....?" BUT could simply be questioning conjecture: "Surely X is the case?"
- *2. About self: strong desire or intention (“I will/ want to do X”); usually in SS.
- *3. Appropriate, natural expectation; duty or obligation (“One naturally should...”)
- *4. Similar to 3, but to 2nd person: suggestion or mild command (“You ought to do X,” “You had better do X”)
- *5. To second person: command form; usually in SS or as BEKARAZU (“You must do X!”)
- *6. Potential; often in the negative as BEKARAZU (cannot) (“can do X, will be able to do X”)

NOTE: The *kami* 1 verbs *miru* and *niru* often drop their *ru* in front of *beshi*; also a very few *rahen* verbs, but not as commonly as *rashi* and *meri*. (*mirubeshi*--*mibeshi*, *nirubeshi*--*nibeshi*, *arubeshi*--*abeshi*)

[MZ] **MU/N (negative = ji)** incomplete *yodan* [--/--/mu /mu /me /--]

Often conjecture about FUTURE:

1. Conjecture with no direct evidence (perhaps, maybe, I suppose)
 - 1a) With question particle (*ka*, *ya*) "Is it perhaps X? Could it be because of X?"
- *2. About self: desire, intention
- *3. To 2nd person: suggestion or mild command
- *4. Circumlocution, indirection
5. In RT before はこ or は indicates hypothetical (“if”)

NOTE ALSO: MUZU/NZU (From *mu* to *su*)

incomplete *sahen*: (--/--/muzu / muzuru / muzure /--)

1. "X will probably do Y/is about to do Y"
- *2. Expressing intention (I'm going to do X)

NOTE ALSO: NAMU (MZ of *nu* + *mu*)

Strengthens the meanings of *mu*

[RY] KEMU/KEN incomplete *yodan*: [--/--/kemu /kemu /keme /--]

Conjecture about PAST:

1. Conjecture with no direct knowledge (“X might have,” “X probably was/did”)
 - 1a) If you know something has happened for sure, then may indicate speculation about cause or reason; here often with question particles or interrogative words such as who (*tare*), why (*nadoya*), how (*ikani*) etc. (“Why should X have happened? Who could have done X?”)
2. Referring to past event as hearsay, but uncertain of facts (“It is said that,” “I have heard that”)
3. Past circumlocution, indirection; often takes RT form (“It seems that perhaps X was...”).

[SS] RAMU/RAN incomplete *yodan* [--/--/ramu /ramu /rame /--]

Conjecture about PRESENT, usually something not seen. Post-Heian usage may be tenseless.

1. No direct knowledge (“X is probably happening now”).
 - 1a) If you know something is happening for sure, then may indicate speculation about cause or reason; here often with question particles (*ya*, *ka*) or interrogative words such as who (*tare*), why (*nadoya*), how (*ikani*) etc. (“Why should X be happening?” “Who would do X?”)
3. Refers to hearsay knowledge (“It is said that”; “It would seem that”)
- *4. Circumlocution, indirection

[MZ] MASHI irregular [mase, mashika /---/mashi /mashi /mashika /--]

1. Conjecture contrary to fact (“If X were the case, then Y”)
Often in the form: X *ba* Y *mashi*/ X *seba* Y *mashi*/ X *mashikaba* Y *mashi*
2. Same as 1, with a nuance of desire/sadness (“If only X were so”; “Would that X were true”)
3. Indecision or hesitation, usually with doubt particles such as *ya* or *ka* (“Should I do X?”)
4. In medieval period became indistinguishable from MU

[SS] MERI incomplete *rahen*: [--/meri /meri /meru /mere /--]

1. Highly tentative conjecture; not enough grounds for a firm conclusion. May be based on visual evidence. (“It appears that perhaps,” “It might be possible that”)
2. Circumlocution: if there are grounds, then use of *meri* indicates a desire to avoid a direct statement (it would seem that X...)

NOTE: Some *rahen* verbs drop their *ru* in front of *meri* (*naru--nameri*, *tarumeri--tameri*, *bekarumeri--bekameri*). They may go through an intermediary stage where the *ru* changes to *n* (*nanmeri*, *tanmeri*).