Kikuyu Verb Conjugation

The following forms illustrate two verb tenses in Kikuyu. Tones are indicated as follows:

\[ \dot{a} = \text{high} \]
\[ a = \text{low (unmarked)} \]

A. Current imperfect.

1. "we are V-ing"  \( \text{torɔraya} \)  \( \text{totomáya} \)
2. "we are V-ing him/her"  \( \text{tomorɔraya} \)  \( \text{tomotomáya} \)
3. "we are V-ing them"  \( \text{tomarɔraya} \)  \( \text{tomatómáya} \)
4. "they are V-ing"  \( \text{márɔraya} \)  \( \text{mátomáya} \)
5. "they are V-ing him/her"  \( \text{mámɔrɔraya} \)  \( \text{mámótomáya} \)
6. "they are V-ing them"  \( \text{mámárɔraya} \)  \( \text{mámátómáya} \)

B. Current past.

7. "we V-ed"  \( \text{torɔrìrè} \)  \( \text{totomìrè} \)
8. "we V-ed him/her"  \( \text{tomorɔrìrè} \)  \( \text{tomotomìrè} \)
9. "we V-ed them"  \( \text{tomarɔrìrè} \)  \( \text{tomatómìrè} \)
10. "they V-ed"  \( \text{márɔrìrè} \)  \( \text{mátomìrè} \)
11. "they V-ed him/her"  \( \text{mámɔrɔrìrè} \)  \( \text{mámótomìrè} \)
12. "they V-ed them"  \( \text{mámárɔrìrè} \)  \( \text{mámátómìrè} \)

1. Identify the following morphemes, ignoring the tone.

   'look at'
   'send'
   '1st plural subject'
   '3rd plural subject'
   '3rd singular object'
   '3rd plural object'
   'current imperfect'
   'current past'

2. Now consider the tone. The simplest way of describing these verbs is to assume that each morpheme has a fixed basic tone (high or low). A simple phonological rule will describe all the surface tones. State the rule. (Hint: this rule has no segmental conditioning.) Enter the basic tones to the right of each morpheme identified in 1.