A Minimalist Account of Some Aspects of Head-to-Head Movement in English and Ibibio

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Abstract
The study on head-to-head movements in English and Ibibio examined the syntactic operations of head movement in the two languages. The study adopted the Split Infl Hypothesis of the Minimalist Program. Data on English were collected from BBC online application and the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (7th edition) while data on Ibibio were elicited from five respondents purposively selected. While it has been observed that English and Ibibio have evidence of head-to-head movement, data show remarkable differences in head-to-head movement in English and Ibibio. In deriving polar questions in the English language, auxiliary verbs accord with Head Movement Constraint (HMC) by moving before Spell Out, first, to the TP and then the CP. On the contrary in Ibibio, the main verbs move before Spell Out, first, to the AgrP and then, after Spell Out, to CP and are consequently, not spelled out phonetically at the C of CP in polar questions. While heads of NPs in English generally the principles of Procrastinate and pre-modified by D, DPs in Ibibio either obey the principles of Procrastinate Greed. These differences in head movement operations have a serious implication in the learning of English as a second language as the Ibibio learner needs to understand the basic grammatical principles in these areas of divergence for effective communication.
Key words: Head-to-head movement, spell out, procrastinate, greed, heads

1.0 Introduction

The concept of movement in this study is based on the Minimalist perception of movement as an independent operation that involves Copy, Merge, Form Chain and Chain Reduction (Nunes, 1995). This follows from the proposal in the Minimalist Program that constituents move because they have particular needs to satisfy, namely they have some unchecked features (especially the [-Interpretable] and Strong features) which need to be checked off and licensed for a grammatical derivation to meet the interface conditions at LF and PF respectively.

There are three major classes of movements. This classification depends on where a moved item is bound and what constituent is moved. Head movement involves the movement of the head of a structure to merge with the head of another grammatical structure. Head movement may result in the formation of polar questions. A-Movement is the movement of an argument (nouns or NPs) to a

place which was occupied by another argument. A-Movement includes DP movement in passive constructions, DP Movement in subject-to-subject raising and subject-to-object raising, and DP movement in unaccusatives or ergative structures. DPs and Vs also move out of VP based on Internal VP Hypothesis (Koopman and Sportiche 1991 cited in Black, 1998: p57). A-bar movement involves the movement of an item to a place other than an Argument position; a place which is not theta - checked. Wh-Movement is A-bar Movement. This study focuses on head-to-head movement.

The aim of the study is to investigate head-to-head movement in English and Ibibio; examine the processes that underlie head V-C movement and head movement in nominal in English and Ibibio as well as investigate the parametric differences between head V-C movement and head movement in nominal in the two languages under focus. The research questions which guided the study were on what processes underlie V-C movement and head movement in nominal in the languages under focus, in addition to questioning the parametric differences between head V-C movement and head movement in nominal in English and Ibibio. The study adopted the Split Infl Hypothesis of the Minimalist. Data were collected from BBC online application and *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (7th edition) while data on Ibibio were elicited from five respondents purposively selected.

2.0 Theoretical Framework Overview

2.1 Head Movement

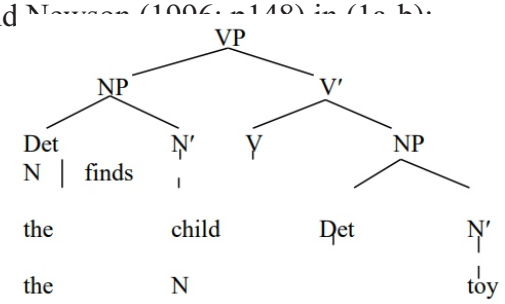
There are two major instances of head-to-head movement, and they are movement and movement within the NP.

2.1.1 V-movement to the I-System

There are two ways verbs move to functional positions, namely: movement into the Inflectional System (I-system) and movement into the C-system Complementizer system (C-system) (Robert 2001:p120). The former is generally described as head-to-head because it is the movement of verb which is the head of verb phrase (VP) to tense (T) which is the head of tense phrase (TP). Head-to-head movement can best be understood in the light of the Internal Verb and Subject Hypothesis.

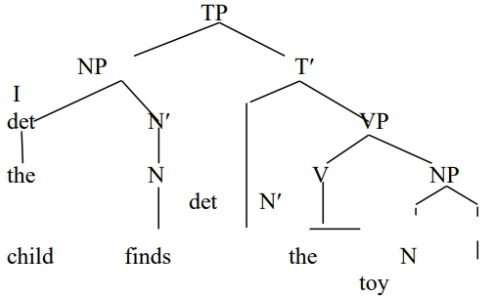
Koopman and Spotiche (1991) cited in Black (1998: p57) propose the Internal Verb and Subject Hypotheses. The hypothesis holds that subjects and verbs originate in VP, based on the Minimalist Program framework in a derivation, move up to check their ø-features. Ndimele (1992: p109) adds that V-Movement is obligatory if inflection (INFL) is devoid of an auxiliary verb as captured by Cook and Newson (1996: p148) in (1a-b):

1a.



In (1a), which is taken as a VP, is made up of NP and V′, with the V′ consisting of a V and an NP. The two NPs: *the child* and *the toy* are made up of a determiner each and an N′. The inflectional marker *–s* is attached to the verb, *find*. This analysis is in line with Minimalism which holds that inflections are attached to the verbs in the lexicon and are checked off at the TP. After the adjunction, the trace which is a copy of the moved verb is deleted in the VP as illustrated in (1b):

1b.



Against the background of the Internal Verb and Subject Hypothesis, William (1994) proposes verb movement to functional heads by crossing a class of elements. This is captured in Roberts (2001:p120) that designates this class of elements as "the X elements". This class of elements is regarded as always positioned at the left of the VP and includes VP adverbs, clausal negation and floated quantifiers. Robert (2001) explains that while the X elements are often preceded by finite verbs in some languages, in others, they precede verbs. The examples in (1) culled from Robert (2001) instantiate this language phenomenon:

VP-Adverbs:

1a. Jean **embressesouvent** Marie
*Jean **souventembresse** Marie
b. *John **kisses often** Mary
John **often kisses** Mary

Negation:

c. Jean (ne) **mange pas** du choculat
*Jean (ne) **pas mange** du choculat
d. *John **eats not** chocolate
John does **not eat** chocolate

In (1a-d), finite verbs are in different positions in relation to the X elements in the French-type and the English type languages according to Robert (2001) which throws significant light on language parameterization according Robert (2001). Following the Minimalist Program which runs contrary to P&P theory, Falik (2006: p39) holds that verbs are inserted from the lexicon into a derivation well inflected, and their inflectional features are then checked against the corresponding features encoded in "the inflectional categories". Inflectional categories are Agreement Subject (read as AGR_s), Tense (read as T) and Agreement Object (read as AGR_o) which have their own features, which must correspond with the features encoded in the verbs in the lexicon, and Ouhalla (1999: p434) posits

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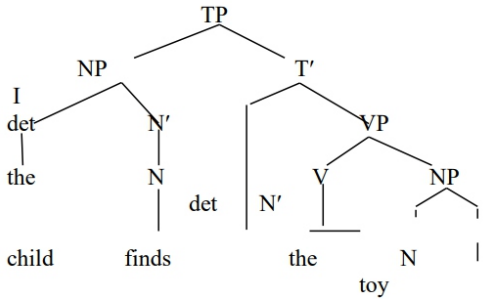

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that verbs check off these inflectional features through head-adjunction. This verb-raising or head-adjunction for feature checking in some languages is presented in (2a) and (2b) as adopted from Ouhalla (1999:p435):

2a Agr_sP [John] Agr_s'[T]Agr_s[TP^T[Agr_oP Agr_o [VP often [VP kisses Mary]]]]
2b Agr_sP [John] [Agr_s'[kisses] TAgr_s[TP^T[Agr_oP[Mary] [Agr_o' [V] Agr_o [VP often]]]]

Examples (2a) and (2b) illustrate subject and verb-raising over the X element. (2a) shows that while the subject *John* raises prior to Spell Out to the Spec-Agr_sP to check its features in the Spec-head (specifier-head) configuration, the verb *kisses* contrarily stays inside the VP with its object *Mary*. However, it is after Spell Out (as illustrated in 2b) that the verb *kisses* raises covertly to Agr_s to check its own features as encoded in the inflectional categories alongside the direct object *Mary* which also raises covertly to Agr_o. Verb movement therefore can be overt if it takes place prior to Spell Out and precede the X element *often*. It is covert if it is preceded by the X element which means that it takes place after Spell Out according to Ouhalla 1999: p435)

Chomsky (1993, 1995) asserts that the parametric distinction of languages which move their verbs prior to (overtly) or′ after (covertly) Spell Out is a function of the value of the abstract morphological feature, that is, the I's and V-features which every language has and are responsible for licensing the verb. These I's and V-features must be checked off before Spell Out so that they cannot survive to LF since they have no semantic content and may breach the Principle of Full Interpretation and therefore cause the derivation to crash (Robert, 2001: p122). The I's and V-features can parametrically manifest as weak or strong in a language. Strong features must move overtly and be checked off because if allowed to survive may be visible at PF while weak features may Procrastinate since they may not be visible at LF.

2.1.2 V-Movement to the C-system

The second instance of verb movement to a functional position is to the Complementizer system (C-system) which precedes the I-system. The Head Movement Constraint (HMC) holds that movement of a head X to Y cannot skip an intervening Z (Roberts, 2001: p123). This is interpreted to mean that V movement to C (which must jump the I-system) cannot be done in one fell swoop. Therefore, for the V to move to C, it must have first moved to the I-system where it gets its inflection, before moving to C to invert the subject, especially to initiate polar questions.

Some languages have an auxiliary operator that moves overtly first into the I-system and later into the C-system, to form a polar question. While other languages may set their own parameter by overtly moving a verb into the I-system, before being raised to C, other languages apply covert movement. Roberts (2001: p123) argues that main verbs inversion in French is made available by the fact that in French, main verbs move into the I-system and subsequently into the C-system because French has strong V-features which force main verbs to move first into the I-system before into the C-system.

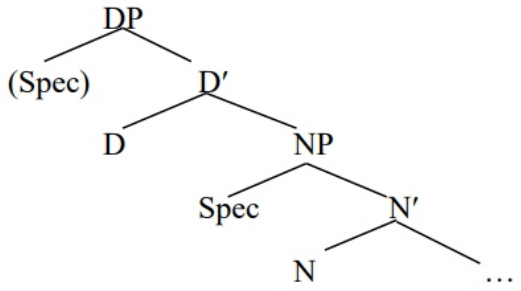
Lasnik (2001, p81) observes that Extended Projection Principle (EPP) is a strong feature which forces overt subject movement, adopted as a modern technological implementation of Extended

Projection Principle. At the Inflectional Phrase (IP) level, the EPP must be satisfied with its Spec filled by DP because Inflection or Infl (I) is inherently associated with agreement features. This can be applied to the C-level, which requires that Spec-CP be filled by an XP of any kind since the property of C lacks any inherent requirement for agreement. Rizzi (1990) cited in Roberts (2001: p126) proposes that at the leftmost edge of the clause above the TP are possible occurrence of separate projections such as Force Phrase (ForceP), Focus Phrase (FocusP) and Finite Phrase (FiniteP) which are interspersed with the possible recursion of Topical Phrase (TopPs).

3.0 Head Movement of Nominals

Roberts (2001:p135) holds that there is evidence of movement in nominals comparable to the type found in clause structures. Like clausal heads which move from VP to IP which is a functional head, nominal heads move to functional head headed by the DP. Abney (1987) proposes the DP Hypothesis in the Minimalist Programm and identifies the Determiner Phrase (DP) as an important functional category where nominal heads move into. This supports the assumption that NPs pre- or post-modified by determiners are bound by such determiners and therefore are DPs with the NPs serving as complements as in the DP schema in (2) adopted from Abney (1987):

2.



The tree in (2) has the DP dominating D′ which in turn dominates D and NP with the D serving as the sister node to the NP, an indication that the D is the head of the DP with the NP serving as its complement. In the minimalist program, the D is the head of the DP while the NP serves as its complement according to Abney (1987). A key component of the Minimalist Program is the requirement that syntactic operation, derivation and representation be subject to economy conditions to ensure optimality.

4.0 Minimality

Minimality is an economy condition which holds that the length of movement, steps in a derivation or the number of violations should be minimized in the process of any grammatical derivation. Therefore in deriving a sentence, given a choice between two comparable operations, the one with the smaller movement, fewer steps and violations is preferable. This is formally expressed by Chomsky (1995b: p296) in The Minimal Link Condition (MLC) which states in part that:

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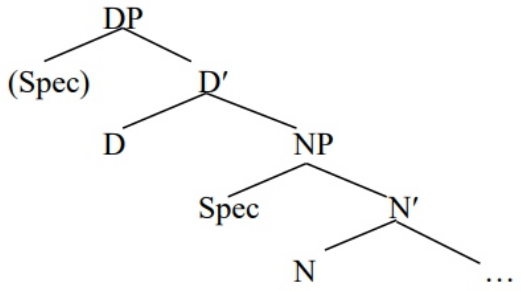

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K as used by Chomsky in (6) gives a picture of the head (H) of a category having a feature (F) which should be satisfied (Nunes, 1995:p90). This means that the domain of K attracts ɖ on the condition that there is no constituent β which is closer to K than β. The foregoing claims on the MLC can be illustrated given the derivation in (4):

4. *John$_i$ seems that it was told$_t$ that Mary left

In (4), the DP *John* raises from the embedded clause to target the matrix T^{I} to check the Case and [EPP] feature of the matrix T. This is blocked by the DP *it* which is closer to the matrix T^{I} than *John* and so blocks the movement of *John* and makes (4) illegitimate. This is due to MLC effect. These are analyses are

5.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS IN ENGLISH AND IBIBIO

5.1 V-Movement to the C-system

Verb movement to the C-system results in the formation of polar or 'Yes' or 'No' question and takes one step after another. This leads from the Head Movement Constraint (HMC) which holds that the movement of a head (X) to Y cannot skip an intervening Z (Roberts, 2001: p123). This means that V movement to C (which must jump the I-system) cannot be done in one fell swoop. Therefore, for V to move to C, it must have first moved to the I-system where it checks its relevant features, before moving to C to invert the subject to check the [EPP] feature of the CP. Chomsky (1995a: p262) holds that Operation Move creates two derivative chains. The first one is CH_{FF}= (FF[F], $t_{FF[F]}$) which is a bundle of formal features (FF) and its trace and CH_{CAT} = (α, t_{α}) which includes a lexical category carried along with the [FF] via pied-piping. Based on the foregoing analysis, in verb movement to the C-system, languages of the world parameterize by forming either CH_{FF}= (FF[F], $t_{FF[F]}$) or CH_{CAT}= (α, t_{α}). A language can move either the formal features, pied-piping or without pied-piping a lexical category.

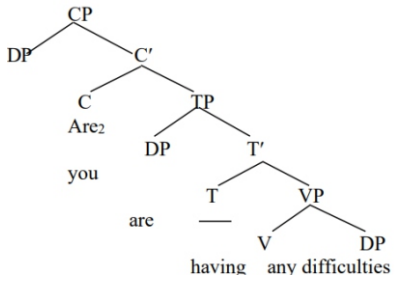
5.1.1 V-Movement to the C-system in English

V-Movement to the C-system in English is a way of generating polar or yes-no questions. Polar questions simply require 'Yes' or 'No' as an answer (Ufot, 2009:305). (10a-c) illustrate V-movement to the C-system in the English language:

5a. Are you having any difficulties?
 b. Will the people come?
 c. Did Archibong see Eme?

There is evidence of V-movement to the C-system in the English language as captured in diagram

3.



In the tree in (3), CP stands for Complementiser Phrase, a position outside the TP where moved constituents like question and relative constructions are formed. (3) shows that the CP dominates the TP which stands for the Tense Phrase. The CP, the TP and the AgrP all act as functional domains where checking relations hold. The VP, on the other hand, acts as a lexical domain. The adjunction of the V-feature of the TP to the C of CP is step-by-step. The V-feature is first copied to the TP where it adheres to Shortest Move and also checks its ø-features. This initial checking relation does not erase the moved verb, since auxiliaries in English are [+Interpretable]. Therefore, the verb *are* in (3) is still accessible to the Computational System which enhances its movement to the C of CP in order to check the strong Q(uestion) of the CP.

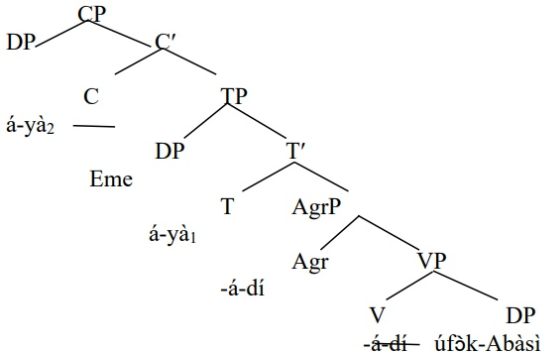
5.1.2 V-Movement to the C-system in Ibibio

There is evidence of V-Movement to the C-system in Ibibio to derive certain questions. Such questions are simply called polar questions in the literature (Essien 1990, Willie 2012). The foregoing position draws on Chierchia's "answerhood condition" which according to Willie (2012: p1) holds that questions are dependent on the possible answer to them. Therefore certain questions have been identified in Ibibio according to Essien (1990) which require *eh* (yes) or *iyo* (no). These are polar questions. The sentences in (6a-b) exemplify polar questions in the Ibibio language:

6a. Mmo-òwó é-yà é-dí?
People 3plS FUT 3plS come
'Will people come?'
b. M-mé –kpón?
1sgS PRES- big/fat
'Am I big/fat'?

The process and structure that underlie V-movement to the C-system in Ibibio can be captured in the tree in (4):

4.



The tree in (4) shows that the Ibibio language has weak Q in the derivation of polar questions. This is why the structure Q[Eme á-yà-á-díúfk-Abàsì] reaches the PF without any essential change. This is because to check the Q-feature in (5), T moves after Spell Out. In other words, V-movement to the C-system captures Chomsky (1995a: p262) position that Operation Move creates two derivative chains. The first one is CH_{FF}= (FF[F], $t_{FF[F]}$) which is a bundle of formal features (FF) and its trace and CH_{CAT}= (α, t_{α}) which includes a lexical category carried along with the [FF] via pied-piping. Based on the foregoing analysis, verb movement to the C-system can create either CH_{FF}= (FF[F], $t_{FF[F]}$) or

CH_{CAT} = (α, t_{α}). (6) shows that in V-movement to the C-system in Ibibio, the former applies and the formal features of the auxiliary*á-yà* is moved without pied-piping its lexical category.The derivation is produced with a rising intonation.

6.0 Head Movement in Nominals

Roberts (2001: p135) states that noun phrases give evidence of movement in nominals comparable to the type found in clause structures. Abney (1987) proposes the DP Hypothesis and identifies the Determiner Phrase (DP) as an important functional category in which nominal moves to check their features. So, like clausal heads, nouns which are nominal heads move to DP which serves as a functional category and checking domain for nouns. Languages of the world such as English and Ibibio set parameters based on the minimalist assumption that nominal may move to DP to precede or be preceded by Determiner (D) depending on whether the movement is prior or after Spell Out.

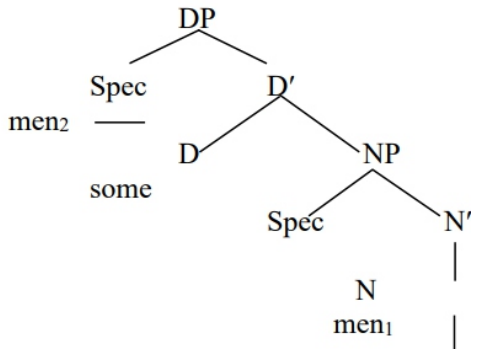
6.1 Head Movement in Nominals in English

Noun Phrase occurs as complement of the D in DP. Therefore, the movement of head of NP (a lexical category) can be studied in relation to the DP which is a functional category and serves as a checking domain for the former. DPs are headed by determiners and there are many examples of determiners in English. There are articles as determiners such as: *a, an, the*; possessives as determiners such as*: my, our, your, his, her, their;* demonstratives as determiners such as: *this, that, these, those*; interrogatives as determiners such as: *what, which*, *where*; indefinites as determiners such as: *each, many, both, few, a few, little, a little;* and numerals as determiners such as *: one, two, three, four etc*. (14a-d) instantiate DPs in English:

7 some men
b those books
c this boy
d my friend

The process and structure that underlie N movement in (7a-d) to the DP in English can be captured in the tree in (5):

5.



The tree diagram in (5) exemplifies the structure of a DP as well as captures head movement in NP in the English language. The DP is the functional head while the NP is the domain of the lexical head and based on Minimalism, a checking relation must take place where there is a checking

configuration and this is within the DP domain. Example (5) shows that English has weak N-feature. Consequently, the NP head *men* in line with the principle of Procrastinate, and is therefore forced to move after Spell Out since its weak features are not visible and therefore cannot cause the derivation to crash at LF. The system which raises NP head generates two copies of the chain (man_1, man_2) in (5), showing that the upper copy (man_2) of the chain undergoes deletion, giving the English language a DP structure where determiner appears pre-nominally, preceding the NP head.

6.2 Head Movement in Nominal in Ibibio

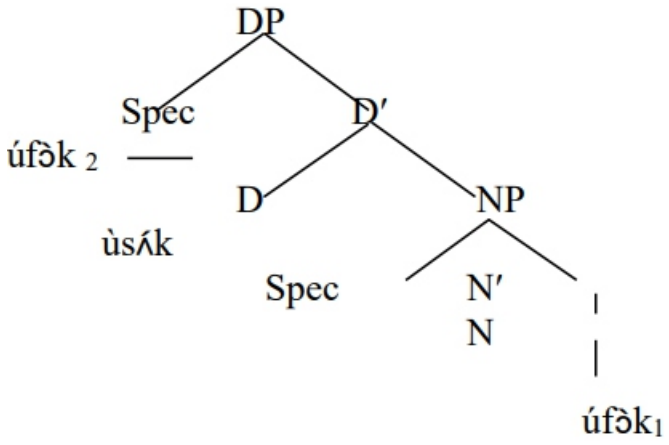
Noun Phrases are cross-linguistically known to occur within DPs, and a study of head movement in Ibibio NP must not be done in dissociation with the DP. Therefore, the movement of the head of NP can be studied in relation to the DP. DPs are headed by determiners whether pre-nominally or post-nominally and there are examples of determiners in the Ibibio language which Essien (1990: p136) refers to as noun modifiers, and sub-classifies them into deictic elements: é*mì, ódò or ókò*; quantifiers*: ùwák, ùsk, èfíd*; and numerals: *itíòn, dùòp, ítá* etc. (8a-d) instantiate DPs in the Ibibio language:

8a. *ùsk*úfk
some house
'some houses'

b. úfk ódò
house that
'that house'

The structure underlying the derivation of the Ibibio DPs and head movement in NP in (8a-b) is captured in (6):

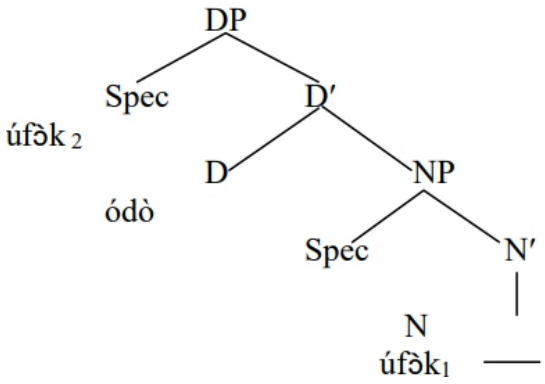
6.



The tree diagram in (6) exemplifies the structure of a DP as well as captures head movement in NP in Ibibio. DP is a functional head and checking relation must take place in a functional category which is the checking configuration. (6) shows that the movement of the NP head *úfk* to the DP can be

enforced by Procrastinate. By according with Procrastinate, the NP head *úfk* moves after Spell Out since its weak features are not visible and therefore cannot cause the derivation to crash at LF. Two copies of the moved NP head are formed ($úfk_1$, $úfk_2$) in (6), showing that the upper copy ($úfk_2$) of the chain undergoes deletion, giving the Ibibio language a DP structure where determiner appears pre-nominally, preceding the NP head. This syntactic derivation is peculiar to quantifier determiners such as*ùwák, ùsk, èfíd,* etc.

7.



The tree diagram in (7) exemplifies the structure of demonstratives, numerals and possessives as heads of DPs as well as captures head movement in NP in the Ibibio language in relation to the D of the DP. (7) shows that the movement of the NP head *úfk* to the DP can be enforced by Greed. By according with Greed, the NP head *úfk* moves before Spell Out since its strong features are visible and therefore can cause the derivation to crash at PF. Two copies of the moved NP head are formed ($úfk_1$, $úfk_2$). (7) shows that the lower copy ($úfk_1$) of the chain undergoes deletion, giving the Ibibio language a DP structure where determiners appear post-nominally by being preceded by the NP head. This syntactic derivation is peculiar to deictic elements such as é*mì, ódò or ókò*; quantifiers such as *ùwák, ùsk, èfíd*; and numerals such as *itíòn, dùòp, ítá*.

7.0. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

DP movement in passive constructions differs greatly in English and Ibibio. While DP movement in English passives targets Spec-TP because they are closer, DP movement in passives in Ibibio targets Spec-FOC because there is no closer operation satisfying Last Resorts. DP passive movement in Ibibio dislocates the DP to Spec- FOC introduced by the FOC-marker *ké* above the AGRP while DP passive movement in English moves to Spec-TP with a change on the verb morphology.

DP movement in raising structures in the two languages is similar and dissimilar. Firstly, the raised DP from the infinitival embedded clause can be animate as well as inanimate in both languages. However, in subject-to-subject raising in English, the matrix predicate unlike the embedded infinitival predicate, bears some person and number relation with the raised DP in English. On the contrary, while the predicate of the embedded clause bears some number and person relation with the raised DP, this relation does not exist in the matrix clause where the DP is raised to in Ibibio.

In accusative constructions in English and Ibibio, it appears that the transitive object and its

since its weak features are not visible and therefore cannot cause the derivation to crash at LF. Two copies of the moved NP head are formed (*úfk*$_1$, *úfk*$_2$) in (6), showing that the upper copy (*úfk*$_2$) of the chain undergoes deletion, giving the Ibibio language a DP structure where determiner appears pre-nominally, preceding the NP head. This syntactic derivation is peculiar to quantifier determiners such as*ùwák, ùsk, èfíd,* etc.

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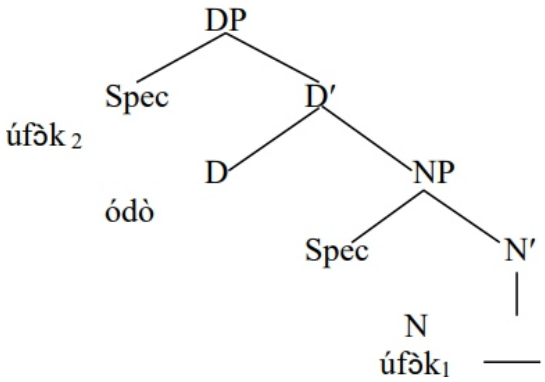

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In accusative constructions in English and Ibibio, it appears that the transitive object and its unaccusative verb must have certain things in common for the structure to be meaningful. The

unaccusative verb must have certain things in common for the structure to be meaningful. The transitive object and the unaccusative verb must have the same theta checking role in that they are in theta chain and must have the same selectional properties. The steps in the derivation of ergative structures in both languages are similar and involved the use of a certain class of verbs in both languages.

While complements can raise before or after Spell Out, The Spec-AgrP must always raise before Spell Out in the Ibibio language, deleting ø-feature such that the Spec-head agreement does not hold. On the contrary, in all wh-question formation in English, the Strong wh-Feature, whether of the Spec-TP or complement, must raise before Spell Out to check the Strong Q of the CP as well as the EPP feature of Q. The deletion that must apply for the linearization of the non-distinct copies does not delete the ø–feature which still maintains a sort of Spec-head agreement relationship in the TP which though was checked was never erased because it is [+Interpretable]. On the contrary, in subject raising in the Ibibio language, Q of CP can either be weak or strong. When it is weak, it raises at Logical Form (LF) for interpretation, and when it is strong it raises to the Strong Q while the lower copy undergoes deletion for Phonetic Form (PF) convergence.

In VP-movement in English, auxiliaries have strong V-features and consequently move before Spell Out to precede adverbs and main verbs. Due to the weakness of the V-features of main verbs in English, the main verbs remain inside the VP until Spell Out. This is why auxiliaries always precede sentence adverbs, which in turn precede the main verbs in English. On the contrary, main verbs precede adverbs in Ibibio because they have strong V-features and move before Spell out.

In deriving polar questions, the English language accords with the HMC. This is because English auxiliaries first move out of the VP to the I-system to derive the TP, before moving to the C-system. This accounts for Radford's (2002: p330) requirement that if a clause must be read as a question, there must be an interrogative operator in Spec-CP. On the contrary, in Ibibio, although the verb moves from the VP before Spell Out to check its [+Interpretable] ø–features at the AgrP, its cyclic movement to the C of CP is done after Spell Out This implies that polar question in Ibibio favours feature movement over category movement which is viewed as an optimal account of movement in minimalism. This accounts for word order difference in polar questions in English and Ibibio.

The movement of the head of NP in relation to the DP in English and Ibibio are worlds apart. While head of NPs in English generally accords with Procrastinate to move after Spell Out and be pre-modified by D, DPs in Ibibio are divided into those that allow the moved NP head to accord with Procrastinate and those that allow the moved NP head to accord with Greed. While heads of NPs in only quantifier determiners accord with Procrastinate as captured in (6), heads of NPs in deictic and numerals accord with Greed as captured in (7) by being forced to move earlier before Spell Out to check their features in Ibibio. This sets the parameters for NPs in both languages and is implicated in word order differences in the two languages. The parametric differences in movement operations in English and Ibibio have serious implications in the learning of English as a second language to Ibibio speakers of English.

8.0 Conclusion

The present study examined head-to-head movement in English and Ibibio. While using the Split Infl Hypothesis of the Minimalist Program to analyse head-to-head movement, differences in head

movement in English and Ibibio were observed on each case. The findings show that comparing head-to-head movement in English and Ibibio has some important differences which have serious implications for second language learning among Ibibio-English bilinguals in certain areas such as: (i) the position from which moved constituents binds its copy in English and Ibibio languages are different, (ii) the features of the copy of the moved item in both languages may still be in some agreement with the verb of the matrix clause in both languages, and (iii) the word order of declaratives and interrogatives in the two languages differ.

The foregoing considerations give useful insight into the parametric variations of English and Ibibio. These contrasts between the two languages are not known to the Ibibio learner of English. This is where the essence of the present research work lies. However, it is suggested that more researches in the areas of head-to-head movement in English and Ibibio will reveal other unique peculiarities between the two languages and will ease the learning of English by Ibibio speakers.

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