

Affixal Processes in Tiv

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Abstract

This study seeks to identify and describe the different ways words in Tiv language are affixed, what morphological rules govern the process of affixation in Tiv language and how these morphological realizations function in the language. The observation of the underdevelopment of the orthography, sound system and even grammar of Tiv language is the driving motivation of the researcher to describe an aspect of its grammar. The findings reveal that, Tiv language marks number and possession on nouns and indicate tenses on verbs through the processes of prefixation, suffixation and circumfixation of inflectional affixes to roots while the affixation of derivational affixes result in the production of new words which either change or maintain their word classes to the root. Identified derived classes are, verb to noun, adjective to noun and noun to noun. Quite peculiar is the fact that most derived words in Tiv are mostly nouns. The study used the linguistic theory of Item-and-Arrangement (IA) by Hockett 1954 which emphasizes the arrangement of morphemes and the processes that combine them to form larger units. Unstructured interview was employed using the random sampling technique to have a fair sample representation. The data collected was described and presented with the aid of tables. The paper concludes that, affixal process is one of the most productive word formation processes in Tiv language and has contributed substantially to the expansion of the Tiv vocabulary. The paper recommends that more studies be carried out on other areas of the Tiv grammar.

Keywords: Language, Morphology, Affixation, Words, Morphemes.

Introduction

Linguistics “the scientific study of language” according to Lyons (1968:1) provides scholars the opportunity to study human languages. People all over have been fascinated with language and communication for thousands of years, yet in many ways speakers are only beginning to understand the complex nature of this aspect of human life. Everybody knows what language is but no one has been able to define language in a way that fully explains it. Language is at the heart of every human activity and it defines who human beings are. Thomas (1974) says “the gift of language is the single human trait that sets us apart from the rest of life”. All normal human beings have the knowledge of at least one language and any significant social, intellectual or artistic activity would probably be impossible without the opportunities provided by language. Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams (2011:1) affirm “when we study human language, we are approaching what some might call the human

“essence” the distinctive qualities of mind that are, so far as we know, unique to man”. This proves the importance and indispensability of language to man.

The basic role of all languages is to communicate. This communicative role enhances development. That is why it is important for all languages to be researched upon and studied. In order to achieve this, the study of language has been divided into levels to enable ease of study.

The first level of language study is phonetics/phonology (the study of human speech sounds in general and then those of a particular language). The second level is morphology (the study of the structure of words and how they are formed). The third is syntax (the study of the structure of sentences). The fourth is semantics (the study of meaning) and pragmatics (the study of meaning in relation to context). This paper focuses on the level of morphology.

According to Aronoff and Fudeman (2011:2) morphology refers to the “mental system involved in word formation or the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure and how they are formed.” The first view of this definition expresses the fact that, morphology studies the mental system of rules underlying the human intuitive knowledge of the structure of words while the second view concurs the scope as covering, the study of words, their internal construction in which a word can be analyzed into their smallest meaningful part, which are called morphemes.

O'Grady, Archibald and Katamba (2011:117-118) define morphemes as the “smallest unit of language that carries information about meaning or function”. They distinguish morphemes into free morphemes and bound morphemes. A free morpheme is a morpheme that can stand alone as a word. It can be referred to as a '*base*' or '*root*'. For example:

1. Mat
2. Eat
3. Spoon

These (1-3) are free morphemes, while a bound morpheme on the other hand is that morpheme that must be attached to another element. For example:

4. -s on mats

—

5. ful on spoonful
(4-5) are bound morphemes.

Bound morphemes are called 'affixes. They are attached to a root, base or stem to form a new word (derivations) which either changes the meaning of the new word for example:

6. Obey to dis-obey or changes its word class for example:
7. Kind to kind-ly on the one hand and on the other hand the attachment creates a variant form of the same word (inflection) for example:
8. Work, works, working, worked.

Affixes assume different positions when attached to roots or bases. Lieber (2009) avers, those affixes attached at the initial of a root, they are known as prefixes e.g. *un-willing* while those attached at the final position of a root, they are known as suffixes e.g. *wonder-ful*. The process of attaching bound morphemes to roots, bases or stem is called affixation.

Affixation which is the focus of this paper is one of the morphological processes that is common in many languages of the world including Tiv language. Manova (2005:1) opines, “affixation is the major morphological device for creating new words and word forms in the languages of the world”.

Others are; compounding, borrowing, conversion, blending, clipping, coinage, duplication etc. However, apart from other morphological processes in the Tiv morphology, the current paper places premium on the affixal processes in the Tiv language.

Affixal processes in Tiv are wrapped in a lot of complexities, unlike in English where the process is simple and regular. The complexities are most conspicuous in the many irregularities or variations observed in the marking of plurals on single base or stem. Shoja (2010: 54-59) affirms that, “Tiv plural nouns are formed in different ways. There is no specified parameter to determine what form the plural would be. Sometimes the initial letter of the noun appears to be the determining factor.”

This paper aims at identifying and describing the processes of affixation in Tiv language where bound morphemes are attached to stems or roots to either derive new words or produce different forms of the same word, thereby constantly expanding and enriching the vocabulary of the language on the one hand, and producing varying forms of a word to differentiate related meanings or uses on the other hand. Tiv affixal process is such a unique morphological process that the researcher hopes to achieve its description through the following objectives: to identify the different ways Tiv affixes its word forms, to describe the affixal process attested in Tiv, and to analyze the purpose of affixation in Tiv.

Statement of the Problem

Tiv language is still undergoing description. There is the need for all aspects of the Tiv language to be described for the language to become standardized. This study seeks to describe an aspect of Tiv grammar, the affixal processes, so as to contribute to the description, development and subsequent standardization of the Tiv language. It is against this background that the study is set to expound this aspect of Tiv grammar with the determination to highlight and unravel the affixal processes and prove the productivity of this morphological process in the Tiv language.

Ethno-linguistic profile of the Tiv people/and the language

The term 'Tiv' can mean: the 'ancestral father' of the Tiv race of central Nigeria, the 'ethnic group' which is a descendant of Tiv and also 'the language' spoken by the Tiv race. Tiv language is a southern Bantoid language spoken in some states in Nigeria, with some speakers in Cameroon. Most Tiv speakers are found in Benue State in Nigeria. Tiv is also widely spoken in the Nigerian states of Plateau, Taraba, Nasarawa and Cross River as well as the FCT Abuja. Tiv language is by far the largest of the Tivoid languages, a group of languages belonging to the southern Bantoid branch of Benue-Congo and ultimately of the Niger-Congo phylum, Yina (2011:13).

Shoja, (2010:1) claims that Tiv language was first reduced to writing by the missionaries from South Africa, who lived among and studied the Tiv people as well as their language. Prominent amongst them is Rev. W. A. Malherbe, who developed a practical Tiv orthography in 1911. Working against the background of English phonology, he developed 25 letters of the Tiv alphabets; he distinguished between consonants and vowels in Tiv and also worked on other aspects of Tiv phonology such as, the syllable, the stress, intonation and modulation. He also wrote a Tiv- English Dictionary in 1931. His works are still very useful till date in the study and description of the Tiv language. A unique

feature of Tiv that is worth mentioning is that, despite the large population of Tiv numbering over three million speakers, the language still displays little dialectal variations. Minimal differences are observed at the phonological and lexical levels of the language due to geographical locations and cultural interferences. For example:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ityoshin(speakers) | Gboko(speakers) |
| Yeme- (go) | yem – (go) |

In some cases, the Ityoshin speakers would pronounce verbs bearing a vowel sound at the final position while the Gboko speakers have no such markings. However, such variations are not enough to become dialects. Thus, the mutual intelligibility of the Tiv language still remains intact.

According to Adzer (2016) the typological classification of Tiv language tends more towards the agglutinating class because each morpheme in a Tiv word-structure expresses a single meaning and several can be strung together. For example, the Tiv nominal;

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2. <i>M</i> - | <i>ngu</i> - | <i>sonun</i> |
| 1SG | PRT-ngu | ASP-sonun |
| I | am | asking |

Each of the morphemes expresses a single meaning and indicates markings such as; Person *-/m/-* 1stPerSing, Tense *-/ngu/-* present, Aspect *-/sonun/-* imperfective. The Tiv language has an intrinsically complex morphology and the aspect of affixation is one of such complex areas requiring description for a clearer understanding.

Review of related Literature Language

Language is a system of human expression by means of speech sounds. It is the main means by which human beings communicate. It is a major attribute of human beings that distinguishes them from the rest of the animals.

Wardhaugh (1972) defines a language as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication. Robbins (1985) concurs, language is a symbol system based on pure or arbitrary conventions... infinitely extendable and modifiable according to the changing needs and conditions of the speakers. Moving towards a social perspective, Hall (1969) defines language as the institution whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of habitually used oral-auditory arbitrary symbols. Similarly, Lyons (1970) buttresses that languages are the principal systems of communication used by particular groups of human beings within the particular society (linguistic community) of which they are members.

All the definitions above stress three important facts, language is a human system of communication, it can be oral or written and it is used among a group of persons in a speech community. No wonder, Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams (2011:1) buttress “when we study human language, we are approaching what some might call the human 'essence' the distinctive qualities of mind that are so far as we know, unique to man”. With the importance accrued to language, man over the years has sought to know what language is all about and this has led to the study of language divided into levels or sub-fields for ease of study.

Morphology in linguistics is considered by Matthews (1991:9) as the “branch of grammar that deals with the internal structure of words”. While Dorfman (cited in Prasad, 2009) defines morphology as the “study of the ways and methods of grouping sounds into sound-complexes or words of definite, distinct, conventional meaning”. These two definitions emphasize the two important concerns of morphology though each promotes a single view; while Matthews emphasizes the study of the internal structure of word forms; Dorfman stresses the formation of word forms. However, other scholars have attempted to merge the two angles of the concerns of morphology. O'Grady, Archibald and Katamba (2011: 116) agree that, morphology is “concerned with words and word formation”. They further explain that, the study of morphology offers important insight into how language works, revealing the need for different categories of words, the presence of word internal structure, and the existence of operations that create and modify words in various ways. One of these operations is affixation which is the crux of this paper.

The concept affixation is a morphological process whereby bound affixes are attached to roots or stems of words to generate varying forms of a word for grammatical functions or derive new words entirely that have different meanings and, in most cases, different word classes. Research has shown that affixal process is one of the most productive word formation processes in the morphology of many languages of the world, Tiv language is not an exception. Its productivity has enhanced the relevance of morphology as one of the major areas in the study of language. Lieber (2009:7) submits, morphology is important for forming new words from old ones (derivation). It is also important for the creation of word forms that can be used in different grammatical contexts for the expression of grammatical distinctions like number, tense, person and case (inflection).

Lieber (2009:32-33) submits, affixation avails one with the knowledge of how to analyze words into their component parts, and see how the parts are organized and how the various parts contribute to their meanings. These parts are called morphemes, the minimal meaningful units that are used to form words. Some can stand alone as words such as head, mat, these are called free morphemes; those that cannot stand alone are called bound morphemes for example un-, -ly etc. Bound morphemes come in different varieties; those that come before the base are called prefix and those that come after the base of the word are called suffix, together prefixes and suffixes are called affixes. Haspelmath and Sims (2010:19) agree that an affix attaches to a word or a main part of a word, it usually has an abstract meaning and it cannot occur by itself.

Word

A word is commonly known as a basic element in every language. It is a proper combination of sounds in a particular language following the rules of the language to represent either objects or ideas and they can be spoken or written. It is described by Katamba (1993: 4) as “meaningful building blocks of language”. O'Grady et al (2011) agree that linguists consider a word as the smallest free form found in language. Free in the sense that it does not need to occur in a fix position with other words, it can even appear in isolation and still makes complete sense. For instance, *crayons* is a word while the plural marker *-s* is not. The reason being that, *-s* is not a free form: it does not occur in

isolation and cannot be separated from the noun to which it belongs.

Katamba (1993:41-43) submits that, words have internal structure. The root of a word is the irreducible core of a word with absolutely nothing attached to it. It is the part that is always present, possibly with some modification in the various manifestation of a lexeme. For instance, *work* is a root and it appears in the paradigm *work, works, working* and *worked*.

Morpheme

Morpheme is the minimal linguistic element that carries grammatical or semantic meaning. It is not further divisible into smaller grammatical components. Katamba (1993:20) affirms: “the term morpheme is used to refer to the smallest units of semantic content or grammatical function which words are made up of.”

Similarly, Akmajian, Demers, Farmer and Harnish (2010:19) concur, “morphemes are the minimal units of word building in language; they cannot be broken down any further into recognizable or meaningful parts.” Morphemes are thus, the smallest meaningful units organized in respect to each other in a particular way to form words. According to Syal and Jindal (2008:77) there are two types of morphemes: *free* morphemes and *bound* morphemes.

Free morphemes are words that can stand alone, for example: *crawl* and *sing*. Bound morphemes on the other hand cannot stand alone but are usually attached to another morpheme, either bound or free. They are not words of their own. Examples are: *-ed* in *play-ed*, *mis-* in *mis-interpret*, etc. Essien, (1990) and Yule, (2007) state that “...all affixes most importantly in English language are referred to as bound morphemes and they are of two types namely: derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes. Essien (2010) explains that *derivational morphemes* are capable of creating new words from others. For example, from a verb to a noun as in *preach* (verb) to become *preacher* (noun). Similarly, *inflectional morpheme* being the type that marks grammatical information such as number, person, gender, tense, aspect and mood does produce different grammatical forms of the same word. Finegan (2012) confirms that *inflectional morphemes* change the form of a word but not the lexical category or its central meaning. They create varieties of words form in order to conform to different roles in a sentence as in words like *dance-dancing – marks progressive tense, boy-boys marks number*.

Thus, all bound morphemes are called affixes, the process of attaching them to roots or bases is referred to as affixation and such operations in morphology are generally referred to as morphological processes.

Affixation

Affixation is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme, an affix is attached to a morphological base. According to Matthew (1991:131) affixation is defined by two characteristics: firstly, the form which results from the operation-the derived form, will consists of the base- the form that the operation applies to plus an additional morpheme. For example, *mat-base –s* affix. Secondly,

the form which is added that is the affix will be constant. It will be the same whatever particular base the operation applies to. This operation consists of affixes and roots, bases or stems.

An affix according to Katamba (1993:44), is “a morpheme which only occurs when attached to some other morphemes or morphemes such as root, stem or base.” Thus, affixes are bound morphemes, they cannot occur in isolation and make sense nor can be strung together to make meaning. Katamba further identifies three types of affixes depending on their position within the word, which are:

1.
 - i. Prefixes: This is an affix attached before a root or stem or base like,
re- return, un- unclean and in-incorrect
 - ii. Suffixes: This is an affix attached after a root or stem or base like.
 - iii. *slowly -ly, , teacher -er, cats -s*
 - iv. Infixes: This is an affix inserted into the root itself. These are not common in English but exist in other languages like:
Tiv: Fele *quick* Fele-fe-fele *quickly*

Empirical Review

Haspelmath and Sims (2010:19-20) surveyed the word forms in an inflectional paradigm and explain that, they generally share at least one longer morpheme with meaning and attachments called affixes. To them affixes are attachments to words that have abstract meanings and cannot occur by themselves. They exemplify with Russian nouns which have different affixes in the paradigm for example:

2.
 - (a) **Russian case inflection (singular forms)**
 1. nominative *ruk-a 'hand*
 2. accusative *ruk-u*
 3. genitive *ruk-i*
 4. dative *ruk-e*
 5. locative *ruk-e*
 6. instrumental *ruk-oj*

Source: Haspelmath and Sims (2010:19-20)

Their study affirms the existence of case marking on nouns in Russian.

Also, classical Nahuatl; the language spoken in Mexico by the Aztecs and their neighbours, has nouns which according to them have different affixes in the paradigm that indicate a possessor (*no* for *my*, *mo* for *your*) etc.

- (b) **Nahuatl possessor inflection**
 7. 1SG *no-cal* my house
 8. 2SG *mo-cal* your house
 9. 3SG *i-cal* his/her house
 10. 1-PL *to-cal* our house

11. 2PL *amo-cal* your house
 12. 3PL *in-cal* their house

Source: Haspelmath and Sims (2010:19-20)

Ado and Bidin (2017) attempted a concise description of the morphological analysis of the plural formation process of Iguta language; a minority endangered language in north central Nigeria, precisely Plateau state. They observed that the most common way of building new words in Iguta language is through affixation.

13.

a. Prefixation in Iguta

The t- Prefix

The t- prefix is one of the commonest types of affixation found in Iguta. It marks plural of nouns and is operational on words beginning with the letter [u].

| PREFIXES | + | BASE | GLOSS | = | RESULT | GLOSS |
|----------|---|-----------------|-------|---|------------------|--------|
| t- | + | <i>ùbùnkúzá</i> | liver | = | <i>tùbùnkúzá</i> | livers |
| t- | + | <i>ìv́á</i> | leaf | = | <i>tìv́á</i> | leaves |
| t- | + | <i>ùbùná</i> | leg | = | <i>tùbùná</i> | legs |

b. Suffixation in Iguta

The *-char* suffix is the commonest suffix found in Iguta language, it is used in inflecting nouns for number.

| SUFFIX | BASE | GLOSS= | RESULT | GLOSS |
|--------------|------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------|
| <i>-char</i> | <i>Tùryóngín</i> | flower = | <i>tùryóngínchár</i> | flowers (n) |
| <i>-char</i> | <i>Rìshárí</i> | stone = | <i>rìshárichár</i> | stones (n) |
| <i>-char</i> | <i>Tómó</i> | saliva = | <i>tómóchár</i> | salivae (n) |
| <i>-char</i> | <i>Ùtóm</i> | sweat = | <i>ùtómchár</i> | sweats (n) |

Source: Ado and Bidin (2017)

The study proves that nouns in Iguta are marked for number through the processes of prefixation and suffixation.

Theoretical framework

The paper attempts a description of the affixal process in Tiv based on item and arrangement process identified by Hockett (1954). Aronoff and Fudeman (2011:49) from the work of Hockett (1954) discuss two basic approaches to morphology but this paper uses only one which is termed *Item-and-Arrangement (IA)* which best explains the affixal process this paper is concerned with. Item-and-arrangement was birthed from the structuralist's preoccupation with word analysis, particularly with techniques for breaking words down into their component morphemes called items. It proceeds from the view of each language as a set of elements and the patterns in which those elements occur. This view gives no independent status to the items, which arises instead through the construction of the patterns. Morphology is therefore seen as the arrangement of these morphemes into a particular order or structure. In the IA model, a word like *girls* is viewed as a set of morphemes which include a root with its corresponding exponent or morph, *girl* /gɜ:l/, and a plural morpheme with its

corresponding morph, *s /z/*. Hence, in this model each piece of morpho-syntactic information is paired with some morph or exponent. The study employs this theory as a base on which the analysis of the affixal processes in Tiv are anchored. The theory best explains the arrangement of both free and bound morphemes in Tiv word structure and the semantic and morpho-syntactic information they provide.

Methodology

The study employed descriptive research design. Data was sourced using unstructured interview as the instrument to collect data from native speakers of Tiv. The qualitative method of data analysis was used in analyzing the data collected for the study.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data gathered pointed to the presence of productive affixal processes in Tiv with the processes being active under two broad headings inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes. As earlier mentioned, inflectional morphemes when attached to free morphemes indicate number in nouns and tenses in verbs, thus, producing variant forms of the word form without changing its class. On the other hand, derivational morphemes when attached to free morphemes, produce new words that both maintain and change their word class. Affixes in Tiv are positioned as prefixes, infixes, suffixes and circumfixes. Data are hereby presented and analyzed.

Inflections in Tiv

Inflectional affixes in Tiv inflect bases or roots to indicate number, tense, and possession. This leaves the explanation that any word forming element used together with a base word to form plurals, possessives and words indicating tenses is an inflectional morpheme. They function mostly as prefixes but also as suffixes and circumfixes. They are class maintaining, that is, they do not form words by changing their part of speech; rather the word is modified within the same part of speech.

Inflectional prefixes in Tiv

This research has identified a variety of the bound morphemes that are capable of inflecting words at the initial position referred to as prefixation in the Tiv language. These are: *mba-*, *u-*, *I-*, *a-*.

Below are words inflected by *mba-* prefix to mark number on nouns. The base is the singular noun, and when the prefix '*mba*' is attached to the base it forms its plural counterpart. 14

Table 1: The *Mba-* prefix

| PREFIX | + | BASE | GLOSS | RESULT | GLOSS |
|------------|---|---------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <i>mba</i> | + | <i>mkohol</i> | Meeting | <i>Mbamkohol</i> | Meetings |
| <i>mba</i> | + | <i>abeda</i> | Wrapper | <i>Mbaabeda</i> | Wrappers |
| <i>mba</i> | + | <i>mhen</i> | Thought | <i>Mbamhen</i> | Thoughts |
| <i>mba</i> | + | <i>mpin</i> | Question | <i>Mbampin</i> | Questions |
| <i>mba</i> | + | <i>akpa</i> | whip | <i>Mbaakpa</i> | Whips |
| <i>mba</i> | + | <i>adedda</i> | Bungalow | <i>Mbaadedda</i> | Bungalows |

Source: Field Data

One of the most conspicuous rules on the use of prefix –*u* to mark number is that it serves the purpose

of forming plurals of both words of Tiv origin as well as those with foreign origins, like borrowed words from English and Hausa languages as shown below:

Table 2: The u- prefix

| PREFIX | + | BASE | GLOSS | RESULT | GLOSS |
|-----------------------|---|--------|----------|---------|-----------|
| u | + | nor | Elephant | Unor | Elephants |
| u | + | dagi | spear | Udagi | Spears |
| u | + | gambe | bed | Ugambe | Beds |
| u | + | mondo | Cocoyam | Umondo | Cocoyams |
| u | + | uma | life | Uma | Lives |
| u | + | zamber | Plead | Uzamber | Pleas |
| English origin | | | | | |
| u | + | tebul | Table | Utebul | Tables |
| u | + | redio | radio | Uledio | Radios |
| Hausa origin | | | | | |
| u | + | canca | Broom | Ucanca | Brooms |
| u | + | kasua | Market | Ukasua | Markets |

Source: Field Data

The attachment of the *i-* prefix to a noun base to form its plural variant often requires the introduction of vowel sounds especially the /y or i/ sounds after the initial letter of the base. This indicates a form of phonological conditioning of the variant.

Table 3: The i- Prefix

| PREFIX | + | BASE | GLOSS | RESULT | GLOSS |
|--------|---|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| i | + | loho | message | Ilyoho | Messages |
| i | + | hunda | Door | Ihinda | Doors |
| i | + | bua | cow | Ibyua | Cows |
| i | + | usu | Light | Iuisu | Lights |
| i | + | kpatema | Cat | Ikpyatema | Cats |
| i | + | nombur | Tongue | Inyonmbur | Tongues |

Source: Field Data

The *a-* prefix is most active in marking number on nouns with initial /i/ sound. The *a-* prefix replaces the /i/ sound on the inflected form, this is a process called vowel mutation. The table below illustrates it:

Table 4: The a- prefix

| PREFIX | + | BASE | GLOSS | RESULT | GLOSS |
|--------|---|--------|-------|--------|--------|
| a | + | ivom | Heap | Avom | Heaps |
| a | + | iwen | Stone | Awen | Stones |
| a | + | ishe | Eye | Ashe | Eyes |
| a | + | ivungu | Owl | Avungu | Owls |
| a | + | ikpa | Bag | Akpa | Bags |
| a | + | iji | Egg | Aji | Eggs |

Source: Field Data

Inflectionals

The case of suffixation in Tiv generally is not as common as prefixation but it occurs nonetheless. Inflectional suffixation mostly marks continuous and habitual tense on verbs but in a few cases also

inflect for number and possession. The verb is inflected with suffix –n and it represents both continuous tense and habitual form depending on the tone. When the inflected form is pronounced with a low tone, marking the final sound, it represents a continuous tense. When the final is marked with a high tone it is habitual. Below are examples:

Table 5: The -n, -v, -ov, -ev, -em, -om, -m, suffixes

| BASE | GLOSS | SUFFIX | RESULT | GLOSS | GROSS |
|-------------------|----------|--------|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Mede | grow | -n | Médèn (continuous) | growing | Médén (habitual) grows |
| Hula | weed | -n | hulàn (continuous) | weeding | hulán (habitual) farms |
| Ese | sweep | -n | Esèn (continuous) | sweeping | esén (habitual) sweeps |
| Kile | wash | -n | Kilèn (continuous) | washing | kilén (habitual) washes |
| Naha | drive | -n | Nahàn (continuous) | driving | nahán (habitual) drives |
| Number | | | | | |
| Kwase | wife | -v | Kasev | wives | |
| Ngo | mother | -v | Ngov | mothers | |
| Nom | husband | -ov | Noov | husbands | |
| Won | in-law | -ov | Wonov | in-laws | |
| Angbyan | relation | -ev | Angbyanev | relations | |
| Possession | | | | | |
| Ter | father | -em | Terem | my father | |
| Kyar | friend | -em | Ikyarem | my friend | |
| Nom | husband | -om | Nonom | my husband | |
| Won | in-law | -om | Wonom | my in-law | |
| Ngo | mother | -m | Ngom | my mother | |
| Igba | kinsman | -m | Igbam | my kinsman | |

Source: Field Data

Inflectional circumfixes in Tiv

Circumfixes are affixes that are attached to both the beginning and the end of a word. These are also found in Tiv language and they mark number on nouns. This process requires the deletion, replacement or addition of some sounds on the base form. For example, the circumfix m—m requires the deletion of the first vowel and the last consonant on the base form, circumfix mba—v requires the replacement of the initial sounds while the u—v circumfix simply adds to the base form.

Table 6: The m—m, mba—v and u—v circumfixes

| BASE | GLOSS | CIRCMFIXES | RESULT | GROSS |
|----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Kyungugh | pigion | m- -m | Mkungum | pegions |
| Kyonogh | chair | m- -m | Mkonom | chairs |
| Yough | yam | m- -m | Myom | yams |
| Tyough | head | m- -m | Mtom | heads |
| Orya | landlord | mba- -v | Mbayav | landlords |
| Orsule | farmer | mba- -v | Mbasulev | farmers |
| Ngo | mother | u- -v | Ungov | mothers |

Source: Field Data

Derivations

Tiv has derivations just as it is obtainable in other natural languages. There are a number of derivational affixes in the language that act on bases or roots to generate new words adding to the vocabulary of the language. However, the presence of derivation in Tiv is not as productive as inflection but their existence is conspicuous enough not to be missed. They are mostly class changing, that is, both the root and the derived words would belong to different word classes,

however, a few maintain class. The unique thing about Tiv derivations is that, in most cases, the derived words belong to the noun class. That is, nouns are created from other word classes like verbs and adjectives. However, there is an exception observed among reduplicated words, where derived words are of other word classes other than the noun class.

Derivational prefixes in Tiv

15.

Tiv has a number of derivational prefixes. They function to create nouns and are class changing.

Table 7: The m-, i-, a- prefixes

Table 7: The m-, i-, a- prefixes

| BASE | GLOSS | PREFIXES | RESULT-GROSS | NOUN |
|-----------------|------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| Tsér(adjective) | hot | m- | Mtsér | hotness |
| Wár (verb) | save | m- | Mwár | salvation |
| Yém (verb) | go | m- | Myém | departure |
| Nyám (noun) | meat | m- | Mnyám | sleep |
| Wuese (verb) | to praise | i- | Iwuese | praise, gratitude |
| Civir (verb) | to worship | i- | Icivir | honour, respect |
| Yá (verb) | eat | i- | Iyá | nest |
| Kor (verb) | sew | a- | Akor | horns |
| Mile (verb) | submerge | a- | Amile | measles |

Source: Field Data

Derivational infixes in Tiv

Infixes in Tiv are identified among reduplicated words of the language. In most cases, adjectives are reduplicated and an infix is introduced at the middle to derive adverbs. A few examples are shown below:

Table 8: The infix –fe-, -be- and –te-

| BASE | GLOSS | SUFFIXES | RESULT (ADVERB) | GROSS |
|--------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Fele(adjective) | quick | -fe- | Felefefele | quickly |
| Bema (adjective) | foolish | -be- | Bemabebema | foolishly |
| Telegh (adjective) | weak | -te- | Teleghtetelegh | weakly |

Source: Field Data

Derivational suffixes in Tiv

The process of derivational suffixation is also attested in the language. The action of these suffixes on base words whether from verbs or adjectives still derive nouns in the language. This is in line with the item and arrangement theory which emphasizes the arrangement of bound morphemes and in this case the suffix –gh on the base to derive new words. The first example from the table is evidence that some bases do not change class, thus, they are class maintaining. Below are some examples:

Table 9: The suffix -gh

| BASE | GLOSS | SUFFIXES | RESULT (NOUNS) | GROSS |
|--------------|--------|----------|----------------|--------|
| She (noun) | eye | -gh | Shegh | gallon |
| Na (verb) | give | -gh | Nagh | gift |
| Mo (pronoun) | I | -gh | Mogh | tread |
| Ve (verb) | comes | -gh | Vegh | half |
| Me (verb) | drinks | -gh | Megh | poison |

Source: Field Data

Derivational circumfixes in Tiv

This is a situation where identified bound morphemes operate on bases both at the initial and final to derive new word forms. Under derivation, the operation is class changing and the derived words are also nouns. They are as shown below:

Table 10

| BASE | GLOSS | CIRCUMFIX | RESULT-NOUNS | GLOSS |
|-------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Wase(verb) | assist | i- -n | Iwasen | assistance |
| Laha(verb) | insult | i- -n | Ilyahan | insults |
| Kange(verb) | bind | i- -n | Ikyangen | bondage |
| Vih(i)(adjective) | ugly | m- -m | Mvihim | ugliness |

Conclusion

The study sought to highlight and unravel the affixal processes in the Tiv language with the determination to prove the productivity of the affixal process in the language. The research identified prefixes, suffixes, circumfixes and infixes in Tiv language. It described the different ways Tiv word forms are affixed and the information they mark such as number, possession and tenses. The study confirmed that, affixation as a morphological process does exist in Tiv and it is one of the most productive morphological processes in the language. It functions to express grammatical information as well as derive new lexemes altogether to add to the vocabulary of the Tiv language. This research is therefore a contribution to the development of Tiv language because the development of a people is not without the development of their language.

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