1 # Affixation in Úwù language

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6 ## Abstract

7 Most of the existing literature studying the determinants of academic performance of
8 undergraduate students in both public and private universities in Bangladesh are qualitative
9 in nature. In this study, a combination of both qualitative and quantitative analysis has been
10 done. Analyses were done using data collected from 605 students of several departments of
11 International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), a private
12 university located in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Statistical association between
13 academic performance and several explanatory variables was checked. Variables such as type
14 of department, result of preuniversity public examinations, gender, class attendance,
15 teacher-student relationship, self-confidence level of the students, depression and amount of
16 credit hours completed were found to impact the academic performance level significantly.
17 The findings of this study would help students, teachers and concerned authority of the
18 institution to comprehend the factors impacting academic performance of the students and
19 take further actions accordingl

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21 *Index terms*— academic performance, demographic variables, socio-economic variables, institutional vari-
22 ables, logistic regression analysis

23 # 1 I. Introduction

24 ffixation is a morphological process which involves the attachment of affixes to root to create a new word. **??**rystal
25 (2008:16) defines affixation as the morphological process whereby grammatical or lexical information is added to
26 a stem. Affixes are of different types based on their position of occurrence. The affixes attached to the initial
27 position of a root/stem are called prefixes. Interfixes are added to the middle of two morphemes, while those
28 added at the final part of the root/stem are called suffixes. In Úwù, prefixes and interfixes are used extensively
29 to derive new words. Suffixes are not attested in the language.

30 # 2 II. Purpose of the Study

31 This paper contributes to the ongoing research on dialectology. Several works have been published on the dialects
32 of languages to know the similarities and differences in the dialects of the language under study. It is not strange
33 that languages have similarities and differences at all levels of grammar. Little publications exist in the area of
34 phonology (see Allison 2017 on Vowel Deletion in Úwù, Boyede 2018 on Assimilation in Úwù). In the area of
35 morphology, however, no work has been published on affixation in the language. This paper, therefore, intends
36 to fill the academic gap and to further document assimilation in the language for posterity.

37 # 3 a) Theoretical Frameworks

38 The principle of headedness in linguistic stated that any phrase has a single head. In contemporary morphology,
39 complex words (like derivation through affixation, reduplication, compounds) are assumed to have heads.
40 **??**illiams (1981:248) proposes the manifestation of Right Hand Head Rule (RHHR) which stipulates that Right
41 Hand Head Rule in morphology is when the head of a complex word is the right-hand member of that word.

42 According to this rule, we can infer that the head of a morphologically complex word can be defined regarding
43 its position in the complex compound word (Taiwo, 2009).
44   Owolabi (1995) came up with the Left Hand Head Rule (LHHR) to account for the Yoruba structure of
45 morphologically complex words. The rule says that the head of a morphologically complex word will always be at
46 the left-hand position in the whole compound word (Taiwo, 2009). Thus, since Úwù language which our analysis
47 based upon has the same word structure with the Yoruba language, hence, the principle of Left Hand Head Rule
48 is adopted for the analysis of morphologically complex words in this research.

4   b) Prefixation in Úwù

50 Prefixation is a morphological process which involves the addition of morpheme(s) to the initial position of a
51 root or stem. Prefixes as bound elements (i.e., they never occur in isolation) which precede the root. From this
52 definition, one can infer that prefixation is the morphology of adding a bound element (morpheme to a root
53 stem). A root is the basic core of a word that takes the addition of other elements while a stem is a root (with
54 or without other affixes) which is capable of receiving other bound element to derive new words. Prefixation is
55 a derivational process in Úwù language. The data below show the derivation of deverbal nouns by prefixation in
56 Úwù language: A data using the headedness theoretical approach. The above examples are anatomized on tree
57 diagrams below:

5   Genitive Nouns Construction in Úwù

59 The genitive marker can be prefixed to a noun to derive the owner of the item named by the noun. Apart from
60 connoting the owner of the item named, the marker can also be added to a noun to derive the agentive noun. In
61 Úwù, the genitive morpheme is o?i-. Volume XVIII Issue XI Version I
62   As earlier stated in the theoretical framework of this paper, that the headedness theory would be used to
63 present the analysis of the morphological part of the research, it is therefore pertinent we analyze the above
64 In the above data, we observed that when we add 'o?i-' to a noun, its form changes. When it is added to a
65 vowel-initial noun, the high front vowel [i] of the genitive morpheme gets deleted to disallow two nonidentical
66 vowels from co-occurring. Such deletion is observed in examples (i) to (vii) above. However, the vowel is retained
67 when the morpheme is added to a consonantinitial noun as seen in example (viii). Allison (2015) has suggested
68 that the form of the genitive morpheme in Úwù is "o?i." A cursory look at his claim revealed that the form "o?i"
69 is not the basic form of the genitive morpheme. Allison (2015) cited the following examples to support his point:
70   The form "o?i", when added to a noun, depicts the dealership or vocation of X. our findings further revealed
71 that the nouns which the form "o?i" is added to are nouns which are derived through prefixation of "a-". the
72 form that is derived after the prefixation The forms above do not reflect the person who does the action i.e.,
73 it does not point to a particular person who acts. The forms only reflect the person that performs an action
74 after the form "o?i" is prefixed to them. It should be well said to refer to such form (o?i) as agentive morpheme
75 rather than genitive morpheme in Úwù since it depicts the person who specializes in a particular act or vocation.
76 Whereas, the o?i? form is added to basic nouns to show dealership, ownership of X. The findings in this research
77 work agreed with **??**biodun et

6   Affixation in Úwù language

79 Another instance of prefixation in Úwù is seen in the derivation of continuous verbs. The morpheme 'a-' is
80 attached to the verb root to derive the continuous form.
81   The examples below show this derivation in Úwù language.
82   From the data above, one can deduce that 'a-' is prefixed to a verb to derive the continuous form of the verb.

7   III. Interfixation

84 According to Modesta and Yusuf (2007), the affixation that builds words by interfixing morphemes is found in
85 many Nigerian languages. Interfixation involves inserting an affix between two identical or non-identical roots.
86 The affix functions as a linkage between the two roots that are attached. Global Journal of Human Social Science
87 -In the data above, the morpheme (Associative morpheme) that mediates between the two nouns is inserted as an
88 interfix to block the nouns from occurring sequentially. A morpheme always mediates noun-noun constructions
89 in Úwù. The form of the morpheme is "ni" contrary to Allison (2017) who posited that the form is ni. He
90 referred to the morpheme as an Associative Morpheme (AM). The vowel of the associative morpheme is always
91 deleted when it precedes vowelinitial noun. However, the vowel is retained when the noun that occurs after it is
92 consonant-initial. From the data above, we observed that the vowel of the associative morpheme which functions
93 as an interfix is deleted when it is followed by a vowel initial noun as seen in data (a). However, the vowel of the
94 form is not deleted (no phonological change) when it is followed by a consonant-initial noun as seen in data (b).

8   IV. Conclusion

96 This paper has carefully and adequately dealt with the concept of affixation as a morphological process in
97 Úwù language. It has been established that Úwù language affixation processed is premised in prefixation and

interfixation. The language does not make use of suffixation in its word formation processes. The paper identified that the genitive marker in Úwù is attached as a prefixation to nouns to derive ownership, dealership of an item. We have also asserted in the study that a-is attached as a prefix to verbs to derive the continuous form of the verbs.

Affixation in Úwù language

		Prefix + Verb			Noun	
i.	i	+	gb?"?		igb?"? 'abuse.'	
			to abuse			
ii.	??+		lá		??lá	'dream
			to dream			
iii.	n	+	fá		? ?fá 'rope.'	
			to stretch			
iv.	à	+	jí		àjí	'birth
			to give birth			
v.	í	+	ru?	?íru?		
				?'fart.'		
			to fart			

			N			
i.		Pref	V			
		NOM				
		I	gb ?"?	= igb ?"?		'abuse

		Gen marker	Pref NOM I Noun	V t?"??=		
ii.			N	it?"??'grave.'		
				Output		

i.		Ã?"li ?+	agbado	ólágbado	'maize seller/owner'	
ii.		Ã?"lí +	aroro	ólároro	'a stingy person'	
iii.		ólí +	ì?òwò	ólí?òwò	'trader'	
iv.		ólí +	ataj??ólátaj??'pepper seller'			
v.		ólí +	á? w á	ólá? w á	'owner/seller of dog'	

Figure 1:

101

vi.	ólí	+	?"??f??ól?"??f??	'vegetable seller'	
vii.	ólí	+	?"?m?? ól?"??m??	'palm wine owner/seller'	
viii.	ólí	+	wéwé ólíwéwé	'leave seller'	
i.	Ã?"ní# àkirin		o?na ??kirin	'person who/that sings'	Year 2018
ii.	Ã?"ní# àlulo		o?na ??lulo	'person who/that drums'	
iii.	Ã?"ní# àpojina		o?na ??pojina	'person who/that tell lies'	
iv.	Ã?"ní# àtaja		o?na ??taja	'person who/that sells'	
	a + ki?irin		aki?rin 'who/that sings'		
	a + pa	ojino	apojina 'who/that tell lies'		
	a + lu	ùlò	alùlò 'who/that beat drum'		
	a + ta	ojà	atajà 'who/that sells'		G)
i.	Pref	N	V		(Global Journal of Human Social Science -
	GEN				
		ólí agbado		= olagbado	'maize seller' © 2018 Global Journals

Figure 2:

ii.

			N			
		Pref GEN	N			
		ólí	ároro	= olároro		'stingy person'

iii.

			N			
		Pref GEN	N			
		ólí	ì?òwò	= olì?òwò		'trader'

		Root		Prefix		Verb	Output	
(G)	i. ii.	?e pé	'eat' 'cut'	a a	+ +	?e pé	a?e apé	'eating'. 'cutting'.
	iii.	kpá	'climb'	a	+	kpá	akpá	'climbing'.
	iv.	mí	'breath'	a	+	mí	amí	'breathing'.
	v.	dá	'go'	a	+	dá	adá	'going'.
	i.	à?á	+	ni	+ à???à?ánà???'office'.			
	ii.	o?gu	+	ni	+ úná	o?gunu?na?		'firewood'.
	iii.	à?á	+	ni	+ iwe	à?ániwe		'school'.
	iv.	?mã	+	ni	+ ??w???mãn??w??'finger'.			
	v.	àkpótí	+	ni	+ àkì	àkpótínàkì		'box (of cloth)'.

Figure 3:

8 IV. CONCLUSION

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