

Analysis of the Noun Phrase in Ogba and English Languages

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Abstract

This work is a contrastive analysis of English and Ogba noun phrases. The aim of this study is to analyse, compare and contrast the noun phrases of English and Ogba languages. Its specific objectives are to: identify the head complement relationships in the noun phrases of English and Ogba, examine its constituents and compositions, and to examine the syntactic positions of the English and Ogba noun phrases. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. Data for this study were gathered through unstructured oral interview and library materials available in both languages. The researcher selected the respondents randomly. A contrastive analysis of the noun phrases in the two languages revealed that English has a complement initial and head final relationship while the head of an NP in Ogba language may occur at the initial or final position depending on the modifier that co-occurs with it. The head of an NP in Ogba occurs in the final position whenever it co-occurs with a quantifier with the exception of 'only', and 'one'. In the constituent of the noun phrase, the study further revealed that English language has more modifiers of the noun phrase, while nominal modifiers in Ogba language are identified as: adjectives, demonstratives, pronominal modifiers, quantifiers and numerals. Also, it is observed that dative transformational rule is possible in English but not possible in ogba language. The study therefore concludes that there exist similarities and differences in the noun phrases of both languages. The study recommends that Linguists should be motivated to analyse their own languages in order to find out their areas of similarities and differences their languages have with the target language so as to facilitate the learning of a second language. Scholars in analysing language should pay attention to the rules that govern the combination of lexical categories to phrasal categories.

Keywords: Analysis, Noun, Phrase, Ogba, English Language.

Introduction

One of the priceless gifts of God to man is language. It is simply a means of communication. As a means of communication, language is systematic, structural, rule governed, organised, complex and dynamic (Nwala, 2014). Language is an indispensable tool in the affairs of human beings. It is a system of arbitrary and conventional symbols by which humans communicate. Language is the central object of study in linguistics. Language occupies a pivotal position in the affairs of human beings. There is hardly any facet of life that does not engage language in one way or the other. Language scholars believe that the endowment for the creation of language is innate and divine, available only to human beings. According to them, it is with language that man dominates and rules his world, even at the expense of his closest relatives in the animal kingdom. This implies that every normal human being must speak at least one human language, (Ndimele 2014).

Agbedo (2015) gives what he calls a general view of language, as a "human system of communication that uses arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols." In the words of Sapir (1921), language is "a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols".

Considering language from the human point of view as a course of study, it is a system of generating meaningful and coherent utterances by speakers of the language in order to facilitate effective communication as members of a speech community. One who communicates using a particular language must be consciously or unconsciously aware of the grammar of that language. Even though native speakers rarely explain the rules that govern their native language, they can judge what is possible in their language and what is not, thereby making available a body of data through which the linguist can attempt to model the system of knowledge that underlies those judgements, (Evans and Melanie, 2006). Therefore, an indispensable part of language study should

include the study of the rules that govern the combination of sounds to form morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, and sentences in the language.

Contrastive analysis was propounded by Robert Lado in his book: *Linguistics across Culture* in the year 1950. This theory is very important in describing systems of human language. According to Nwala (2015), contrastive analysis concerns two or more languages; a source language and a target language.

Lado and Fries (1957) believes that language learning is a habit and ideas from native language always rub off on new languages. Thus, the learners' first language must be taken into consideration while learning a second language because it is an old habit which will influence new habit those learners wants to master. Gass and Selinker (1983) describe contrastive analysis as a means of comparison of two languages in order to determine potential error for the ultimate purpose of isolating what needs to be learned and what does not need to be done in a second language learning situation. Obi-Okoye (2008) notes that contrastive analysis view error as an imperfect habit that must be avoided at all cost.

The Ogba People and their Language

The native speakers of Ogba and their language are called Ogba. The Ogba kingdom is found in the Niger Delta flood plain, with Ekpeye, Engeni, and Ijaw areas to the South West Egbema, Oguta, and Awara, to the North West and Ndoni, Kwale and Onitsha to the West and North West. Ogba kingdom is blessed with both natural and human resources. Some of the rivers in the areas are: The Orashi River, the Sombreiro River and the Omoku River. Ogba kingdom is located "approximately between longitudes 70, 31, to 120, 45 East of Greenwich meridians and latitude 60, 71 to 100, 40 North of the equator" (Azuma 2010).

The major occupations of Ogba people are farming and fishing. They generally engage in farming as the main stay of their economy. Those who live on the coast engage themselves in both farming and all season fishing, while those that live on the hinterland rely solely on farming and seasonal fishing as their means of sustenance. However, in recent times, as a result of the advent of western education, civilization and discovery of oil in Ogba land, these occupations are neglected. A greater population of the younger population has been equipped educationally and as such they have resorted to better means of livelihood outside their environment. Ogba kingdom is in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area (ONELGA) of Rivers State, Nigeria and lays South West of Imo State. The Ogba kingdom is grouped into smaller units known as "onu-obudos" (kindred). The "onu-obudos" also, the Ogba people fall into three major clans: Egni, Igburu and Usomini. Egni clan has sixteen towns and villages, Igburu has thirteen towns and villages, and Usomini has twelve towns and villages. In all, there are forty-one towns and villages in Ogba kingdom (Ohia and Onyedibia 2003).

Linguistic Situation of Ogba

Ogba is an igboid (related to Igbo) language which belongs to the Benue-Congo family of the Niger-Congo phylum just like some other languages of Rivers State: Ekpeye, Ikwere and Echie. It is spoken in part of Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Ogba language is said to have three dialects: Egni, Igburu, and Usomini. The degree of the relatedness of these dialects have not been adequately established, thus, the classification for now is said to be merely impressionistic, (Isaac 2018). The data for this work shall be collected from the Egni dialect since the researcher is a competent speaker of the dialect.

Statement of the Problem

This study is motivated by the need to contrast the noun phrase of English and Ogba languages to see if there are areas of differences and similarities. The parameters for the structure of the noun phrase are not the same in all human languages; these differences constitute learning problem for the L2 learners in the Ogba speech community, and the only way of overcoming error in the L2 is to identify the areas of similarities and differences between the L1 and L2. Hence, the urgent need for this study. Consequently, this work will contrast the NP structures of Ogba and English languages.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to analyse, compare and contrast the structure of NP in Ogba and English. Its specific objectives are to:

identify the head complement relationship in the noun phrase of Ogba and English languages.

compare and contrast the constituents and compositions of Ogba and English noun phrases
compare and contrast the syntactic positions of the Ogba and English noun phrases

Research Questions

The following questions are designed to guide the dissertation:

- What is the relationship in the head complement in the noun phrase of English and Ogba languages?*
- What is the degree of similarities and differences identifiable in the constituents and compositions of Ogba and English noun phrases?*
- To what extent do the differences in the syntactic positions of the Ogba and English noun phrases affect the Ogba second language learner of English?*

Significance of the Study

This study is significant in theory as well as in practical. Theoretically, it will add to the body of literature both in contrastive analysis and Ogba language. In practice, the study will adequately help researchers or language scholars who may be interested in learning the similarities and differences between the grammars of both languages. It is also believed that the findings of this work will assist language educators and policy makers within the Ogba speech community, to identify possible areas of challenges in teaching and learning English language.

Scope of the Study

This research is narrowed to noun phrase in Ogba and English. It basically examines the head complement relationship of the noun phrase, the constituents and composition of the noun phrase and the syntactic positions of the head of the noun phrases of both languages.

Limitation of the Study

In the course of this study, the researcher stumbled upon one major challenge which is non-cooperative behaviour of the respondents, especially, those that are not trained linguistically. However, the researcher overcame this challenge by making the interview an unstructured elicitation.

Conceptual Review

In the opinion of Ndimele (1999), nouns are usually more in number than any other part of speech in any human language. He notes that facts about natural languages prove that not all the nouns behave in the same way in terms of their own unique ways of reacting to morphological changes. He opines that what binds all nouns together as a class is their common grammatical behaviour; the positions they take in relation to other words and the functions they perform in sentences. The researcher agrees with Ndimele's (1999) observation that nouns do not behave the same way in terms of morphological changes in all human languages. The reason here is that nouns in English inflect to mark number while this may not be the case for Ogba nouns. Ken-Maduako (2004) is in agreement with Ndimele's (1999) affirmation that a noun is a major lexical category that can be found in any human language.

In linguistic, a noun is a member of a large lexical category whose members can occur as the main word in the subject of a clause, the object of a verb, or the object of a preposition. Noun also can occur with article and attributive adjective and can function as the head of a noun phrase. In grammar, a noun is a word (other than a pronoun) used to identify any of a class of people, place, or things (common noun) or to name a particular one of these (proper noun). Noun is a word which (a) can occur as the subject or object of a verb or the object (complement) of a preposition. (b) Can be modified by an adjective (c) can be used with determiners. Nouns typically refer to people, animal, places, things, or abstractions. A noun is the generic name we give to a word which names a person, place, object, thing, concept or event.

Classification of Noun

Proper Noun: Proper noun (Proper name) is a noun representing the specific noun, person, place, or thing, which is capitalized. The specific names are days of the week, month, historical document, institution, organization, and religion. For example: Virginia, New York, Percy, Annabeth, April, United States, etc.

Common Noun: A common noun is a noun referring to a person, places, or thing in general sense, it is not capitalized. Common noun is preceded by article or determiner. Form of common noun can be elaborated in singular and plural form. For example: book/books, computer/ computers, pen/pens, etc.

The Phrase

A phrase is a group or words that functions as a single unit in the syntax of sentence. In Longman dictionary, phrase is a group of word which form a grammatical unit. A phrase does not contain a finite verb and does not have a subject predicate structure. A phrase may consist of a single word or a group of words. Phrase can be identified by substitution by replacing one unit or expression with other, to see how the word fits into the structure. Then, phrase also can be identified by movement test. Most phrases have a central word which defines the type of phrase; the central word is called the head. Phrase always has head in each word, it can be analysed. A phrase is named after the word class that acts as head of the phrase. A head is a word upon which everything in a phrase is centred.

Pronoun

In linguistics and grammar, a pronoun (abbreviated pro) is a word or a group of words that one may substitute for a noun or noun phrase. Pronouns stand in for a previous noun: the same word can refer to several different things. They include words like those, them, and he. Without the right context, it's impossible to tell just what (or whom) a pronoun is referring to, but when we use pronouns correctly, they can help us save time and space in our communication.

Ahaotu (2001) avers that a pronoun is used to substitute a noun. He further observes that a pronoun is used to avoid unnecessary repetition of a noun. For example:

Amaka brought a dress for Amaka's daughter when Amaka went to Amaka's shop last week.

The repetition of the noun Amaka brings about redundancy in the sentence. Therefore, to make the sentence less redundant, subsequent references to Amaka needs to be substituted with the proper form of the pronoun such as 'her' and 'she' so that the sentence above is written thus:

Amaka brought a dress for her daughter when she went to her shop last week.

Ndimele (2003) opines that in all languages of the world, it is generally believed that pronouns belong to the closed class of words in the sense that their membership is limited.

Kari (2004) agrees that pronouns are used to substitute nouns and that it has the same distributional potentials as nouns. He observes that pronouns mark three persons with each person having a singular and plural form. He further opines that pronouns unlike nouns cannot serve as adverbials and they cannot be modified except by a relative clause or by a marker of focalization or topicalization and cannot be combined by other lexical items to form compounds, except interrogative compounds.

We regularly replace nouns with pronouns so that we do not have to repeat the same nouns again and again. The noun being replaced is the antecedent.

The Noun Phrase

The noun phrase according to Kari (2004) is a group of words that is headed by a nominal. It is structurally the largest expansion or maximal projection of the noun and as a syntactic category, it is both simple and complex, it is universally present in all languages and also occupies a central position in the teaching and learning of language.

According to Ndimele (1991), the noun phrase can be composed of a single word (proper noun or a single pronoun) pointing to the fact that the noun phrase may not necessarily be a group of words. The noun phrase can also be composed of determiner + adjective + noun + prepositional phrase, and it can also be composed of noun phrase + clause as in the case of mirror sentence.

Quirk (1985) describes the noun phrase in detail, both from the point of view of morphology and syntax. As he suggests, a noun phrase may have different functions in a sentence, the typical being the subject and object. The simplest noun phrase consists of an article and a head. The head may be modified in two ways – it can be premodified and/or postmodified.

Schneider (1974) avers that a noun phrase is a group of words standing in a noun position in a sentence.

Radford (1997) and Tallerman (1998) unanimously agree that in a noun phrase, the nouns co-occur with the closed class of words called determiners. Tallerman(1998) opines that determiners can only pair with nouns and they do not co-occur with other word classes. The observation of Tallerman is very possible in

English and some other languages, but it however cannot be said to be a universal principle since determiner is not a universal lexical category.

McGregor (2009) and Ahaotu (2001) are of the opinion that the noun phrase is a group of words that is made up of a noun as a head word. Ahaotu (2011) notes that the noun phrase consists of a noun or pronoun as the headword and its modifiers, while McGregor (2009) believes that it is possible for the head word to occur together with one or more other words or morphemes.

Nwala (2014) opines that the English noun phrase can be both simple and complex. The English noun phrase is simple and complex when it is made up of only the head as a single element in the noun phrase performing the function of a noun. On the other hand, the English noun phrase is complex when it has modifiers either at pre or post modification position, working together to perform the function of a noun. As described in Aarts and Aarts (1988), a noun phrase can be seen as a headed phrase in which the head is the only obligatory constituent. The head of a noun phrase is defined as “the dominant member of that noun phrase” (De Mönnink, 2000).

Empirical Review

Mbah (2003) examines the notion of the head in syntax. He avows that the syntactic position of the head in syntax is not consistent across phrase structure types, and that it is not also the case that it is the same within or across syntactic categories among different languages. According to Mba in Igbo, the head of an NP occurs in the initial position; whereas in English, the head of an NP occurs in the final position. For instance, in the examples below, the head of the NPs “efere” ‘plate’ and “nwoke” ‘man’ occur in the initial positions in Igbo. However, its English gloss shows that the head must be in the final position.

Eferenta ‘small plate’
 Plate small
 Nwokeomaahu ‘that good man’
 Man good that

The above examples prove the assertion of Mba (2003) to be true. This confirms the claim of Ndimele (1992) that in terms of the relative order of words within a phrase, some languages can be head-initial and complement-final and complement-initial and head-final.

According to Ejeba (2016), in Igala when the noun phrase consists of a proper noun (prop N) referring to names of people such as Òdzòrú, Àgàdá, Àbótjo or personal pronouns (pro) such as òmi ‘me’ and ùwe ‘you’, the phrase is represented by the noun or pronoun without any modifier. He gives the schema thus: NP → Prop N, pro

The noun phrase in Igala, according to him can come in different positions such as subject, object and the complement position.

According to Ejeba (2016) different authors note in the literature (cf. Nagaraja; 1999, Kari 2000 and Eyisi 2006), that NP may also be noun + modifier. The order of modification generally in Igala is for the noun to occur before its modifiers. The elements that may serve as modifiers in NP are as follows: demonstratives, genitives, quantifiers, numerals, adjectives, nouns (in associative construction with the nouns they modify) and relative clauses.

Raumolin-Brunberg (1991) has studied the spread of noun phrases in early sixteenth century English. Using the writings of Sir Thomas More, she has concluded that adjectives were the most common type of pre modifier, whereas prepositional phrases were the most common post modifiers. Jucker (1992) takes a sociolinguistic approach to his study of noun phrase structure.

He establishes some differences between “high-quality” and popular newspapers, since they are addressed to two different kinds of audience and thus two different socio-economic classes. He concludes by observing that the up-market papers have the highest number of adjectives and the lowest share of nouns and names in pre-head position; down-market papers have a high proportion of nouns and names in pre-head position, but fewer adjectives.

De Mönnink (2000) has looked at the mobility of constituents in the noun phrase, basing her work on a corpus, and has concluded that the immediate constituents of the noun phrase can occur at various positions within or outside its boundaries. Also, the immediate constituents of a modifying noun phrase can be subject to mobility, resulting in a discontinuous modifier of the noun phrase, either within or across noun phrase boundaries.

Theoretical Framework

This work adopts the use of Robert Lado's 1957 contrastive analysis theoretical framework. Lado (1957) proposes the use of contrastive analysis in second language teaching and learning. He stated that second language learners find some aspect of the target language easy, and others very difficult. This he associated with the similarities and dissimilarities between the two languages. Thus, he says that to make learner's work easier, it is essential to compare and contrast the two languages to identify areas of difficulty for the learner and concentrate on it.

According to Nwala (2015), contrastive analysis concerns two or more languages; a source language and a target language. Lado and Fries (1957) believes that language learning is a habit and ideas from native language always rub off on new languages. Thus, the learners' first language must be taken into consideration while learning a second language because it is an old habit which will influence new habit those learners wants to master. Gass and Selinker (1983) describe contrastive analysis as a means of comparison of two languages in order to determine potential error for the ultimate purpose of isolating what needs to be learned and what does not need to be done in a second language learning situation.

Obi-Okoye (2008) notes that contrastive analysis view error as an imperfect habit that must be avoided at all cost. Based on this, their approach is to compare and contrast the sub-systems of the two languages in contact, with a view to finding possible areas of differences.

Thus, this paper will examine the tense formation of Ogba and the English languages. The contrastive analysis will help us to evaluate the similarities and dissimilarities between the tense formations of both languages.

Appraisal/Summary of Literature Review

Elegant as the literature or works revealed in this paper may appear, it is observed that there are some lacunas which this work intends to fill. None of the works revealed has explained, discussed, or contrasted the noun phrase in Ogba. Hence, the urgent need for this study. This work will examine the noun phrase in Ogba language and contrast it with the noun phrase in the English language.

Research Methodology

Research Design

This work adopts the descriptive research design. It involves the study of a sample taken from a population in order to know their major characteristics which can be generalized to the whole population. The choice of the design is informed by its inherent ability to study a sample of population in a natural setting.

Sources of Data

For this research work, data were collected from both the primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were basically through oral information derived from discussions with some educated and non-educated consultants and informants who are native speakers of the language. The secondary sources were basically published and unpublished works, as well as the internet.

Method/Instrument for Data Collection

The method of data collection technique adopted in this study is the unstructured oral interview with the aid of research instruments such as writing materials like book and pen. The oral interview method yielded a lot of information which enriched the study.

Method of Data Analysis

The contrastive method of morpheme to morpheme glossing was used to examine the similarities and differences between the noun phrases in Ogba and the English languages. This work adopted morpheme-to-morpheme glossing in the analysis of its data collected in Ogba language. This implies that all the structures in Ogba were glossed in English language; taking note of the morphemes.

Data Presentation and Analysis

English Data Presentation showing the Head Complement Relationship

Headedness is a key concept in syntax especially lexical categories. According to Lamidi (2008), the structure of the noun phrase is M.H.Q, where M stands for modifier and refers to the words that occur before the heads of a phrase, the H refers to the head of a phrase and Q meaning “qualifier” refers to the word, groups of words, or sentences that comes after the head of the phrase. It is possible to use a large number of modifiers before the head but not usual to use a large number of qualifiers before it. This is examined in the following:

Complement (C) initial and head (H) final relationship

Singular nouns

(16) This boy

C H

Plural nouns

These boys

C H

(17) That boy

C H

Those boys

C H

(18) The good boy

C C H

The good boys

C C H

(19) One child Three children

C H C H

Pre and Post Head Modifiers

(20) The bold handsome boy who came here

C CC H C

(21) The tall slim handsome boy in the office

C CCC H C

Ogba data presentation showing the head complement relationship

Head (H) initial and complement (C) final relationship

Singular

Ogba English Ogba English

(22) Ikenwaagba this boy

H C

Boy this

Plural

Ikenwando these boys

H C

Boys these

(23) Ikenwanyethat boy Ikenwande Those boys

H C H C

Boy that Boys those

Ogba complement initial (C) and head final (H) final relationship

Ogba English gloss

(24) orhnunwaone child

C H

One child

(25) otutu egomuch money

C H

Much money

(26) osawawuynaall women

C H

All women

(27) ohuruotumaduseveral people

C H

Several people

(28) egwadeekwo some books

C H

Some books

Pre and post head modifiers

Ogba

(29) okonwanye “the big boy”

C H C

big boy the

(30) ohuruotuego agba “this much money”

C HC
 Much money this

From the above data, it is clearly noted that English and Ogba languages have both head and complement relationships even though there are variations in their placements.

Constituents and Compositions of Noun Phrase in Ogba and English

According to Ejeba (2016) different authors note in the literature (cf. Kari 2000 and Eyisi 2006), that NP may also be noun + modifier. The most important word in the noun phrase is the head-word which is usually a noun. This is irrespective of whether it occurs in the initial or final position. Although, a pronoun or numeral may appear as the NP at the surface level, only the noun can be called the head of an NP in a language. The order of modification generally in Ogba is for the noun to occur before its modifiers except in the case with some quantifiers. The elements that may serve as nominal modifiers in the language are as follows: adjectives, demonstratives, pronominal modifiers, quantifiers and numerals. The above claim is shown in the examples that follow:

Ogba English	
N+ Demonstrative	Demonstrative + N
(31) nwaagbathis child	
Child this	
(32) nwanyethat child	
Child that	
Noun + Numerals	Numerals + Noun
(33) aznuennofour fishes	
Fish four	
(34) awoesaseven clothes	
Cloth seven	
Quantifier + Noun	Quantifier + Noun
(35) otutumadu	several people
Several people	
(36) egwadeekwo	some books
Some books	
Noun + Pronoun	Pronoun + Noun
(37) ulo gem mine house	
House mine	
(38) ulogii	your house
House your	
(39) nwagaa	his/her child
Child his/her	
Noun + Adjective	Adjective + Noun
(40) Nwamma	beautiful child
Child beautiful	
(41) ekpaaliusaba	wide mat
Mat wide	

From the above data, both languages have constituents and compositions of the noun phrase with distinct position except for quantifiers, although English has more modifiers of the noun phrase.

Syntactic Positions of Ogba and English Noun Phrases

- Noun phrase as a subject of the sentence
- (42) English: beautiful houses exist in Port Harcourt
- Ogba: uloomaya di je ya Port Harcourt
- House beautiful exists in Port Harcourt
- Noun phrase as an object of the verb
- (43) English: give me the clothe that is on the chair
- Ogba: nigamawo di yaelungida
- Give me clothe that is on chair
- Noun phrase as subject complement
- (44) English: Nkem’s bag is important to her

Ogba: *ekpakaNkemdiami*kpa

Bag her Nkem is important

Noun phrase as direct object complement

(45) Okonkwo gbunkita
 [PN kill+PST dog]
 Okonkwo killed the dog

(46) Ezeznuewu
 [PN steal+PST goat]
 Eze stole the goat

Noun phrase as an indirect object complement

(47) Azukaniga Odozie ego
 [PN give+PST PN money]
 Azuka gave Odozie money

(48) Ngozizuni Ada okpu
 [PN buy+PST PN cap]
 Ngozi bought Ada a cap

Noun Phrase in the Dative Transformational Form

(49) Alozie gave fish to Udoka
 Alozie gave Udoka a fish

(50) Ngozi gave money to Ada
 Ngozi gave Ada money

In Ogba language, there is no such transformational process. The direct objects are always in the insitu position in the ditransitive construction.

Discussion of Findings

This study carried out a contrastive analysis of English and Ogba noun phrases with a view of finding the head complement relationship, the constituents and compositions of English and Ogba noun phrases and the syntactic positions of the noun phrases of both languages. The concept of noun phrase exists in both languages. The analysis of the head complement relationship revealed that English has a complement initial and head final relationship. The English noun phrase can be post modified by other word classes while in Ogba language, the head of an NP is the nominal. The head of an NP in Ogba language may occur at the initial or final position depending on the modifier that co-occurs with it. The head of an NP in Ogba occurs in the final position whenever it co-occurs with a quantifier with the exception of 'only', and 'any'. On the other hand, the head of an NP occurs in the initial position whenever it co-occurs with other modifiers in the language.

At the level of the constituents and compositions of the English and Ogba noun phrases, findings revealed that in an NP structure, only the head is compulsory, all other elements in the phrase are pre and post modifiers and are not compulsory elements in the noun phrase constituent and composition. The study further revealed that English language has more modifiers of the noun phrase even though both languages have constituents and components of the NP. While noun phrase modifiers in English can be expanded into: NP---N (proper), NP--- Det + Noun, NP ---Det + Adj +Noun +PP, NP ---Pron, NP --- NP+S1, nominal modifiers in Ogba language are identified as: adjectives, demonstratives, pronominal modifiers, quantifiers and numerals.

The analysis of the syntactic positions of the NP of both languages revealed that the NP in English can occupy subject, object and complement positions as is the case with Ogba language. The analysis also revealed that the dative transformational rule that moves an indirect object of a sentence to a position immediately after the verb is not possible in Ogba language. In Ogba, the indirect objects are those nouns that serve as the recipients of the main idea of the sentence. They are called indirect objects because they are not immediately influenced by the verb, but rather, they are affected by the verb or they benefit from it. In English, verbs that take indirect object complement are ditransitive verbs. Ditransitive verbs are verbs that take two objects. These verbs like other verbs of exchange of possession are referred to as ditransitive. (Nwala, 2004).

It is therefore clearer that the sentence structures of both languages are different as a result of the positions of the positions of the noun phrases. It is also observed here that the consistent nature of Ogba language makes it easy and simple for the fluent native speaker of the language to comprehend but they find it difficult to master and comprehend when faced with the non-consistent and complex nature of the English sentence formation.

Conclusion

This study used contrastive analysis by Robert Lado to analyse the noun phrases of Ogba and English languages with the aim of revealing the similarities and the differences in the head complement relationship, the constituents and compositions, and the syntactic positions of the languages under study. Through this study, it was discovered that there are areas of similarities and differences of the noun phrases of both languages. Therefore, NP structure although language universal is still language specific.

Recommendations

Linguistics should be motivated to analyse their own languages in order to find out their areas of similarities and differences their language has with the target language so as to facilitate the learning of a second language.

Scholars in analysing language should pay attention to the rules that govern the combination of lexical categories to phrasal categories.

Contribution to Knowledge

This study provides a source material for any contrastive researcher who may be interested in carrying out a research on the noun phrase of any language. The study has also shown that NP structure although language universal is still language specific and this will aid other researchers by bringing to their knowledge the structure of the noun phrase in Ogba language.

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