

A portrait of Professor Bamidele Rotimi Badejo, an elderly man with a white beard and mustache, wearing a white shirt and a dark tie. The portrait is set against a light background and is partially overlaid by the title text.

LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY

Festschrift in Honour of
Professor Bamidele Rotimi Badejo

Vol.1

Linguistics Edition 113

*Mohammed Aminu Mu'azu,
Jidda Hassan Juma'a,
Abba Kura Shettima,
Mohammad Fannami
& Balarabe Zulyadaini (eds.)*

11

Comparative Analysis of English and Bokyì Derivational Processes

Dr. Bisong M. TABANG

Department of Languages,
Federal University Kashere, Nigeria.
tabangmt@gmail.com; 08035081271

&

Dr. Usman Abubakar ALKALI

Department of Languages,
Federal University Kashere, Nigeria.
abusayyid4@yahoo.com; 07031170839

Abstract

This study entitled 'Derivation in English and Bokyì' was designed to investigate the derivational processes of English and Bokyì with a view to discovering areas of similarities and differences, and to show how the differences/similarities affect the Bokyì learner-users of English. The theoretical linguistic tool adopted in this study is the M.A.K Halliday's systemic model of grammatical analysis. Data on English and Bokyì word formation processes were obtained through valid and reliable research instruments, and also from the library and resources persons. It is discovered that prefixes in English do not alter the word class of the derivative. The reverse is the case in Bokyì. Generally, the English methods of derivation (as shown in section 4.1) do not exist in Bokyì word formation system. Though the patterns of word segmentation in both systems are similar, there is a lack of one to one corresponding similarity between the English and Bokyì segments. Based on the above findings, recommendations are made to relevant authorities for the improvement of learner-users performance in this direction.

1. Introduction

The Boki people are said to have migrated from western Cameroun at about the 17th century. They live in the forest area of the northern part of Cross River State of Nigeria. It forms the largest contiguous language unit in the north-central district of Cross River state and occupies the largest geographical area of approximately three thousand square miles and 1.6 million people (Gregor, 2006). It may be helpful at this point to make a distinction between the words *Boki* and *Bokyi* respectively. Whereas *Boki* refers to the people and the community as a whole, *Bokyi* refers to the language spoken by the Boki people. A *Boki man*, therefore, could be said to speak *Bokyi* language. A study of *Bokyi* lexical items carried out in 1967 by Bruns, P.C. at the University of California, Los Angeles, shows that *Bokyi* is a sub-group of the larger *Bendi* language family (Bruns, 1975). The *Bendi* languages remain almost completely unstudied, apart from Stanfford's (1967) *Bekwara grammar; An introduction to the study of the Bokyi language*, (Tavo, 1977), *Bypang-byiraambyi Bokyi* (A dictionary of the *Bokyi* language) (Bruns, 1975), long essays on *Bete* (Bendo-Samuel, 1998). This study, which aims at doing a contrastive analysis of the morphological processes of English and *Bokyi*, is therefore a valuable asset not only to scholarship on English/*Bokyi* (or derivation of words generally) but also to scholars interested in the *Bendi* language family and the Benue–Congo larger family.

Since *Bokyi* and English are naturally distinct, speakers of both languages should expect difficulties in an attempt to use either of the languages as a second language, especially as the mother tongue is generally said to have pervasive influence on the second language. In the English language, for instance, word formation results in omission of the phoneme /ð/ in the word 'comfort' /kʌmfət/ when the derivational morpheme 'able' is added to it to become 'comfortable' /kʌmfətəbl/. Also, there is a situation where the phoneme /ð/ in the word 'petrol' /petrəl/ changes to /du/ in 'petroleum' /petrəliəm/. Again, in English language, certain words often admit 'zero' plural formation because they are in base form and they are irreducible. For instance, the words 'sheep' and 'deer' retain their morphological shapes in both their singular and plural forms. Also, in English language, we have a process whereby an item changes its word-class in context without the addition of an affix (conversion). For example, the word 'release' (as 'They releases him') corresponds to a noun release (as in 'They ordered his release'), and this relationship may be seen as parallel to that between the verb 'acquit' and the noun 'acquittal'. These processes of word formation in

English may be alien to a *Bokyi* learner-user of English as a second language, and so difficulties abound.

2. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical linguistic tool adopted in this study is the Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday's systemic model of grammatical analysis earlier known as the Neo-Firthian theory as well as the *scale and category grammar* (Halliday, 1985). The model identifies four theoretical categories set up for the description of the grammatical pattern of any language. The categories include; unit, structure, class and system. The analysis of whatever language (English and *Bokyi* inclusive) is done within the categories. The category of system is that set up to account for the occurrence of one rather than another from among a number of like elements or events. According to Robins (1989, p.180):

The term 'system' applies to any infinite set of formally connected units (referred to variously as the terms or 'members' of the system), where the interrelationships are mutually exclusive (i.e. two members of the same system cannot co-occur) and mutually defining (i.e. the meaning of one member is specifiable only with reference to others).

Class is the category set up to account for the grouping of members of a given unit. This suggests that individual words in every language have natural groupings. Quirk et al (1973, p.192) sees class as 'any set of linguistic items having the same possibilities of operation in structure'. Its most widespread use is in relation to the classification of morphemes into form – classes and words into word classes.

Structure, according to this model, is the category set up to account for the pattern that the unit carries. It helps in the analysis of grammatical units of a language, except the smallest (the morpheme) that has no structure. Sentences (i) and (ii) below are saying the same thing but they differ in their patterns:

- i. The manager suspended the two girls yesterday.
- ii. The two girls were suspended by the manager yesterday.

Unit is the category set up to account for stretches that carry grammatical pattern. The category of unit has five sub-units of grammatical description, namely morpheme, word, group, clause and sentence viewed as hierarchy either upwards or downwards. It is possible for a unit of a higher rank to go one or more places down the scale to function in the next lower unit. This is referred to

as 'rank-shifting', (or 'down-grading' in the tradition of American linguistics. Each grammatical unit is in principle realizable by a separate chunk of phonological (or graphological) material. In the examples in (a) below the symbol + stands for the boundary of such a chunk, and not for syllable boundary (syllables are purely phonological units, and are established without reference to grammatical structure; for instance, while the word *fees* is monosyllabic it consists of two morphemes: {*fee*} + {*s*}.

(a) reader:	read+er	/rid+ə/
stolen:	stol+en	/stəul+ən/
musical:	music+cal	/mjuzik+l/
sending:	send+ing	/send+ɪŋ/
outspokenness:	out+spoke+en+ness	/aut/spəuk+ən+nəs/
translation:	trans+late+ion	/trænz+leɪf+ən/

We can also use upright lines to separate the immediate constituents of a sentence as follows:

The	boy	s	push	ed	the	car	s
-----	-----	---	------	----	-----	-----	---

The peculiarities of English and Boki morphological processes appear to pose problems for the Boki/English bilinguals in the area of English word formation. This study therefore aims at presenting a contrastive analysis of the derivational processes of the two languages with a view to discovering areas of similarities and differences so as to be able to find dependable solutions to some of the problems the Boki learners of English encounter in the area of word formation.

3. Data

A written test on guided composition, and the translation test were administered to thirty students at two different times. The topic of the written composition was "The Boki new yam festival". For the translation exercise, a passage in Boki was read to the students for translation in English. The tests sought to find out the kind(s) of word formation problem(s) the Boki learners-users of English encounter in translating Boki texts into English. A questionnaire, on the other hand, was administered to the lecturers, undergraduates, secondary school teachers, and writers of texts on Boki. It was designed to elicit information on derivation of words in Boki. It consists of a total of thirty-seven (37) items.

Also, an oral interview was administered to fifty (50) randomly selected aged Boki natives. As it is with the questionnaire, items in the oral interview were designed to elicit information on Boki derivational processes. All information derived through these instruments on derivation in Boki, are analyzed vis-à-vis what holds in English.

4. Derivational Prefixation/Suffixation in English

This section focuses on the analysis of data on the derivational processes of Boki and English obtained via the instruments stated in section 3 above. For orderliness, this section presents data on English, and Boki derivational processes, respectively, followed by a discussion of areas of similarity and difference.

Derivational prefixation is a process of forming words by adding a prefix to the root or base with or without a change of the word class of the base or root. These affixes, according to Baur (1993), can be added to the root of a noun, adjective or verb to derive other words of similar or different classes as can be seen from Table 1 (below) which shows derivational prefixes of English. Derivational suffixation is a morphological process that results in the formation of new lexemes (Lyons, 1997). Beside the production of new lexemes, Baur (1994, p.213) states that "derivation can involve many variables in an open class system, it can be characterized by low compatibility within word formed and is typically and semantically irregular".

According to Eka (2001, p.87), a "derivational suffix is a suffix which, when added at the end of a root or base, changes the grammatical class of the verb". For instance, if the derivational suffix '-ly' is added to the word 'clever', we have 'cleverly', moving from adjective to noun. It is in this sense that derivational suffixes are said to be productive – they 'produce' words of different grammatical classes. Table 2 (below) shows common derivational suffixes in English, the types of bases to which they can be attached, and the word class of the derived words. Sometimes a derivational suffix is added to an already derived base, giving us another derived word of a different word class (see Table 3 below).

It is common knowledge that words of identical morphological shape sometimes function as different grammatical elements. In such cases, the contexts in which they feature specify their word classes. Such words can be said to be derived through the addition of a zero morpheme, (Strang 1990). Example 1 below shows words of identical morphological shape functioning as different grammatical elements:

Example 1:

- i. Look at my house (Verb)
- ii. Take a very good look at him (noun)
- iii. Back this baby (verb)
- iv. Turn your back to the wall (noun)
- v. He is the head of this house (noun)
- vi. I will head for Lagos tomorrow (verb)

Table 1: Derivational Prefixes of English

Prefix	Word class of base	Meaning	Word class of derived words	Examples
in-	adjective(accurate)	not	adjective	un-accurate
un-	adjective(kind)	not	adjective	un-kind
un-	verb(continue)	reversive	Verb	dis-continue
dis-	noun(order)	not	abstract noun	dis-order
dis-	adjective(honest)	not	adjective	dis-honest
re-	verb(write)	again	verb	re-write
ex-	noun(president)	former	noun	ex-president
en-	noun(danger)	put in	Verb	en-danger
a-	adjective(loud)	high	Adverb	a-loud
a-	noun(head)	above	Adverb	a-head
a-	verb(sleep)	deep	Adverb	a-sleep
any-	noun(body)	amount of	Pronoun	any-body
some-	adverb(when)	amount of	Adverb	some-when

every-	adverb(when)	members of	Adverb	every-when
no-	adverb(when)	not	Adverb	no-when
mis-	Verb(inform)	wrongly	Verb	mis-inform
-				

Table 2: Derivational Suffixes in English

Suffix	Word class of base	Meaning	Word class of derived word	Examples
-ment	verb(govern)	result	Noun	government
-ness	adjective(happy)	quality	abstract noun	happiness
-ity	adjective(depraved)	condition/state	abstract noun	depravity
-ship	noun(friend)	state/condition	abstract noun	friendship
-hood	noun(mother)	status	abstract	motherhood
-ly	adjective(graceful)	manner	Adverb	gracefully
-al	verb(refuse)	act of	abstract noun	Refusal
-er	verb(read)	agent who does what the verb indicate	Noun	reader
-or	sail	"		sailor
-ar	lie	"		liar
-ful	noun(beauty)	having	adjective	beautiful
-less	noun- power	without	adjective	powerless
-al	noun-medicine	pertaining to	adjective	medicinal

Table 3: Derivational Suffix Added to an Already Derived Base

1 st derived word/class	Derivational suffix	2 nd derived word/class
Regrettable (adjective)	-ly	regrettably (adverb)
Development (noun)	-al	developmental (adjective)

5. Derivational Processes in Bokyì

While there exists in Bokyì a process whereby affixes are added to roots without a change in the grammatical class of the root to which such an affix is added (inflectional affixation), there exists in Bokyì, also, a process whereby the addition of an affix to a root results in a change in the grammatical class of the root so involved (derivational affixation). Other forms of derivational processes in Bokyì include conversion, reduplication, segmentation and compounding.

5.1. Derivational Prefixation in Bokyì

In Bokyì, derivational prefixation occurs through the process of nominalization. This phenomenon is possible by prefixing the nominalisers 'o-' or 'n-' to the verb root (Tawo, 1977), as shown in Example 2 below:

Example 2:

- i. 'o-' (prefix) + 'ki' (give) = 'oki' (giving) –gerund or gift (noun)
- ii. 'n-' (prefix) + 'ki' (give) = 'nki' (giver) – noun
- iii. 'o-' (prefix) + 'tud' (drive) = 'otud' (driving) –gerund

Notably the agentive morpheme 'n-' in Bokyì functions in much the same way as the English morphemes '-er'/'-or'. So, when the Bokyì prefix 'n-' is added to the verb root, a noun is derived. As illustrated in Example 3 below:

Example 3:

- i. 'sang' (write), 'nsang' (writer)
 - i. 'kwan' (sing), 'nkwan' (singer)
 - ii. 'pan' (speak), 'npang' (speaker)
- Bokyì has no derivational suffixes.

6. Conversion in Bokyì

In Bokyì certain nouns exhibit zero plural morphemes even when used as plural noun. That is, such words do not have plural markers reflected in their morphological shapes, as can be seen in ayua → cat/cats, ebu → goat/goats, ekwa → hen/hens, enyiang → animal/animals etc. See Example 4 below for more illustration of Bokyì noun exhibiting zero plural morpheme when used as plural:

Example 4:

- i. Bring a goat → Ba ne ebu ebonge
- ii. Three cats died → Ayua achat akpu
- iii. I bought two hens → Nre ekwa efe

From the above, we can see that, number, with regards to ebu (goat/goats), ayua (cat/cats), ekwa (hen/hens) and other similar nouns is only exhibited in context. To express number, a word indicating number must be placed immediately after the noun with zero plural morpheme as shown in the above examples where ebonge (one), achat (three) and efe (two) are placed immediately after ebu (goat/goats), ayua (cat/cats), and ekwa (hen/hens) respectively. The point here is that many nouns exhibit zero inflection while in isolation, but their number becomes marked when used in a sentence (in context). This situation is common in English and is akin to Alkin (1999) 'zero allomorph'.

Also, in Bokyì the pronouns (personal, possessive and reflexive) are found to exhibit zero affixation. Looking at the Bokyì personal pronouns, for instance, one will observe that the 1st person singular subject and singular object are represented by one word (me). Also, first person plural subject and plural object are represented by one word (be). A similar situation is found in the 2nd and 3rd person singular and plural subject and object respectively. The difference in each case is exhibited in context. Table 4 (below) shows zero affixation in Bokyì personal pronouns. We may, in conclusion, say that Bokyì has no personal inflection.

There are two forms of possessive pronouns in Bokyì, namely, the adjectival and the pronominal forms. Table 5 (below) shows the composition of Bokyì possessive pronoun. From the Table, it can be argued that Bokyì has no possessive pronoun inflections. While ji stands for 'my' and 'mine', kitten stands for 'his', 'her', 'hers', 'it', 'its' and be stands for 'their' and 'theirs' respectively. The

Bokyi reflexive pronouns are formed by adding the inflectional suffix *yen* to the personal pronoun. See Table 6 (below) for illustration:

7. Reduplication in Bokyi

In Bokyi, adverbs are derived through the process of reduplication. Adjectives, nouns and adverbs are the word classes that must likely be doubled to derive Bokyi adverbs. Table 7 (below) shows how Bokyi nouns, adjectives and adverbs are reduplicated to form Bokyi adverbs. Bokyi nouns, adjectives and adverbs are reduplicated to form Bokyi adverbs.

Table 4: Forms of Bokyi Personal Pronouns

Form	⇒	Singular		Plural	
		Subject	Object	Subject	Object
1 st person		me (I)	me (me)	be (we)	be (us)
2 nd person		wo (you)	wo (you)	ben (you)	(ben) you
3 rd person		yi (he)	yi (him)	mbe (they)	mbe (them)
		yi (she)	yi (her)	mbe (they)	mbe (them)
		nki (it)	nki (it)	nki (they)	nki (them)

Table 5: Forms of Bokyi Possessive Pronouns

Form	⇒	Singular		Plural	
		Adjectival	pronominal	adjectival	
1 st person		ji (my)	ji (mine)	kitten (our)	kitten (ours)
2 nd person		eyen (your)	eyen (yours)	eyen (your)	eyen (yours)
3 rd person		emen (his)	emen (his)	-be (their)	-be (theirs)
		emen (her)	emen (hers)	-be (their)	-be (theirs)
		emen (it)	emen (its)	-be (their)	-b (theirs)

Table 6: The Inflection of Bokyi Reflexive Pronouns

	Singular	Plural
1 st person	me-yen (myself)	be-yen (ourselves)
2 nd person	wo-yen (yourself)	be-yen (yourselves)
3 rd person	yi-yen (himself)	be-yen (themselves)
	yi-yen (herself)	
	nki-yen (itself)	

Table 7: Reduplication of Words in Bokyi

(i) Reduplication of nouns

Nouns	Adverb
bunong (beauty)	bunong bunong (beautiful)
kijie (love)	kijie kijie (lovingly)
nwet (school/book)	nwet nwet (scholarly)
eyiam (animal)	eyiam eyiam (foolishly, stupidly)
biyirin (tricks)	biyirin biyirin (trickishly)
kaji (criminal)	kaji kaji (criminally)

(ii) Reduplication of adjectives

Adjective	Adverb
jua (calm)	jua jua (calmly)
buse (beautiful)	buse buse (beautifully)
bukan (force)	bukan bukan (forcefully)
kakem (short)	kakem kakem (bit by bit)

(iii) Reduplication of adverbs

Adverb	Reduplicated Adverb
kusong (yesterday)	kusong kusong (yesterday)
kuruug (today)	kuruug kuruug (today)
su (full)	susu (fully)
abi (immediately)	abi abi (immediately)
dek (slow)	dek dek (slowly)
ba (quick)	ba ba (quickly)

Bokyi verbs, as shown in Example 5 below, sometimes, undergo multiple reduplications to express intensity. For example, the word *dem* (go) can be doubled or tripled depending on the desire of the speaker at the time.

Example 5:

<i>dem</i> (go)	-	<i>dem dem dem dem</i>
<i>be</i> (come)	-	<i>be be be be</i>
<i>ko</i> (bathe)	-	<i>ko ko ko</i>
<i>juab</i> (drink)	-	<i>juab juab juab</i>

The above examples show that in Bokyi an adverb is derived by having the base of a verb or a noun reduplicated. For example, the base of 'quickly' is 'quick' - ('be' - meaning *come*) while that of 'beautifully' is 'beautiful' - ('bunong' - meaning *beauty*). So, to have the Bokyi equivalents of 'quickly' and 'beautifully' respectively, the Bokyi bases 'be' and 'bunong' have to be reduplicated, giving us 'be be' ('quickly') and 'bunong bunong' (beautifully) respectively.

8. Similarities and Differences in the Derivational Processes of English and Bokyi

While in English, the morphological marker of adverbs are the suffixes '-er', '-est', and '-ly' as in *faster*, *fastest* and *quickly*, in Bokyi, as shown in Example 6 (below), adverbs are derived by reduplicating the base (which may be a noun, an adjective or an adverb).

Example 6:

i. <i>dek</i> (slow)	-	<i>dek dek</i> (slowly)
ii. <i>du</i> (hurry)	-	<i>du du</i> (hurriedly)
iii. <i>chuo</i> (plenty)	-	<i>chuo chuo</i> (plentifully)
iv. <i>abi</i> (now)	-	<i>abi abi</i> (now)

This study shows that whereas English words are derived by adding suffixes/prefixes to the roots/bases of words with or without a major grammatical change, Bokyi words are derived not by suffixation but by prefixation. Here, prefixation occurs through the process of nominalization. This process is possible by prefixing the nominalisers 'o-' or 'n' to the root only, to derive a noun or nominal [Tawo, 1977]. Example 7 (below) shows the derivation of Bokyi noun or nominal by prefixing a nominalizer.

Example 7:

- i. 'o-' + *cha* (go) \Rightarrow *ocha* (going) - gerund
- ii. 'n-' + *cha* (go) \Rightarrow *ncha* (goer) - noun
- iii. 'o-' + *ri* (eat) \Rightarrow *ori* (eating) - gerund
- iv. 'n-' + *ri* (eat) \Rightarrow *nri* (eater) - noun

From the above examples, it can be seen that while the nominaliser 'n-' functions in much the same way as the English agentive morphemes '-er' or '-or', the nominaliser 'o-' corresponds with the English gerund (-ing). See Example 8 (below) for more illustration.

Examples 8:

	Gerunds	Agentive Morphemes
i.	<i>o</i> pan \rightarrow speaking	<i>n</i> pan \rightarrow speaker
ii.	<i>o</i> ri \rightarrow eating	<i>n</i> ri \rightarrow eater
iii.	<i>o</i> juab \rightarrow drinking	<i>n</i> juab \rightarrow writer
iv.	<i>o</i> sang \rightarrow writing	<i>n</i> sang \rightarrow writer
v.	<i>o</i> ko \rightarrow reading	<i>n</i> ko \rightarrow reader

This one to one correspondence makes learning of the English gerunds and the use of the English '-er' and '-or' morphemes simple to a Bokyi learner of English as a second language.

However, the English method of deriving adverbs by adding prefixes/suffixes to bases of adjectives (ie *quickly*, *aloud*) nouns (ie. *fatherly*, *ahead*) and adverb (ie. *everywhere*, *joyfully*) and that of deriving nouns, adjectives and verbs by adding suffixes/prefixes to nouns, and adjectives roots (such as *expresident*, *inaccurate*, *national*, *electrify* etc) are alien to Bokyi word formation system. This difference is likely to pose learning difficulties to a Bokyi learner of English as a second language. This area of English word formation (derivational prefixation and suffixation) therefore requires more attention by teachers who teach English to Bokyi learners as a second language.

Both languages employ the reduplicative process of word formation. But, while English employs both partial and full reduplication, Bokyi employs only full reduplication. While adverbs in Bokyi are formed by reduplicating the bases of adjectives, nouns and adverbs, the English adverbs are formed by adding the suffixes '-er', '-est', and '-ly' to the bases of adjectives/adverbs. Notably, also, reduplication of words in English cannot change the word class of the repeated

part even if it is repeated in part or in full. In Bokyi, reduplication of words may change the word class of the base, e.g. the reduplication of nouns and adjectives produces adverbs.

This study has not only revealed that there is the segmentation of words in English as well as in Bokyi, but that there exist areas of similarities as well as areas of differences in their patterns of segmentation. Analysts of segmentation in English and Bokyi respectively, in the early part of this section, show that both their linear process of segmentation and the replacement/deletion process of segmentation are operational in the two languages. This should naturally facilitate the learning of the target language, but, the reverse is the case because there is no one -to -one corresponding similarity between the English and the Bokyi segments. For instance, while the Bokyi morpheme (prefix) 'n-' has but the one meaning ('one who...'), its English equivalent, the agential morpheme (suffix) '-er' has other meanings outside the corresponding meaning of 'one who...'. It may mean 'the act of ...+ing' (ie. merger, prayer), or 'an instrument for ...+ing' (ie. cooker). The tendency, therefore, is for a Bokyi learner of English as a second language to limit the meaning of the agential morpheme to 'one who...'. This generalization of meaning may be responsible for the errors recorded in the questionnaire administered to the secondary school students. The students were asked to fill in the gaps as shown in Example 9 (below).

Example 9:

- (i) One who dance is a dancer ✓
 One who laugh is a laugher x
 One who run is a runner ✓
 One who pray is a prayer x
 One who drive is a driver ✓
 One who cook is a cooker x

Although there is a difference in the segmentational processes for the realization of Bokyi and English plural nouns (regular nouns), the consistency in each case facilitates the learning process. While English suffixes the plural morpheme '-s' to the base to achieve plurality, Bokyi replaces the initial sound of the base with the prefix '-b' as illustrated in Example 10 (below).

Example 10:

English		Bokyi	
<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Chair	Chairs	<u>Kichi</u>	bichi
Hoe	hoes	<u>Kijuab</u>	bijuab
House	houses	<u>Kise</u>	bise
Chief	chiefs	<u>otu</u>	batu

The study also revealed that Bokyi nouns are derived by adding the noun marker, bound morpheme, 'o-' to the verb as shown in Example 11 (below).

Example 11:

- i. o+ri (eat) → ori (eating -gerund)
 ii. o+kwa (learn) → okwa (learning -gerund)
 iii. o+kpet (start/commence) → okpet (commencement -noun)
 iv. o+pan (discuss/deliberate) → opan (discussion/deliberation).

The Bokyi learner of English as a second language is therefore likely to generalize that the Bokyi bound morpheme/noun marker 'o-' is an absolute equivalent of the English gerund '-ing', as well as the English morphemes '-ation', '-ence', '-ment', etc. This generalization results in the wrong application of the above morphemes. Example 12 (below) shows students' wrong constructions resulting from faulty generalization.

Example 12:

- i. The impregnation of the girl student is bad
 ii. due to the sufferment of our parents.
 iii. Some students fail exams because of their proudness

Also, since Bokyi lacks prefixes that show negative implication, English words that have such negative connotations would have no equivalents in Bokyi. This results in their inability to use English prefixes effectively as illustrated in Example 13 (below).

Example 13:

- i. non -(non-alcoholic, non-conformist)
 ii. dis -(disagree, disown, discredit)

- iii. il –(Illegal, illiterate)
- iv. im –(impossible, impatient)
- v. ir –(irresponsible, irrational)

9. Conclusion

This study has revealed that there are areas of similarities as well as areas of differences between English and Boki derivational systems. Whereas areas of similarity are found to enhance and facilitate the learning process, areas of differences are found to pose learning difficulties to the Boki learner-users of English. The study revealed also that while English words are derived suffixally and prefixally; Boki words are derived by means of prefixation only. Though the derivational process of word formation in Boki is not as productive as that of English, derivation in both languages applies to nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs and verbs respectively. It needs to be noted that the learning of English derivational processes is usually problematic to a Boki learner of English. This results from the fact that there is no one-to-one correspondence between the derivational processes of English and Boki in most cases. This major area of English word formation (derivational suffixation and prefixation) therefore requires extra attention by teachers who teach English to Boki learners.

In spite of the differences existing between the two languages, they share some common features in the area of reduplication, compounding and segmentation. For instance, both languages are found to use reduplication as a process of word formation; while Boki uses full reduplication only, English employs both full and partial reduplication. However, the various situations that require reduplication in Boki appear to be different from the situations that call for reduplication in English. This difference, a lack of one to one correspondence between situations requiring reduplication in English and those requiring same in Boki, poses learning difficulty to the Boki users of English as they are tempted to transfer the pattern of reduplication in Boki into English. On compounding as a word formation process, it was discovered that both languages combine words of different classes to form compound words, and there is no limit to size of in Boki. This poses learning difficulty in this direction.

Some Boki words are discovered to have several meanings depending on the tone applied in realization. Also, Boki uses tone to derive its verb forms; by applying the right tone to the base to have the needed verb form. This process of verb formation is different from what obtains in English, making the learning of English tenses difficult for the Boki learner-users. The learners therefore need

to be adequately exposed to the operation of English tenses, and be encouraged to embrace wider learning and reading opportunities so that they can familiarize themselves with English tenses and internalize them consciously and unconsciously. A teacher's good knowledge of the target language cannot proffer solutions to all learning difficulties. It has to combine with ability to perfectly analyze the two languages (L1 and the target language), showing areas of similarities and differences and their pedagogical implications. This applies also to the teaching/learning of the English language by English language teachers and the Boki learners. The English language text writer can avail himself/herself of his wealth of knowledge to guide him/her as these linguistic phenomena recur in many African languages.

References

- Alkin, C.M. (1999). *Morphology: The descriptive analysis of words*. Harbour: University of Michigan Press.
- Baur, K.C. (1993). *Languages in contact: findings and problems*. New York: Linguistic Circle of New York.
- Baur, K.C. (1994). *Linguistic analysis*. New York. Linguistic Circle of New York.
- Bruns, P. C. (1967). *Byipang –Byiraa mbyi Boki*. Ikom: Boki Book.
- Bruns, P. C. (1975). *Contrastive analysis and language learning*. London: Pinter Publishers.
- Bendo-Samuel, J. (1998). *The Niger-Congo languages*. London: Lanhan.
- Eka, D. (2001). *Issues in Nigerian English usage*. Uyo: Scholars Press.
- Gregor, G. (2006). The 2006 national population census. Abuja: Apprax view.
- Lyons, L.T. (1997). *The structure of English words*. Oregon: Pacific Language Associates.
- Halliday, M.A.K.(1985). *Introduction to functional grammar*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Quirk, R.& Greenbaum, S. (1973). *A university grammar of English*. Essex: Longman.

- Robins, F.J.(1989). Methods in structural linguistics. Chicago: university of Chicago Press.
- Stanfford, R. (1967). The Bekwarra language of Nigeria: Grammatical description. Unpublished Ph.D thesis, Department of Linguistics and Phonetics, School of Oriental and African Studies , Oxford University.
- Strang, F.(1990). Second language: learning and teaching. Massachusetts: Newbury House Publishers.
- Tawo, A.R. (1977). An introduction to the study of Bokyi language. Ikom: Bokyi Books.

Professor B.R. Badejo is hereby being honoured via a festschrift, organized by his colleagues and students of the Department of Languages and Linguistics, the Department of English and indeed the Faculty of Arts, University of Maiduguri-Nigeria, to mark his unfathomable contribution to academic excellence. The theme of the festschrift is: Language, Communication and Society, which has been sub-divided into four sections for ease of reference: Language, Communication, Society and Other Languages. On Language, twenty-six articles on various aspects of linguistics feature. On Communication, twenty-two articles, cutting across various theories and techniques have been included. On Society, the thirty papers included generally cover various socio-cultural as well as political aspects of our society; while the section housing Other Languages contains eighteen articles, which include: eight on Hausa, four on Arabic, one on Kanuri, and two each on French and Fulfulde.

It is pertinent to note that all contributions were subjected to a rigorous peer-review mechanism. Finally, we wish to state that this festschrift aims at significantly filling a lacuna in the field of Language, Communication and Society as well as encouraging future linguists to develop an interest in the field of language documentation and archiving. Non-linguists too, in related areas of specialization, stand to benefit immensely from the festschrift.



LINCOM EUROPA

academic publications

ISBN 978 3 86288 857 3



9 783862 888573