

ANALYSIS OF OGBA INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES

Nwokoji, Chukwumeka (Ph.D)*

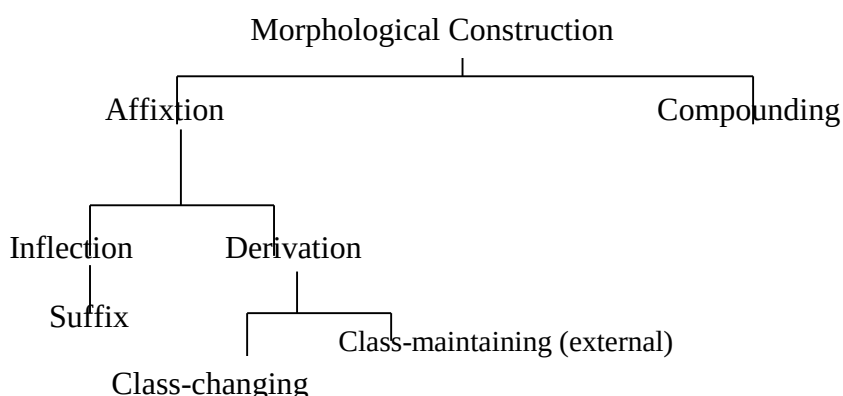
Abstract

This study describes and analyses Inflectional affixes in Ogbá, an Igbooid languages in Rivers State, Nigeria. It particularly examines the inflectional and derivational operations (role) of affixes in the Language. It shows how certain grammatical ideas or notions like negation, number, imperative, present progressive, affirmative, present progressive negative, future negative forms, present perfective affirmative, the past affirmative, the unfulfilled perfective, infinitive, participle,. Some of the affixes (morphemes) in the language used to arrive at this are as follow: **wɔ'** and **la** marking imperative negative; **dí** and **í** marking present progressive affirmative; **dí** and **wɔ** marking present progressive negative and future negative; **mẹ** marking perfective; **mẹ** and **-rí** are marking past perfective affirmative; **-gírẹ** marking unfilled perfective negative; **í** marking infinitive. Eugene A. Nida's (1949) descriptive analysis of words was used to analyze the research. Furthermore, the Contrastive theory, developed by Fries in the 1940s and popularized by Robert Lado in 1957, was applied in this work. It is a theory that states that positive transfer occurs when two languages are similar, while negative transfer or interference occurs when they are not. We believe that this research work would be significant in the development of the Ogbá language, and most pertinently, increase the zeal for the preservation of the language in Rivers State and Nigeria in general.

1.0 Introduction:

This chapter presents a survey of the background to the study, the Ogbá language spoken in Rivers State and its speakers; the historical background, the geographical location, and linguistics classification of the language, Specific Objectives, the Scope of the Study, the significance of the study, the Ogbá sound system and the aspects of Ogbá vowel harmony were discussed in this chapter.

Morphological constructions are products of affixation and compounding. They are very important elements in human language.



Affixation is one of the two major traditional processes of word formation; the other being compounding. Affixation entails the addition of an affix to a stem to yield a complex stem, while compounding involves adding two or more stems together to form a single word.

Which studies have revealed that the two major word formation processes are affixation and compound. For instance, in the formation of the Ogbá word **m̀gbáshi** (poison), the first morphological process is compounding.

That is “*gba'* + *shi* = *gbáshi*”
 write cook to write

To the word “*gbashi*” is added the prefix –*m* to get the derivation *mgbáshi* (poison) which is a product of affixation and compounding. Also in English language we have the form *selflessness*. That is *self* + *less* to yield *selfless*. If we add *ness* to *selfless*, we have *selflessness* which is also a product of compounding and affixation. There are different kinds of morphemes (affixes) regarding their distribution and function in the word. For instance, we have *state* + *s* = states, *be* + *witch* + *ing* = bewitching, *village* + *s* = villages and *walk* + *ed* = walked etc. The term affixation is concerned with the concatenation (i.e. linking) of affixes. Inflection is defined as:

...an affix which performs a grammatical function without changing the parts of speech of the word to which it is attached. Inflectional affixes are not used to create new words rather they are used to show if a word is singular or plural, if the tense of the verb is past or no past, if the word expresses comparatives or superlative degree etc (Ndimele 2001:82).

Derivational affixes are those which change the lexical meaning and syntactic category or part of speech of the words to which they are attached. Unlike the inflectional system, derivation is usually a process for generating new lexemes, Ogum, (2000). Some of the derivational affixes in English are; **Prefix**; *a-* (verb or adjective) as in a-float, *be-* (noun or verb) as in be-win, **de-** (noun-verb) as de-frost. **Suffixes**; *-er* (verb – noun) as in preach-**er**, *-al* (verb – noun) as in sentiment-**al**, *-al* (adjective – noun) as in national etc.

Inflectional affixes as affixes which function to show grammatical relations with regards to number, tense, aspects, gender, case, negation etc., depending on the language involved. Some of the inflectional affixes in English are: *-s* (plural) as in lectures, *-ed* (past tense) as in worked, *-ing* (progressive) as in speaking, *-s* (verb)(3rd person singular simple present) as speaks, *-en*(past participle) as in eaten, *-er* (comparative) taller, *-est* (superlative) as in tallest and *-s* (possessive) as in Nwokoji 's etc.

The Language And The Speakers

Ogba is in Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Some clans or villages around Ogba are Ikwerre by the east, Ndoni by the west, Egbema by the north and Ekpeye by the south. Ogba is made up of the Egnih, Igburu, and Usomini group. The Egni group is made up of the following villages: Ede, Itu, Erema, Akabuka, Akabta, Egita, Itu, Ibewa, Obite, Obiebe, Obukaegni, Obagi Obiozimini, Oboburu, Ogbogu, and Ohali-Elu. The Igburu group is made up of the following villages: Obigwe, Ohiauga, Ogbidi, Okposi, Osiakpu, Okansu, Ama, Ikiri, Uju, Egbeda, Elehia, and Elieta. The Usomini group is made up of the following villages: Ebogoro, Alinson Okanu, Okporukpoali, Obie, Idu-Osobe, Omoku, Krigeni, Ohali-Usomini, Obo and Idu-Obusiukwu.

Brief Statement On Ogba Sound System:

This section reviews the sound system of Ogba with respect to its vowels and consonants. It would be erroneous to presume that the process of Ogba affixation can be satisfactorily analysed without knowing the basic phonological system. It is on this premises that the researcher deems it necessary to review the basic sound system of Ogba. However, the aim of this research work is not to undertake an elaborate study of the Ogba phonological system, but to identify the basic speech sounds which can be used to describe the dialect adequately.

Autography of Ogba Language.

Ogba can conveniently be written with the letters below:

a b ch d e eh f g gb gh ghn gw h i ih j k kp kw l m n nw ny o oh p r s t u uh v w wh y z. The alphabetical arrangement as seen above has been done to enhance easy rhyming, reading, recognition and understanding. Double letters follow single ones (e.g *gb* follows *g*).

The Ogba Vowel Sounds

Vowels are sounds produced with no obstruction of the flow of air in the oral cavity.

Ladefoged (1975:11) in Eme (1993:22) defines vowels as “sounds produced with none of the articulators coming together and consequently the passage of the airstreams is relatively unobstructed”. The Ogba language records nine (9) vowels such as [ɪ, ʊ, u, o, ɔ, a, ɛ, e, ɪ.] and seven of them are nasalized vowels [õ, ù, ï, ã, ẽ, ĩ, ũ,].

The Ogba Consonant Sounds

Crystal (1991:74) defines consonants phonetically as “sound made by a closure or narrowing in the vowel track so that the airflow is either completely blocked or so restricted that audible friction is produced”. Consonants are classified in terms of two main articulatory components namely, the manner of articulation and the place of articulation. According to Ogum (2003:63), there are twenty eight phonetic consonants identified in Ogba language and they are listed as [ɲ^w, k^w, g^w, k, ɡ, tʃ, dʒ, p, d, t, ɣ, h, h^w, ʃ, l, j, w, β, r, f, v, s, z, n, m, ɲ, ɲ₃]. Only [b and p] are considered non-phonemic because their occurrences are restricted. Therefore, twenty six phonemic consonants-/ ɲ^w, k^w, g^w, k, ɡ, tʃ, dʒ, p, d, t, ɣ, h, h^w, ʃ, l, j, w, β, r, f, v, s, n, m, ɲ, ɲ₃/ are established in Ogba. It is also observed that Ogba has four nasal consonants / n, m, ɲ, ɲ₃/.

Vowel Harmony

Ogba exhibited rich vowel harmony whereby the vowels are distinguished on the basis of size of the pharynx. It is a phenomenon which describes the co-occurrence restrictions of vowels in a simple word or within a single phonological word. The expanded [+ATR] and the non-expanded [-ATR] do not co-occur in same words in Ogba, e.g *ekwɔ-book* and *okwo-speech*.

Specific Objectives:

The general aim of this work is to examine and describe the morphological processes of inflectional and derivational affix in Ogba. Other specific objectives are:

1. To identify affixes in the language
2. To describe the classes of affixes in the language
3. To discuss the function of affixes in the language
4. To determine the productivity of affixes in the language.

Significance of the study

The need for this research work cannot be over emphasized. Much is not done on the Ogba morphology in general. So a lot needs to be done in the language. Therefore, Ogba can only be developed when scholarly attention is paid to it. To achieve this, it is important to objectively investigate the structure of the language. This will contribute to the development and preservation of the language. It will serve as one of the major steps in providing more or further

information on the morphological process in Ogbia language and the development of the language. The researcher believes that the result of this work will contribute positively towards the standardization of the language. The research will serve as a communication link between the native speaker and non-native speaker of Ogbia. It will also enhance the culture of the Ogbia people and it will serve as reference material for future research in Ogbia language and also form the basis for further academic studies.

Statement of Problem

Not much work has been done in Ogbia language. The Ogbia language has not been investigated much so to say. Presently, there is no much record of existing literature in Ogbia morphology. This is as a result of the fact that the native speakers believe that it is impossible for the language to have a written form or be taught in schools. To them, the aspect of the phonology of the language especially consonant sounds is too “weird” and cannot be represented. This, and some other sociolinguistic factors lead to the major belief that the language is inferior, thus the preference for other language like Igbo, Ikwerre, Etche, Ekpeye etc. this therefore restricts drastically its domain of use. The effect is that the actual number of the speakers is constantly on the decrease leading to the fact that Ogbia language is largely endangered, thus, the need for urgent and immediate scholarly attention on linguistics (Morphological) description. It has become pertinent at this juncture to study the affixation in Ogbia since the need to describe the process of word formation is crucial in Ogbia language.

Research Questions

The following questions were constructed to guide the research and help the researcher achieve the set objectives of the work as they are answered in the course of the investigation:

1. What affixes are identifiable in Ogbia language?
2. What types of affixes exist in the language
3. What grammatical functions do affixes perform.
4. How productive are affixes in the language.

Theoretical Framework

Theories are formulated to explain, predict, and understand phenomena and in many cases, to challenge and extend existing knowledge, within the limits of the critical bounding assumptions. A theoretical framework is the structure that holds or supports a theory of a research study. This work takes a cue from *Leonard Bloomfield's* model of linguistic structuralism. This is because in describing the affixation features of the Ogbia language, we have basically relied on empirical(physical) observation, which is the hallmark of Bloomfield.

INFLECTIONAL AFFIXES IN OGBIA

Inflectional affixes are not used to create new words; rather they are used to show if a word is “singular” or ‘plural’, if the tense of verb is *past* or *non past*, if the word expresses *comparative* or *superlative* degree, or to show “case” feature of the word in question. Note that *CASE* is a grammatical category which is concerned with the ability of a normal (noun or pronoun) to change its form with respect to the environment in which it occurs. Some of the grammatical function perform by inflectional affixes are Tense-Aspect-and Negative. The morpho-syntactic and semantic characteristics of inflectional affixes in Ogbia will be treated under the following headings:

- a. Inflectional affixes in imperative construction,

- b. Inflectional affixes in Imperfective construction,
- c. Inflectional affixes in perfective construction.

Inflectional Affixes in imperative Construction in Ogbia.

Imperative is a term used in the grammatical classification of sentence types. Imperative constructions are typically used in the expression of commands. They are characterized by the presence of the harmonizing open vowel suffix. Imperative can be affirmative or negative. We shall therefore examine the imperative affirmative and imperative negative under the imperative construction.

The Imperative Affirmative:-

The Imperative affirmative in the Ogbia is formed by the affixation of the harmonizing open vowel suffix (-a) to the verb root. Examples of the suffix with the expanded and non-expanded verb root are given in 5-8 and 9-12 respectively.

VERB ROOT	IMPERATIVE	GLOSS
	<i>vb-suf (infl)</i>	
1 rí eat	ríá	“eat”
2 kwú speak	kwúá	“speak”
3 gwú dig	gwúá	“dig”
4 chè think	chèá	“think”
5. kpɔ call	kpɔá	“call”
6. sú wash	súá	“wash”
7. zú buy	zúá	“buy”
8. hí tight	híá	“tight”
9. gbú vomit	gbúá	“vomit”
10. kó narrate	kóá	“narrate”
11. gnú read	gnúá	“read”
12. kwú beat	kwúá	“beat”

From the above example, it is obvious that the vowel prefix “á” harmonize with expanded and non-expanded vowel in Ogbia sound system. However, ‘a’ in the above examples, harmonizes with the verbs of the root to form the imperative items. The imperative affirmative is determined by attaching high tone to the suffix “á”. This explains that Ogbia imperative and negation is determined by use of tone system. Imperative affirmative and negative in Ogbia is determined by high tone.

The Imperative Negative

The imperative negative in the Ogbia language is formed by both processes of prefixation and suffixation. The high tone prefix **í** and **í-** is affixed to the verb root which is immediately followed by the negative suffix **-lá**. The expanded vowel **[ɪ]** harmonizes with the expanded vowel verb roots and is therefore attached or prefixed to them while the non-expanded vowel **[i]** harmonize with the non-expanded vowel verb roots and are attached or prefixed to them. The prefix, **í-** co-occurs only with the verb root containing the non-expanded vowel verb root while the prefix **ɪ-** co-occur only with the verb root containing the expanded vowel verb root. The negative suffix occurs with both expanded and non-expanded vowels. Examples of the imperative negative construction in Ogbia with both expanded and non-expanded vowel verb roots (high and low tone). With NP complements of the verbs are given in 13-19 respectively.

VERB ROOT IMPERATIVE NEGATIVE WITH NP COMPLEMENT

- | | | |
|----------------|--------|--|
| 13. rí | eat | í-rí-lá írní – don't eat food
<i>pref-vb-suf food</i> |
| 14. mé | do | í-mé-lá hneojo – don't do bad thing (evil)
<i>pref-vb-suf evil thing</i> |
| 15. pé | climb | í-pé-lá ɔlɔ – don't climb the house
<i>pref-vb-suf house</i> |
| 16. gwù | swim | í-gwù-lá mini – don't the river
<i>pref-vb-suf River</i> |
| 17. zà | sweep | í-zà-lá ɪbra – don't sweep the parlor
<i>pref-vb-suf Parlor</i> |
| 18. dì | endure | í-dì-lá éghurú – don't endure hunger
<i>pref-vb-suf Hunger</i> |
| 19. ré | sell | í-ré-lá ègwá – don't sell beans
<i>pref-vb-suf beans</i> |

From the above example, we observe that the high tone verbs maintain their inherent high tones before the NP complement and the low tone verbs also maintain their inherent low tones before the NP complements. The different prefixes harmonize with the vowel of their respective verb roots.

Example 20-27 below shows the imperative negative constructions in Ogbia with expanded and non-expanded vowel verb roots without NP complements of the verbs.

VERB ROOT IMPERATIVE NEGATIVE WITHOUT NP COMPLEMENT

- | | | |
|---------------|-----|--|
| 20. rí | eat | í-ri-là – don't eat
<i>pref-vb-suf</i> |
| 21. zú | buy | í-zú-là – don't buy
<i>pref-vb-suf</i> |
| 22. mé | do | í-mé-là – don't do
<i>pref-vb-suf</i> |

23. pé climb í-pé-là – don't climb
pref-vb-suf
24. gwù swim í-gwù-là – don't swim
pref-vb-suf
25. zà sweep í-zà-là – don't sweep
pref-vb-suf
26. dì endure í-dì-là – don't endure
pref-vb-suf
27. znù train í-znù-là – don't train/breed.
pref-vb-suf

From the above data, we observe the tonal modification in the imperative suffix **-la**, while the low tone verb roots maintain their inherent low tones in (24-27), the high tone verb roots do not maintain their lexical tones.

Inflectional Affixes in Imperfective Construction.

Imperfective, according to Comrie (1976:24) “is an explicit reference to the external temporal structure of a situation (that is viewing a situation from within).” We shall, for clarity group under the imperfective construction of all the verb forms that express unfulfilled actions that are still going on at the moment of speaking – the **dí-** and **wó-** forms (in Ogbá) will be discussed under the imperfective as well.

The Present Progressive Affirmative

The Ogbá present progressive affirmative expresses an affirmative action which goes on at the moment of speaking. The action expressed by the progressive is unfulfilled in the sense that the speaker does not witness the completion of the action since it is still in progress at the time of speaking. The same form is used in expressing habitual actions. The present progressive affirmative in Ogbá is formed by the progressive marker **dí** (auxiliary) followed by the verb to which the participial prefix is affixed. Consider examples 28 to 33

28. Ngozi dí í--kwá ékwá (awo) sow
(Ngozi aux prog p -vb cloth)
“ Ngozi is sewing the cloth (that is Ngozi is a tailor)”
29. Emeka dí í--gnú ékwó read
(Emeka aux.prog p read book)
“Emeka is reading a book”
30. Nkechi dí í--zq ụlọ sweep
(Nkechi aux.prog p sweep house)
“Nkechi is sweeping the house”
31. Samson dí í--rny ọrny cultivate

(Samson *aux.prog p* work farm)
 “Samson is cultivating the farm/work”.

32. Ó dī í--gbq ẹkwọ write
 (He/she *aux.prog p* write book)
 “He/she is writing a book”

33. Ye dī í--gnù ẹgwu sing
 (We *aux.prog p* sing song)
 “We are singing a song”.

From the foregoing example, we observe that the progressive marker **dī** (auxiliary) always precedes a prefix which is affixed to the verb root. The tone of the progressive marker is consistently low, while that of the participial prefix (**í-**) is constantly high. There is tonal polarization; in other words, the prefix takes a low tone if the verb root has a high tone and a high tone if the verb root has a low tone. In the above data, “**dī**” is marking progressive tense. This is to say that in Ogba, progressive tense is determined by the insertion of auxiliary verb “**dī**” before the participial prefix “**í-**” or **í**.

The Present Progressive Negative

The present progressive negative form in Ogba language is formed by the presence of the progressive marker **dī** (auxiliary) to which is suffixed the general negative marker **-wọ**, followed by the verb to which is prefixed the harmonizing participial vowel prefix as in examples (34) to (39)

34. Uche á-dī-wọ í--kwá ẹkwa
 (Uche *pf-prog-neg pf-sow* cloth)
 ‘Uche is not sewing cloth/Uche is not a tailor/Uche does not sew cloth’

35. Emeka á-dī-wọ í--gnù ẹkwu
 (Emeka *pf-prog-neg pf-read* book)
 ‘Emeka is not reading book / Emeka does not read book’

36. Nkechi á-dī-wọ í--zà ulọ
 (Nkechi *pf-prog-neg pf-sweep* house)
 ‘Nkechi is not sweeping the house / Nkechi does not sweep’

37. Samson á-dī-wọ í--rnù ọrnu
 (Samson *pf-prog-neg pf-farm* work)
 ‘Samson is not farming / working / Samson does not farm’

38. Ye á-dī-wọ í--gnù ẹgwu
 (3pl *pf-prog-neg pf* sing song)
 ‘We are not singing song/we sing song’

39. Ọ dī'-wọ í--gba ẹkwọ
 (3sg *prog-neg pf-write* book)
 ‘S(he) is not writing book / He/she does not write book’

From the data above, we observe the presence of the progressive negative marker. The participial negative prefix ‘*a-*’ is attached to the progressive marker only when the subject is a noun or a plural pronoun and the harmonizing verbal vowel prefix is affixed to the verb root. The function of *wɔ* is to mark negation in the expression. The common affix used in marking negation in Ogbia is *wɔ*

The Future Negative/Affirmative Form

The future negative in Ogbia is an expression of rejection, denial, or contradiction. It expresses what will not happen or what will not be done. It is formed by the participial prefix *a-* and future marker ‘*dɪ*’ followed by the negative marker ‘*wɔ*’ and then followed by the verb to which a harmonizing verbal vowel prefix is affixed. Examples of future negative/affirmative form of Ogbia are given in (40,40b) to (44,44b) respectively.

40. Chũkà á-dɪ-wɔ ɪ--ra mmĩnyá
(Chuka pf-fut-neg pf-drink wine)
“Chuka will not drink wine/Chuka is not drinking wine”
- 40b. Ochi mé chnɪ eze
(Ochi Aux.fut crown King)..... Affirmative Form
“Ochi will take (on) a kingship title.”
41. Yé á-dɪ-wɔ ɪ--zɔ ahɪa
(we pf-fut-neg pf-buy market)
“We will not trade”
- 41b Yé mé gbá égwú
(We aux.fut write music)..... Affirmative Form
“We will dance music”
42. wò á-dɪ-wɔ ɪ--hnɪ ijí
(they pf-fut-neg pf-plant yam)
“They will not cultivate yam”
- 42b. Wo mè za ulɔ
(They Aux.fut sweep house)..... Affirmative Form
“They will sweep the house”
43. Emeka á-dɪ-wɔ ɪ--za ulɔ
(Emeka pf-fut-neg pf-sweep house)
“Emeka will not sweep the house”
- 43b. ʔ mè znù úmù ká
(He/she aux.fut train children his/her)..... Affirmative Form
“He/she will train his/her children”
44. ʔ dɪ-wɔ ɪ--gnɪ égwú
(He/she fut-neg pf-sing song)
“He/she will not sing song”
- 44b. ñmú mè gnó ñtì

(I *aux.fut listen ear*)..... Affirmative Form
 “I will listen”

From the data above we observed that the future negative marker ‘**dị** (auxiliary)’ takes a vowel prefix when constructed with a noun subject or a plural pronoun subject. If the subject is a singular pronoun as in example 48, the future negative marker will not take a prefix.

We also observe from the above data that, the future negative and the present progressive negative are express in similar way. That is the negative prefix **a-**, the future marker **dị** and the negative marker **wó** in Ogbia language combine to mark both present progressive negative and future negative sentences.

However, the data in examples 44b-48b shows that the future affirmative form in the Ogbia language is not formed by an affix but the future marker **mé** followed by the verb.

The negative element is split and the host is “**dị**” the tense marker. When it host prefix “**a**” and the suffix **wó**, the semantic implication is negation but when it stands alone, it marks progressive tense. See example 28-33 above. However, future tenses are not mark by affix in Ogbia language but by the use of the auxiliary verb “**me**” see example. 40b-44b.

Inflectional affixes in perfective construction

The term perfective has been variously called the perfect tense. Comrie (1976:18) defines perfective as the term used in indicating a completed action. In perfective constructions, the action expressed by the verb is viewed as a whole, irrespective of the time contrast, we will consider the following:-

The present perfective affirmation

The past perfective

The present perfective Affirmative

The present perfective affirmative form of Ogbia language is formed by suffixing the perfective suffix **-mẹ́** to the verb root. Simple is marked in Ogbia by affixing the past affix “**mẹ́**” to the verb root. The difference between the simple past and perfective action is that, simple past tense is an expression made before the present while the perfective action is an expression before the simple past.e.g (*you have fetched water-simple past*). (*You had already fetched water perfective action*). Hence, The simply past is mark by “**mẹ́**”

The examples of the present perfective affirmative construction in Ogbia language is presented in (45) to (49):

45. Ibe rnú--mẹ́ órnú
 (Ibe work-perf. suf work)
 “Ibe has done the work/Ibe has worked”

46. ónù dọ--mẹ́ mìnì
 (you(pl) fetch-perf suf water)
 “you have fetched water”

47. Èméká hní--mẹ́ ékwá
 (Emeka iron-perf suf cloth)
 “Emeka has ironed the cloth”

48. yé zà--mẹ́ ‘ulò

(we sweep-perf suf compound)
 “we have swept the compound”

49. ó gnú --mẹ́ ẹ́kwọ́
 (he/she read-perf suf book)
 “he/she has read the book”

From the above data, we observe that the present perfective construction is a direct contrast of the present progressive construction which is imperfective construction. We also observe that the present perfective suffix, affixed to the verb root expresses the action that is completed, but its effect is relevant in the present time.

The Past perfective Affirmatives

The past perfective affirmatives form like its present perfective counterpart in Ogbia language is formed by the perfective marker (affixe) **-mẹ́** and the past marker **-rị** which are affixed to the verb root. The past perfective form expresses a past action which is remote at the time of speaking; the following are some examples of past perfective affirmative constructions in the Ogbia language. The past Perfective form of Ogbia is presented in examples (50) to (54).

50. àdá dó--mẹ́--rị míní
 (ada fetch-perf-pst water)
 “ada had already fetched water”
51. Ogechi kwọ--mẹ́--rị ụgwọ - ẹ́kwọ́
 (Ogechi pay-perf-pst school-fees)
 “Ogechi had already paid school fees”
52. òbí jẹ--mẹ́--rị áhíá
 (obi go-perf-pst market)
 “obi had already gone to market”
53. Ọ ózú--mẹ́--rị ẹ́kwọ́
 (he/she buy-perf-pst book)
 “he/she had already bought books”
54. Obùá zà--mẹ́--rị ụlọ
 (Obua sweep-perf-pst house)
 he/she had already swept the house

From the above data, we observe that the past perfective, like the present perfective discussed above, does not take an auxiliary verb. The perfective marker **-mẹ́** and the past maker **-rị** has a consistent high tone. However, completive in Ogbia is derived by affixing **rị** to the suffix **mẹ́**.

The Unfulfilled Perfective Negative

The unfulfilled perfective negative in Ogbia is formed when the unfulfilled marker **-gịrẹ́** (suffix) is preceded by the verb root to which are affixed the prefix **a-** /**e-** /**ẹ-** and the negative **-wọ́** (suffix). Examples (55) to (60) show the present perfective negative constructions in Ogbia language:

55. Íbè è--rị--wọ́--gịrẹ́ irni
 (Ibe pf-eat-neg-unf food)
 “Ibe has not eaten (food) yet”

56. Emeka à--rnu--wq--gìrẹ ọrnu
 (Emeka pref-work-neg-unf work)
 “Emeka has not done the work/emeka has not worked”.

57. onu à--dọ--wq--gìrẹ mini
 (you(pl) pref-fetch-neg-unf water)
 “you(pl) have not fetched the water”

58. ochi-oha è—hni--wq--gìrẹ ẹkwà /awo
 (ochi-oha pref-iron-neg-unf cloth)
 “Ochi-oha has not ironed the cloth”

59. ye à—za--wq--gìrẹ ulọ
 (we pref-sweep-neg-unf house (compound))
 “we have not swept the house (compound)”

60. ọ gnu--wq--gìrẹ ẹkwọ
 (he/she read-neg-unf book)
 “he/she has not read the book”

From the above examples, we observe that the participial prefix attached to the high tone verb root has a low tone while the unfulfilled marker (**-gìrẹ**) and the negative marker (**-wq**), affixed to the verb root are forced to agree with the tonal pattern of the verb root (i.e. it maintain high tone) with singular nouns and plural pronouns subject. With singular pronoun (especially, third person pronoun), the participial prefix is dropped.

We also observe that in verbal constructions in Ogbá, certain verb forms use inflectional suffixes, auxiliaries, verbal vowel prefixes, and tone pattern to mark different inflections. It is pertinent to state that whereas some constructions take auxiliaries, others do not. For instance, the imperative constructions do not. The future affirmative constructions need the auxiliary verb in there constructions with the exception of future negative form and the present and past perfect affirmatives.

Findings:

With respect to the data presented in this work, I have discovered thus;

- i. The Imperative negative in Ogbá are formed by *wq* and the suffix **-la**
- ii. The present progressive affirmative sentences in Ogbá are formed with the introduction of the progressive marker **di** and the participial vowel prefix **i/i**
- iii. In the formation of the present progressive negative and future negative, two participial vowel prefixes (affix) **a-** and **e-** are used with the progressive marker **di** (auxiliary) and the negative marker *wq*. But when the subject is 3rd person singular, the prefix **a-** is dropped.
- iv. The negative form of the present progressive and future are realized with the same morphological process.

- v. The present perfective affirmative in the language is marked by the perfective marker ‘**me**’ while the past perfective affirmative is marked by **-me** (perfective) and **-ri** (past) respectively.
- vi. The unfulfilled perfective negative is realized by the attachment of the unfulfilled marker **-gĩrẹ** and the negative marker **wọ** to the verb root to which a participial prefix (**a-/e-/ẹ-**) is usually attached.
- vii. Finally, the language (Ogba) do not take participial affix when the subject of the verb root is 3rd person singular pronoun (cf. 39, 44, and 60).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

We have, with substantial amount of data, described and analyzed affixation in Ogba variety of Rivers State. In the procedure of analysis, the functional criterion of classification of affixes is applied thereby using two divisions of affixes thus; inflectional affixes and derivational affixes.

The entire inflectional markings are achieved with affixes. Inflection marks different levels of constructions in the language. We have identified with enough data how inflectional affix in imperative, imperfective and perfective construction are marked by various affixes in Ogba language.

We recommend that extensional affix and clitics need to be looked at by future researchers in view of its important in Ogba language. As a native speaker, I find some pertinent features in the area of extensional affix and clitics in this language. I thereby recommend further studies in area of extensional affix and clitics to researcher in Ogba language.

*Nwokoji, Chukwumeka (Ph.D)
Rivers State University, Faculty of Humankind.
nwokojiemeka@gmail.Com

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