

THE MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF IGBO AND GERMAN VERBS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

This work focuses on a comparative study of morphological structures of Igbo and German verbs. The study focuses on the inflections and the word formation of the two languages. In inflections, the research investigates the present, past, past, future and imperative formations of verbs in Igbo and German. While in the area of word formation the research considers the various combinations of verbs, e.g. verb plus verb (V +V) and the combination of verb + noun (V+N) in Igbo and German language. The research data was collected from some commonly used verbs in Igbo and German. As a framework for the study, the Comparative approach is adopted. Furthermore, this research investigates the word formation pattern and inflection of verbs in the two languages. From the data analyzed, the study reveals the different patterns in the morphological structure of Igbo and German verbs. However, this is evident in the area

of inflection and word formation (i.e.) adding an affix to the root verb to form different tenses in both languages.

Keywords: *comparative study, morphology, word formation, inflection.*

Introduction

Morphology in its simplest definition is the process of forming new words or the creation of new words in a language and every language has its own unique way in which new words are formed. According to Comrie 1990: 128-129, morphology can be classified into two main groups, namely: inflection and word formation. He goes further to describe inflection as the morphology that distinguishes the various forms within the paradigm of a single lexeme. He continued that all the forms that make up a single inflectional paradigm have the same basic meaning and are all constructed on the basis of the stem. Furthermore, he describes word formation as morphology that deals with the creation of new words in a language. To explain further, Plag in Oha (2010: 240) defined word formation as the study of ways in which new words are formed from other words or morphemes. However, each language has its own way of creating or constructing new lexemes from the existing ones. To buttress this point Comrie 1990 cit. Olagunju (2005:261) further classified word formation into two main groups: composition and derivation. Composition according to him is the process of combining two or more independent words together (sometimes with the addition of an infix between words) to form a new word,

while derivation on the other hand is the formation of a new lexeme from an existing one by adding additional material that cannot stand as words on their own and such words are called bound morpheme, Comrie (1990, 67). However, some scholars has carried a comparative studies on Yoruba and German languages, for instance Olagunju (2005) investigated a comparative analysis on the morphological structures of German and Yoruba verbs. The research focused on inflection and word formation of Yoruba and German verbs. The research concluded that German verbs in inflection take a suffix 'en' as infinitive marker, '-end' as suffix to the stem to form the present participle and the past participle takes the suffix -t for weak verbs and -en for strong verbs. Okoli et al. (2020) studied the morphology of compound verbs in Igbo. They analyzed compound verbs in Igbo by using the Construction Morphology Theory. They identified compound verbs and analyzed them using schemata structures, ascertained the structures and behaviors of tones, and examined some inflected forms of compound verbs in Igbo and discovered that some compound verbs do not obey the vowel harmony rule. From the above, it is apparent that much attention has not been given to the area of comparative study on the morphology of Igbo and German verbs; this study tends to fill this gab.

Theoretical framework

The word "comparative" comes from the verb "to compare," which has Latin etymology and is derived from two words com and par which means to evaluate. it

is a methodical comparison and investigations variables, with quantitative and qualitative methodologies. It analyzes the differences between two or more objects or subjects. It is the methodical examination of the similarities and contrasts between two or more entities, and it has a long history dating back more than 2,000 years. Although its origins can be found in ancient Greece, comparative history gained popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries as seen in the work of scholars like Montesquieu and Tocqueville. Thereafter, the concept became more popular in disciplines like philology, anatomy, and sociology; the method became firmly established in the 19th century. It is now a useful tool in many different fields, and its continuous appeal has been spurred by globalization and growing awareness of cultural differences. Comparative studies have contributed immensely in the field of research because they improve the understanding of problems across different systems, provide classifications of different processes to test hypotheses, and predict possible solutions to the problems identified.

1. Inflection in the Igbo verbs

Inflection is the process of affixation that distinguishes the forms of a word in a grammatical category. It makes distinctions such as tense, person, number, gender, mood, voice and case. It is also defined as a change in the form of a word to express its relationship with other words in the sentence, Okoli, Ezebuilo & Aboh, (2020: 10). However, the inflection morphology of Igbo verbs is very interesting and these interesting facts about Igbo

verbs are seen in its classification especially among compound verbs. According to Uwalaka cited in Oha (2012: 15), Igbo verbs are classified in to eleven groups: Causative Verbs e.g kpówa = break, Multi-event Verbs e.g Gbúri = cutting in pieces, Motion Verbs e.g. gbáfù = disappear, Change-of-Ownership Verb e,g nyéfè = give out, Verbs of Occurrence e.g kpóchu = prevent, Surface-Contact Verbs, Verbs of Placement, Experienter Verbs, Verbs of Mental Exertion, Verbs of Communication, Verbs of Emission, e.t.c. (Mbah (2020) cit. in Okoli, Ezebuilo & Aboh 2020: 18). They postulate further that it is agreed among Igbo linguists that verbs are the only grammatical categories in Igbo language that can undergo inflection. These verbs can be inflected by attaching some affixes to its basic form to mark tenses,. Furthermore, Inflection in Igbo verbs is used to mark present, past, imperative, future and present perfect, and past tenses. Some common facts about Igbo verbs are that some verbs are mostly compound verbs (i.e.) two verbs joined together to form one verb that portrays an action and these verbs are mostly bi-syllabic words. Apart from the bi-syllabic nature of Igbo verbs some verbs are also monosyllabic verbs too. However, inflection causes some Igbo verbs to have some change in the first vowel e.g. ije – je - eje (to go). Some other inflections on Igbo verbs can be seen in the following examples below:

- 1.1. The present tense is constructed by adding the prefix “ná” + a (infix) to the verb root.

Example 1a. Ná + a + kpôwá = Ná –ákpôwá (splitting)
 Nnè m ná – ákpôwá áchàrà ànyị jì èsì nrí (My mother is
 splitting the firewood we are using to cook food).

Example: 1b. Ná + a + gáfé = Nà - àgáfé (is passing). Kà
 ànyị nà-àgáfè n'ụlò áhịa ànyị hụrụ nnúkwú mmọnwụ.
 (As we are passing through the markethouses, we see big
 masquerade).

1.2. Past tense is formed by adding some suffix to the
 root verb. These suffixes are: rà, rù, rè, and bù. Example:
 2a. Kpôwá + rà – kpôwàrà (split) Ànyị kpôwàrà nkụ áhụ
 n'ụlò ànyị (we split the wood yesterday in our
 house) Example: 2b. kpóchú (the verb to parboil),
 Kpóchú + rù - Kpóchúrù (parboiled) Ngozi Kpóchúrù
 áhụ áhụ (Ngozi parboiled the meat) Example: 2c. gáfè
 (the verb to pass), gáfè + rè - gáfèrè (passed) Ndị úwéòjii
 gáfèrè n'ụlò ákwụkwò ányị táà. (Policemen passed our
 school today) Example: 2d. íbì (the verb to stay) > íbì +
 bù > í bìbù (you stayed) Í bìbù nà ébá à? (You stayed
 here?)

1.3. Imperative or command sentences are formed in
 Igbo by adding the suffix “à” or “è” to the verb root
 depending on which group of vowel in which the verb
 root belongs to and the verb root loses the first vowel to
 form their imperative. Some verbs whose roots end in
 ‘u/u or o/o add o/o as suffix to the root to form their
 imperative.

Example: 2a. íjè > (- í + jé + è) > jée (go!) > Bíkó jée
 áhịa úgbú à! –Please go to the market now!

Example: 2b. ịgà (dropping the ‘i’)> (ịgà + à) > gáà
(go) > Gáà ụnọákwụkwọ! - Go to school!

1.4. The future tense is formed by adding the suffix ‘ga’ and the infix ‘e/a’ to the root of the verb (ga + e/a + root). E.g. using the verb ịje (to go) > ga + e + je > ga – eje (will go). Anyị ga-eje ọrụ taa – we will go to work today. From the example, we can see that there is a vowel change in the formation of future tense i.e. the ‘i’ in ịje is replaced by the infix ‘e’.

1.5. The present perfect or past participle is formed by adding a suffix ‘la’ to the imperative form of the verb. (Command + la) or (root + e/a/o/o + la). E.g. ịje + e + la > ịjeela (have gone). Ịjeela áhịà táà (have you gone to the market today?)

2. Word formation in Igbo verbs

Word formation in this research will be classified into the composition and derivation of Igbo verbs.

2.1. Composition:

The word composition can be defined as the act of joining or combining two words together to form a new word. Most times the words joined together to form this new word are independent words that have their own meanings. The word can be a noun, an adjective or an adverb. Consequently, composition in Igbo verbs formation can take the following combinations:

2.1. The combinations of verb plus verb (V +V) and the combination of Noun + Verb (N + V) are possible combinations in Igbo verb formation.

2.2. Verb + verb (V+V) > gbú (to cut) + nyè (to give) > gbúnyè – to cut a portion for someone.

Example1: Gbúnyè m ányị kàmm síè nrì – cut a portion of meat for me to cook food.

Example 2: kwá (to push) + pụ (to go out) > kwápu – to push something out or to relocate. Anyị nà-ākwapụ n'ébá à táàtà – we are relocating from here today.

2.3. Noun + Verb (N+V) >kpọ (peg) + wá (to break) >kpọwá – to split

Example1: Bíkò kpọwáá-rá m nkụ áhụ – please split that wood for me.

3. Derivation of Igbo verbs

The most interesting thing about the derivation of Igbo verbs is that most verbs are derived from the combination of 2 different words added together to form another verb. These words may have a similar meaning or a different meaning altogether. According to N. Oji (1978:19) Igbo derivational verbs are polysyllabic verbs. He defined polysyllabic verb as stems verbs of two or more syllables. He further classified the derivation of these verbs into the following categories:

2.2.1 Verb + verb (V + V): A polysyllabic verb of the structure V + V is derived from two known independent verbs which may or may not be semantically related.

2.2.1. 1. Verbs derived from two verbs that are semantically related in meaning e.g. the verb gbágbúò (shoot and kill) is derived from gbá (to shoot) + gbúò (to kill) > gbágbúò (shoot and kill), kpọ (call) + kú (call upon) > kpọkú (to call), gbá (to run) + bà(enter) > gbábà (enter by running). The verb kụwá (to break), is derived from the verb kú (to hit) + wá (to break).

2.2.1.2. Verbs derived from two verbs that are not semantically related in meaning e.g. gbá(run) + ghàrà (go pass) > gbághàrà (to forgive), mé (do) + rì (eat) > méri (to win), mè(do) + kù (be scarce) > mèkù (to unite), má (to know) + kù (to hit) > mákù (to embrace), dú (to lead) + hù (be lost) > dúhù (to mislead).

2.2.2. Some verbs are derived from adding verb + noun (V + N), e.g. vú (to carry) + ághà (war) > vúághà (to wage war). Anyị nà e vúághàtáà (we are waging war today).

4. Inflection in the German verbs

Inflection in German verbs is very unique in the sense that German verbs can be classified into two groups: the weak verbs (e.g kaufen - to buy) and strong verbs (e.g. treffen - to meet). The weak verbs are sometimes referred to as the regular verbs because they follow a particular pattern in their verb conjugations while strong or irregular verb undergoing vowel change in taking inflectional affixes for persons and numbers. Moreover, there is a common or regular ending that is always added

to all regular verbs when conjugating them. As the name implies, strong verbs undergo vowel changes in the stem to take inflectional affixes for person and number agreement. e.g. fahren (to travel or drive) > ich fahre > du fährst > er fährt etc. Inflectional affixes are sensitive to morphological properties of the stems of the verbs they attach to, Müller (2001: 247). German verbs can take the following inflections:

4.1. Infinitive marker for German verbs take -en, -rn and -ln, as suffixes attached to the stem, example kochen – to cook, feiern – to celebrate, lächeln – to smile.

4.2. Regular or weak verbs in German add the following suffixes –e, -st, -t, -en, to the verb root or stem in the present. E.g. ich koche, du kochst, er/sie/es kocht, wir kochen, Ihr kocht, sie kochen, Sie kochen.

4.3. According to (Nebbish Daniela et al. 2009: 27), some strong verbs add an infix – i – to the root verb in four pronouns (du, er, sie, es) in the present, e.g. the verb sehen (to see), du siehst, er sieht, sie sieht, es sieht.

4.4. The present continuous of verbs in German are formed by adding the suffix –end to the stem and it takes an ending based on number and gender like an adjective. Example 2. Das kommende Auto ist schön (the coming car is beautiful).

4.5. Separable verbs add the suffix ‘-e, -st, -t, -en’ to the root verb and send the prefix to the end of the sentence in the present. Example zu + machen > zumachen (to close)

ich mache die Tür **zu**, du machst die Tür **zu**, er/sie/es macht dir Tür **zu**, wir machen die Tür **zu**, Sie/sie machen die Tür**zu**. While past tense with separable verbs is formed by adding -ge- as an infix between the prefix and the verb and the suffix -t at the verb root. E.g. ich habe die Tür **zugemacht**.

4.6. Imperative is formed using just 3 pronouns i.e. du (you informal), Ihr (you informal pl.) and Sie (you formal). To form imperative both the 'du' and ihr pronoun are not mentioned in the sentence and the verb endings are dropped e.g. geh raus! (Go out!) But the 'Sie' pronoun in the imperative uses the infinitive of the verb and the pronoun as in normal sentence. Example: kommen Sie rein! (Come in!).

4.7. The past tense of the verb is formed by adding a suffix -t- to the stem of a weak verb while the suffix -en is added to the stem of a strong verb, with a ge- prefix for both in cases where the first syllable of the stem is not stressed. If the initial syllable is not stressed like the verb bekommen -(to receive), the initial ge- will be omitted, e.g. bekommt - (received) and not gebekommt (Comrie 1990:128 – 129 cit, in Olagunju 2005: 16).

4.9. The future tense in German either add the suffix (-e, -st, -t, -en) to the stem or root of the verb. E.g. Morgen gehe ich in die Schule (I am going to school tomorrow). Fährst du nächste Woche nach Lagos? (Are you traveling to Lagos next week?) or conjugate the verb '**werden**' in the present tense plus the infinitive of the verb, e.g. er

wird morgen nach Hause gehen, Niebisch et al (2009:27).

4.10.The past participle in German functions like an adjective or an adverb. The past participle of a verb is formed by adding the suffix 'e' or 'en' to the Perfekt or past form of the verb. E.g. Das gekochte Ei schmeckt einfach super – (the cooked egg tastes good). Perlmann-Balme and Schwalb(2008: 159).

4.11.The person and number agreement in verb conjugation take the following suffixes in the present tense. These suffixes are identical for weak or regular verbs and strong verbs or irregular verbs. The suffixes are –e, -st, -t, -en. These four are shared among the nine grammatical distinguishable types of pronouns (ich – 1st person singular, du – 2nd person singular (informal), er – sie, - es -3rd person singular; sie – 3rd person plural, wir – first person plural, Sie – 2nd person (formal) and Ihr – 2nd person plural) .

5. Word Formation in German verbs

Word formation in German verbs can be classified into two groups and these two groups are: composition and derivation.

5.1 Composition

According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, composition is the mixing or combining of various elements or ingredients to form another element¹.

¹<https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/composition>.

Furthermore composition refers to the act of putting two words together to form a new word. In most cases the word joined together are independent or independent words that could function as a verb, a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. The formation of German verbs takes the following combinations:

4.1.1. Stem of a verb + stem of another verb + en (e.g. fließ + drück + en > fließdrücken – flow spinning), Fleischer/Stepanowa (1985:131) cit. in Olagunju (2005: 262).

4.1.2. Infinitive of a verb + infinitive of another verb.
Example: kennen + lernen > kennenlernen
– (meeting someone for the first time).

4.1.3. The use of past participle of a verb + infinitive of another verb. Example: verloren + gehen > verlorengehen – (to be lost).

4.1.4. Noun + verb (e.g. Rad + fahren > radfahren – to ride bicycle. Most verbs under this category are separable verbs.

4.1.5. Adjective + verb (e.g. gut + achten > gutachten – to act as an expert witness,), Fleischer/Stepanowa (1985:131) cit. in Olagunju (2005:263).

4.1.6. Adverbial element + verb (e.g. vorbei + kommen > vorbeikommen – to come around).

4.1.7. There are some other complex verbs like: *dabei + bleiben* > *dabeibleiben* – to stay on and *vorüber + gehen* > *vorübergehen* – to pass (by), that are formed by adding an adverbial element before an infinitive of the verb².

4.2. Derivation of German verbs Prefixes are often used in combination with infinitives to build another verb. In German there are separable and inseparable prefixes.

4.2.1. Separable prefixes are prefixes that are separable from the stem of the verb. These separable prefixes can have their dividable meaning as a separate word in German and can stand on their own as a word, unlike the inseparable prefixes that do not have their own meaning when separated from the verb stem. Some of these separable prefixes are: *ab-*, *aus-*, *auf-*, *an-*, *durch-*, *entgegen-*, *entlang-*, *fort-*, *gegenüber-*, *gleich-*, *heraus-*, *los-*, *mit-*, *weg-*, *zurück-*, *zusammen-*, *bei-*, *los-*, *nach-*, *vor-*, and *zu-*. Besides, some of these separable prefixes are mostly prepositions.

4.2.2. Most German verbs are derived from the addition of separable prefix + the infinitive of a verb. These prefixes are stressed: e.g. *bei* (prefix) + *bringen* (verb) > ***beibringen*** (to teach). E.g. *Ich will die Studenten beibringen*.

²All the examples in this section were adopted from Olagunju 2005

4.2.3. Separable prefixes are separated from the stem of the verb in the present tense (e.g. mit(prefix) + nehmen (verb) > **mit**nehmen – to take along): Wir nehmen den Tisch **mit**. – We are taking the table along.

4.2.4. When using these separable verbs in the infinitive with zu, the zu will be placed between the prefix and the stem of the verb (e.g. Die Experten versuchen alle Fehler heraus**zu**finden - The experts are trying to find out all the errors).

4.2.5. Past tense with separable verbs is formed by putting the particle –ge- between the prefix and the stem of the verb (e.g. Der Mann hat die Tür **zu**gemacht – The man closed the door).

4.2.5. Some of the inseparable prefixes in German are be-, emp-, ge-, hinter-, miss-, ver-, er-, ent-, miß-, and zer-.

5. Similarities in the morphological formation of Igbo and German verbs

The following similarities are common in the verb formation of the two languages:

5.1. In inflection, The Igbo verb add a suffix ‘à’ or ‘è’ to the root verb to form imperative while German verbs also add a suffix to the root verb to form imperative, e.g. Igbo - jée (go!) > jée áhịà úgbúà! – go to the market now! and German - **kommen** Sie herein!

5.2.Both Igbo and German verbs in inflection add suffix to the root verb to form future tense. That is, Igbo verbs add the suffix *é/á* to the root verb, while German verbs add the suffix *-e, -st, -t, en* to the root verb to form future tense. E.g. Igbo – *é+ jè > éjè* (will go). *Anyị nà éjè ọrụ taa* – we will go to work today and German- *ge + mach + t – gemacht > ich habe die Arbeit schon gemacht*.

5.3.In Igbo the past participle of a verb is formed by adding the suffix *‘lá’* to the imperative form of the verb while past participle of the verb in German also add the suffix *‘e’* or *‘en’* to the perfect form of the verb. E.g. Igbo - *ije + e + lá > ijeelá* (have gone). *Ijeelá áhịà taa* (have you gone to the market today?) and German – *gekocht + e > gekochte > das gekochte Suppe schmeckt gut* (the cooked soup is delicious)

5.4.In word formation, the combinations of verb plus verb (V + V) and the combination of Noun + Verb (N + V) are possible combinations in Igbo and German verb formation, e.g. (Igbo) *kpọ peg* (noun) + *wá* (to break (verb) > *kpọwá* (verb) – to split, (German) *Rad* (noun) + *fahren* (verb) > *radfahren* – to ride bicycle³. E.g. Igbo - *Gbúnyè m ánú kàm siè nrì* – cut a portion of meat for me to cook food. and German – *Rad* (noun) + *fahren* (verb) > *radfahren* – to ride bicycle.

5.5.In word formation, the combination of infinitive of a verb + infinitive of another verb to form a new verb is

³Some of the German example here was adopted from Olagunju 2005.

also common in both languages, German (e.g. Kennen + lernen > kennenlernen –meeting someone for the first time), Igbo (gbú (to cut) + nyè (to give) > gbúnyè – to cut a portion.

5.6. Igbo verb can be derived from the combination of two independent verbs to form a new verband in German a new verb can be derived from the combination of infinitive of a verb + infinitive of another verb. E.g. Igbo – gbá + gbúò > gbágbúò (shoot and kill) and German – kennen + lernen > kennenlernen – (to meet for the first time).

6. The differences in the morphological structure of both languages

The following differences exist in the area of inflection in both languages:

6.1. The German verbs can be conjugated for person, number and gender in the present by adding suffixes to the root verb , while the Igbo verbs do not take verb endings for persons, number and gender in conjugation rather a prefix and an infix is added to the verb root to form the present tense. E.g. (German)- ich komme, du kommst, wir kommen e.t.c. and (Igbo) - Ná + a + kpôwá = Ná –ákpôwá (splitting).

6.2. Igbo verbs form present tense by adding a prefix and infix to the verb root while the German verbs add a suffix to the root verb to form present tense. Igbo - Ná + a + gáfé = Ná - àgáfé (is passing) and German - du kochst, er/sie/es kocht.

6.3. Past tense in Igbo verb is formed by adding the suffixes -rà,-rù, -rè, -bù to the root verb, while German verbs form their past by adding the prefix ge- and the suffix -t to regular verbs while some irregular verbs add the suffix -en instead of the -t. Igbo - kpôwá + rà – kpôwàrà (splitted) and (German) ge + mach + t > gemacht (made).

The further differences exist in verb composition in the two languages:

6.4. German verbs can be composed of stem of a verb + stem of another verb, while Igbo verb cannot take this form. E.g. German - Stem of a verb + stem of another verb + en (e.g. fließ + drück + en > fließdrücken (olajunju 2005, 14).

6.5. German verbs are composed of a past participle of a verb + infinitive of another verb, while Igbo verbs do not take this form. German - verloren + gehen > verlorengehen– (to be lost).

6.6. Some German verbs are composed of adjective + infinitive of a verb (gut (adj.) + nachten(verb) > gutachten while Igbo verbs has no such composition. E.g. (German) gut + achten > gutachten.

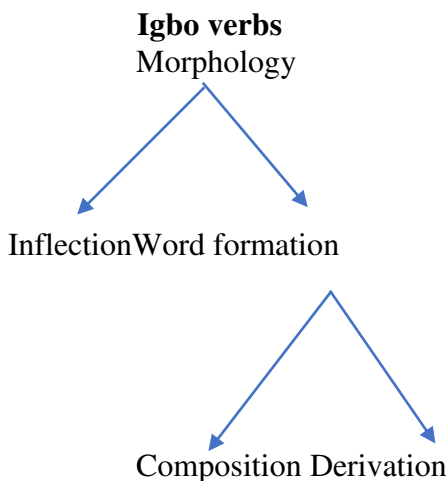
6.7. Some German verbs are composed of adverbial element + infinitive of a verb (e.g. vorbei (adverbial element) + kommen (verb) > vorbeikommen. Igbo verb do not have such composition.

In the area of the derivation of verbs in both languages, they are also differences:

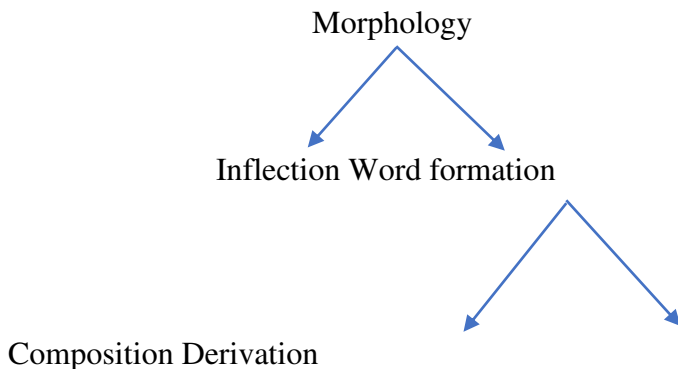
6.8. Some German verbs are derived by adding separable or inseparable prefixes to the root verb, while Igbo verbs are not derived from separable or inseparable prefixes. E.g. (German) bei (prefix) + bringen (verb) > **bei** bringen (to teach), ver +bringen > verbringen (to spend).

6.9. In German, some verbs are derived from inseparable prefix + adj. + infinitive marker (ver +arm + en > verarmen. Igbo verbs are not derived in this form.

Figure 1 and 2 below further explain the Similarities between the morphological structures of verbs in the two languages.



German verbs



Discussion:

From the analysis above, it can be observed that Igbo and German verb formation share some similarities in inflection, (i. e) Igbo verb add a suffix ‘à’ or ‘è’ to the root verb to form imperative while German verbs also add a suffix to the root verb to form imperative. See 1.3 and 3.7 above. So it can be said that both Igbo and German verbs add suffixes to the root verb to form imperative. From our analysis above we can also see that both Igbo and German verbs add suffixes to the root verb to form future tense. (i.e) Igbo verbs add é/á to the root verb while German verbs add the suffixes –e, -st, -t, en to the root verb to also form future tense as shown in the examples above. However to form past participle in both languages, a suffix is added to the stem of the verb in German and Igbo. Example Igbo verbs add the suffix ‘lá’ to the end of the root verb while the German verb also add a suffix ‘e’ or ‘en’ to the perfect form of the

verb.. See 1.5 and 3.10. It is important to note that even though Igbo and German verb add different suffixes to the root verb to form different tenses, it is still easier for both learners of the languages to learn them since both add suffixes to the root verb. In the area of word formation, both languages combines a verb plus another verb (V +V) to form a new verb and both languages also have the possibility of combining a Noun + a Verb (N+V) to form a new verb with a similar or different meaning from the two verbs combined to form the new one.E.g. Igbo - pkò - peg (noun) + wá - to break (verb) > pkòwá (verb to split), while German – Rad(noun) + fahren (verb) > radfahren – to ride bicycle. See 2.1.1-3 and 4.4a.In the area of derivation, some Igbo verbs are derived from the combination of two independent verbs to form a new verb while in German a new verb can be derived from the combination of infinitive of a verb + infinitive of another verb.(See 6, 5) above. This similarity in the area of morphology is expected to aid both learners of the language to learn them easily. In spite of the similarities in the Morphological structure in both languages, they are also some differences that occur in the morphological structure. This differences occur as follows: The German verbs can be conjugated for person, number and gender in the present by adding suffixes to the root verb , while the Igbo verbs do not take verb endings for persons, number and gender in conjugation rather a prefix and an infix is added to the verb root to form the present tense. See 6.3 above. In forming Past tense in Igbo language, the following suffixes -rà,-rù, -rè, -bù are added to the root verb, while

in German, verbs form their past by adding the prefix ge- and the suffix -t to the root of a weak or regular verbs and irregular verbs add the suffix -en instead of the -t to the root verb see 6.4.

In the area of composition some German verbs are composed of a past participle of a verb + infinitive of another verb, while such composition do not exist . See 6.6 above. Some German verbs are composed of adjective + infinitive of a verb(gut (adj.) + nachten (verb) > gutachten while in Igbo, verbs do not have such composition. See. 6.7. Some German verbs are composed of adverbial element + infinitive of a verb (e.g. vorbei(adverbial element) + kommen (verb) > vorbeikommen while Igbo verb cannot be combined with adverbial element to form another verb. See 6..9. In the area of derivation some German verbs are derived from separable or inseparable prefixes plus verb, while Igbo verbs are not derived from separable or inseparable prefixes. See 6.8). Some German verbs can also be derived from inseparable prefix + adj. + infinitive marker > (ver + arm + en > verarmen while Igbo verbs are not derived in this form..

Conclusion

From the observation and analysis above it is apparent that German and Igbo have some similarities and differences in the morphological structures especially in the area of inflection and word formation. However, being separate languages they also have their differences in their morphological structures as seen above. This

difference occurred in the area of inflection and word formation as well, where both languages have their own separate ways of forming inflection and forming new words. However, in spite of the differences in the morphological structure, they are also some level of similarities in the area of inflection and verb formation of some verbs in both languages. This area of similarities in both languages should aid Igbo learners of German to learn the language with ease. In conclusion, teachers and learners of German should take note of this similarities and differences in the morphological structure of Igbo and German verbs, so as to ease the learning of German by Igbo speakers.

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