Crystal (1997: 189) defines “Ideophones” as “a term used in linguistics and phonetics for any vivid representation of an idea in sound, such as occurs through onomatopoeia”. Ideophones tend to be longer in terms of the combination of sounds than lexical classes. Thus, it enables the users to pack meaning into single morphemes thereby making the words semantically multidimensional. (Woodbury1987:715). Vowel repetition or lengthening is also a characteristic of ideophones. Ideophones are often phonologically anomalous in terms of sounds and sound sequences, tonal structure and phonological behaviour. (Welmer1973:27). In any case, these features have an income relation between sound and meaning. Just like any natural language, ideophones represent a robust word category in African language. To this end, this work is designed to arrive at an applicable analysis and classification of Edo and Yoruba ideophones using a contrastive approach inspired by the idea of canonical typology. The theory of Autosegmental morphology as propounded by Welmer (1981), Marrantz (1982) and Anderson (1992) is employed in this study. This theory proposes that reduplication is essential affixation, but what is affixed is a prosodic template, that is, a syllable foot or even a phonological word is the affixation of a consonant-vowel (CV) skeleton which is itself a morpheme to a stem. The phonemic content of the reduplicative affix is then derived by copying the complete phonemic melody of the root and linking it to the affixer CV template respecting the principles of association familiar from auto segmental phonology. The researcher looks at the features of the selected ideophones and tries to see if there are syntactic, semantic or pragmatic features of these groups of words in Edo and Yoruba ideophones. Data for this study have been gathered from the interview conducted for the thirty subjects (fifteen from each group) from Ibadan, Oyo state and Akoko Edo, Edo State of Nigeria. In addition to this, samples of ideophones from the previous studies in these two languages Awoyale 1983; Maduka; 1982 were drawn and used as supplement to the raw data collected. It is clear from the results, the researcher is able to establish the fact that there is an avalanche of ideophones in the two selected languages and that they have certain category which can be differentiated by specific sets of parameters such as phonetic, phonological, morphological and semantic all of which can be used to determine its status as a linguistic entity.

INTRODUCTION

Ideophones are generally known to be marked words that vividly depict sensory events. They normally express the personal feelings or attitudes of the speakers. Doke (1935) defined ideophones as “A vivid representation of idea in sound, qualitative or adverb in respect to manner, colour, sounds, actions, smell, state of an affairs or intensity”. By this token, it is clear that ideophones form a distinct word class in human language as they affect attitude and emotion. Welmer, 1973 described ideophones as a set of words in language which contain sounds and sound sequence, tonal structure and phonological behaviour as ideophones. In a way, ideophone and sound could be seen as proof of their users’ sensitive feeling for language, a deep sensitive attachment to sounds and their power of vivid representation. Ideophones are marked out from other words in many ways, for instance, on the basis of phono-factors, word structures, expressive morphology, syntactic aloofness, prosodic foregrounding etc.

Ideophones are attested in virtually all languages of the world. Nevertheless, languages differ significantly in the extent to which they make use of them. For this reason, some linguists do not think it is significant to talk about a universal class of ideophones. They maintain that the concept makes sense only within the context of an individual language.
However, in Yoruba and Edo ideophones, unlike many other languages, there seems to be no use of sound not found in the rest of the languages. Apart from the number and types of syllables, the only phonetic peculiarity found in ideophones is the permissible of non-final nasalized vowel. They are distinguished by their morphemes and word structure. It has been observed that ideophones are frequently phonologically anomalous, that is, they may contain phonemes not found in other types of words or unique sequence of phonemes and they may be aberrant in respect to the rule of tone that applies to them.

Samarin 1971 submits that most ideophones do not simulate the sounds they represent. The iconicity presents in ideophones are variables and they forms part of arbitrariness on which non-ideophonic language can be located. At one end of this continuum is a totally arbitrary rotation between sound and meaning. Ideophone maintain “double articulatory”, where sounds are combined meaninglessly to convey meanings. At the other end, the relation between sound and meaning is direct. Sound symbolism and onomatopoeia are representative members of this continuum (ideophones) midway along this continuum are processes describe by Woodbury 1987, one example is rhetorical lengthening in English (e.g. you are craa-azy) a second is tone stretching in Yoruba (e.g. morii). “I saw it” which lengthens and raises the tone of the phase in other “to intensify the degree to which content of the word it affects is indented. Awobuluyi (2004) argues that ideophones belong to a class of adverbs. This implies that ideophones have much greater representation in human language.

At this juncture, it useful to spell out the characteristics or attributes of ideophones in human language. The following characteristics are often attributed to ideophones:

(a) Phonology/ Morphology- Ideophones are said to form phonological distinct group from other words in human language. In other words, they have distinct phonological properties and processes with regards to other words in individual language. The morphology of ideophones often displays more iconicity and sound-symbolism than other words in language. In many African languages, they tend to be longer as a result of vowel lengthen and consonant cluster. A salient feature that distinguishes ideophones from many other words is that there is hardly any affixation in the morphology of this group of words.

(b) Syntax/ semantics- The study of ideophones in many languages of the world reveals that ideophones cannot normally be syntactically modified whereas other words in language can be modified. In other words, ideophones do not usually enter into phrase structure construction with other words like adjective or noun to form compound words and phrases. Similarly, they have characterized by lack of hyponyms. They cannot have hyponyms below them as one would have for nouns. For example, furniture which has its hyponyms as chair, table, cabinet, bed cupboard etc.

(c) Semantics/ Pragmatic- Apart from their unique phonological, morphological and syntactic features as noted above, ideophones, unlike comparable word classes such as adjectives and adverbs do not seem to have independent semantic feature as we are going to to see from the glossary and transliteration in this paper. It is very hard, though not impossible, to pin them down and assign denotation or dictionary meaning to them. They depend largely on adjacent words and other contexts for their usage. This again makes this class of words unique in human language.

The crux of this paper is to make a contrastive exploration of ideophones in Yoruba and Edo speech communities. Words and how they are categorized into classes constitute a fundamental aspect of knowledge about the structure of a language. As such, the language users develop basic types of information within their mental lexicon which aids categorial information. Such information
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constitutes important criteria for modeling their language repertoires. This means therefore, that developing clearly definable categories for all words of a language is an important endeavour in human language, particularly morphological analysis. This is because words of a particular category or subcategory tend to have their own peculiar form, function and meaning in language. The work delves richly on the features of ideophones, their structures, meaning, and contexts under which they can be used to portray the world view in these selected speech communities.

**Contextual Setting**

Standard Yoruba also known as central Yoruba is the written form of the West African Yoruba language, which is commonly taught at schools and spoken by news readers over the radio. Standard Yoruba has its origin in the 1850s when Samuel Ajayi Crowther, a native Yoruba and the first African bishop published a Yoruba grammar book and started the translation of the Yoruba bible into English. Although a large part of the standard Yoruba is predominantly used in Oyo and Ibadan. Standard Yoruba incorporates several features from other dialects. Additionally, it has some features peculiar to itself because the use of standard Yoruba did not result from deliberate linguistic policy. Much controversy exists as to what constitutes standards in Yoruba language. Some writers hold the opinion that the Oyo dialect is most pure form, while others state that there is no such thing as genuine Yoruba at all. Yoruba language is a tonal language spoken natively by about 30 million people in Nigeria and in the neighboring countries of the republic of Benin and Togo.

In Nigeria, Yoruba speakers reside in the south west region in states such as Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos Kogi and kwara states. Yoruba is a dialect continuum including several distinct dialects (Bamgbose 1966, Adegbija 1994) . The differences inherent in these dialects are in the areas of pronunciation, grammatical structure and vocabulary. There are other dialects found all over West Africa. In the republic of Benin, Yoruba dialects include ketu, nago, ije, ajase, idaitse, sabe to mention a few. It is however possible to classify Yoruba dialectal forms found in Nigeria into five regional groupings: North Eastern Yoruba (NEY), Central Yoruba (CY), South West Yoruba (SWY); South East Yoruba (SEY). Phonological, lexical and grammatical variations and the hallmarks of these groupings since there are variant degree of mutual intelligibility among the geographical dialects found in each group. A consensus standard form has however evolved and is recognized as the form for writing and teaching that language. This form relatively close to the SWY is understood by speakers of the different dialect and it continue to serve the communicative purpose of all speakers. Yoruba language became one of the first West African languages to have a written grammar and dictionary in 1849. Bamgbose 1996.

On the other hand, Edo, also called Benin is a Volta-Niger language spoken primarily in Edo state, Nigeria. It remains the primary language of the Edo people of Igodomigodo. The Igodomigodo kingdom was renamed Edo by Oba Eweka, after which the Edos referred themselves as Oviedo “Child of Edo”. There are non-Edo words of doubtful origin used by Europeans as adjective and for the dominant people of the Edo kingdom and their language. The Edo speaking people appear to have been first used by N.W. Thomas who carried out a ethnographic investigations in Nigeria in the early years of 20th century according to Bradbury; it is derived from the vernacular name of Benin City and is applied to those who speak either Edo proper. The languages of Benin City are closely related dialects spoken within the old empire as a first language; Ishan, Ora, Urhobo, Agbor, Igbanke and so on. The Edoid languages which are spoken in Bayelsa, Edo, Ondo, Rivers and south Western Delta State are known for it uniqueness. Well known Edo languages are; Edo, Esan, Urhobo, Okpamheri and ibilo. The following classification of the Edoid dialect is taken from Crozier and Blench (1992):

A. Delta-Edoid dialects are: Epie-Atisa, Egene and Degema

B. Southwestern Edoid dialects are: Uvbie, Urhobo, Okpe, Isoko and Eruwa

C. North Central Edoid dialect are; Edo, Esan, Emai-luleha-Ora, Ghotuo, Uneme Etsako Yekhe
Statement of the Problem

Several notable studies exist which investigate the ideophones of African languages. Studies also exist which underscore phonology, morphology, syntactic and semantic features of ideophones in Nigerian languages in particular and West Africa in general. But a few studies have made contrastive statement on the phonetic and morphological features of ideophones in Nigerian languages. However, works that comprehensively compared ideophonic features of two or more languages are very sparse. Various problems have been accounted in the acquisition and learning of ideophones across the world. However, categorization boundaries in language thus pose a number of problems to the users of these languages. This work, therefore provides a network in which samples of ideophones in Yoruba and Edo dialects are analysed using morphology and phonetic/phonology as parameters. This serves as a preliminary attempt to engage in a comparative study of ideophones in Nigerian languages with the view to support the fact that a number of ideophones exist in Nigerian languages. The study is a radical departure from the back drop claims made by Awoyale (1974:138) that “it does not seem that every African language has ideophones.

Review of Related Literature

In this section, the researcher aims at sketching the place of investigation within the domain of the linguistic study of contrastive Analysis variationist approach and autosegmental phonology. The option of what different authorities considered to be relevant on some other areas of more general interdisciplinary study of linguistic enquiry and their relation to the more specific synthesis of ideophone in African language is reviewed.

Geolinguistic diffusion is the process by which linguistic change spread geographically from one dialect or language to another (Charles Boberg, 2000). It places linguistic phenomena spatial context to analyse the possible relationships between language and the geographical environment. Geolinguistics represents a renewed engagement between linguistics and geography that builds upon the empirical work of several variationists from all over the world. Engaging in geography means moving from the sociolinguistic description of single speech community to a comparative sociolinguistics of a number of speech communities. Therefore, exploring the contrastive analysis of ideophonic features in Yoruba and Edo speech communities is the right step in the direction.

One of the earliest definitions of ideophones given by Doke 1935:118 is that an ideophone is a vivid representation of an idea in sound. A word used in a qualificative or adverbial in respect to manner, color, sound, smell, action, state or intensity. Ideophones are often treated as belonging to a specific word class (Bodomo (2000)) for Dagaare, Kulemeka, (1997) for Chichewa, New Man (1968:2000) for Hausa etc. However, there is considerable controversy as to whether they constitute a coherent word class or are indeed distributed across many word classes.

To Awobuluuyi (1978), ideophones belong to a class of adverbs, but they are special in that they are analyzed as nouns. They are thus referred to as ideophone, to distinguish them from other adverbs and nouns. Rowland (1970) is of the opinion that ideophones belong to the open class of adverbs, but there is no for criterion (morphological, phonological and tonal patterning) which marks them off. While I respect other people's viewpoints about the status of ideophone, I pitch my tent with Newman (1968) argued that ideophones do not constitute a separate grammatical category even they are amendable to syntactic descriptions and are often idiomatically restricted to appearing with particular predicates. Apparently, ideophones have a striking grammatical structure that sets them apart from other word classes in each language. In the establishment of word classes, it is usually these same formal and functional criteria that are used to tease words apart, we can conclude that ideophones are a cohesive class of words and that this cohesive class exists in each of the Edo and Yoruba dialect within this cohesive class one may have supports, sub-categorization is indeed a feature of word class in general.
Contrastive Linguistics: An Exploration of Ideophones in Yoruba and Edo Speech Communities

Some consider onomatopoeia a subcategory of ideophony, in which case onomatopoeias would be those ideophones that evoke auditory events. However, this is a choice that can only be made on a language by language basis. A related issue is the fact that languages differ in interesting ways with regard to the relative elaboration of the different sensory modalities in their ideophone inventories. Certain indigenous languages of North America for example seem to have ideophones that are predominantly auditory (cf. Webster 2008 on Navajo), whereas auditory ideophones make up only a small fraction of the inventories of many African languages. The term has found its way into many linguistic texts, especially dictionaries and lexicons. Trask (1993: 131-132) defines an ideophone as "One of a grammatically distinct class of words, occurring in certain languages, which typically express either distinctive sounds or visually distinctive types of action."

Aim of the Study

The general aim of the study is to underscore a contrastive analysis of ideophones in Yoruba and Edo speech communities. This discourse also aims at providing a pedagogical approach for the classification and analysis of the linguistic fragments (ideophones) found in the two selected languages.

Research Objectives

The present study is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify and classify ideophones in both standard Yoruba and Edo languages.
2. To determine the syllable and tonal structure of Yoruba and Edo ideophones.
3. To determine the morphological features of the selected ideophones in the two languages.
4. To do a contrastive analysis of the selected ideophones in the two languages.

Research Questions

The study attempt to answer the following questions:

1. What is an ideophone?
2. What are the characteristics of ideophones and what makes a word qualified as ideophone?
3. Are there peculiar phonological and morphological features for ideophones?
4. Do ideophones in these two languages belong to the same word class or different word classes?
5. What can the study of ideophones inform us of the link between language, literature and culture?
6. Do ideophones in these two languages have syllable structure?

Significance of the Study

The importance of the study could be multifold. From the phonological point of view, the study of ideophones of the two selected languages will be useful in speech synthesis. Being a contrastive analysis, the study will be valuable for the Yoruba and Edo speakers and linguists who are interested in knowing facts about other African languages.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the theoretical framework of contrastive analysis and auto segmental morphology for the treatment of ideophones in Yoruba and Edo languages. The programme of contrastive linguistics was instigated by Charles Carpenter Fries from the University of Michigan in the 1940s. Fries (1945:9) contended that the most effective materials in foreign language
teaching are those that are based upon a scientific description of the language to be learned, carefully compared with a parallel description of the native language of the learner. Some years later, the project was put into practice by Fries colleague, Robert Lado (1957), who provided a comparative description of English and Spanish. The central idea of contrastive analysis as propounded by Lado in his book Linguistics Across Cultures, 1957, was that it is possible to identify the areas of difficulties a particular foreign language will present for native speakers of another language by systematically comparing the two languages and cultures. Where the two languages are similar, learning difficulties will not be expected, where they are different, learning difficulties are to be expected, and the greater the difference, the greater the degree of expected difficulties.

The theory of auto segmental morphology proposed by McCarthy 1981; Marrantz 1982; Anderson 1992 is also employed in this study. This theory proposes that reduplication is essentially affixation, but what is affixed is a prosodic template, that is, syllable foot or even a phonological word. The basic assumption of this theory is that reduplication is a process of affixation; it is the affixation of a consonant- vowel (CV) skeleton which is itself a morpheme to a stem. Marantz’s argument in his definition is that reduplication is essentially affixation but that which is affixed is a CV skeleton or a prosodic template. The phonemic content of the reduplicative affix is then obtained by copying the complete phonemic melody of the root and linking it to the affixal CV template respecting the principles of association which is entrenched in auto segmental phonology.

Research Methodology

Sociolinguistic works involve the collection of data by fieldworkers from informants. The study addresses the issue of elicitation procedure for the description of the subjects, research design, collection the data and analysis.

The Target Population

The target population for the study was drawn from two different compounds of sixty people (thirty each) from Yoruba and Edo speech communities. Focus group method was used to gather the data for the study. Respondents were selected using demographic variables of sex, age, religion and level of education.

Sampling Procedure

The subjects for the study were thirty Nigerians of varied linguistic and socio-economic background, selected by a stratified random sampling technique from two linguistic groups in Nigeria (Edo and Yoruba). Fifteen males and fifteen females were interviewed. The subjects so selected were divided into two groups. Group one consists those who have been exposed to formal English learning and could speak and use Edo and Yoruba languages correctly. Group two consisted of those who have no formal education but could use the two languages correctly. Each subject was required to speak freely on tape on ideophones and their numerous examples in each language context was recorded.

Research Instrument

The elicitation instrument used for the collection of data in this research was face to face interview to elicit free conversation from the respondents. The production was recorded on audio tape for the purpose of retention on the part of the researcher.

Method of Data Collection

There are two common methods of gathering information for a research purpose according to Bamgboye, et al (2006:151). They are: routine collection from a source and data generated through survey and experiments. The researcher adopted the collection of data from the source. Apart from this, the researcher embarked upon the synthesis of literature as a frontier of knowledge to the research topic.
Contrastive Linguistics: An Exploration of Ideophones in Yoruba and Edo Speech Communities

Method of Data Presentation

Data collected for the study were presented in substitution tables. The set of ideophones collected from the respondents were transcribed and translated in English for better understanding.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

In this section, the researcher looks at the morphological structures of handful examples of ideophones as produced by the speakers of Yorba and Edo. The researcher also tries to see if the set of ideophones collected have phonetic/phonological features. The researcher also tries to find out whether there is an avalanche of ideophones in these languages.

Another observation made is that ideophones in the two selected languages obey the phonological constraints. For example, they obey the open syllable constrains. There are no nasal vowel-initial ideophones in Edo. No single syllable element can be an ideophone. However, the researcher noted here that some ideophones can be nominalised when this happens, we have parenthesis, which is the insertion of vowels and it is strictly motivated by a morphological structure. Examples can be found in Edo language below as presented by Harrison 2006:

1. Edo Ideophones English equivalent
   (i) Eke| nne| ke| nne sporty design materials
   (ii) E| so| gho| so| gho baby’s rattle
   (iii) E| to| gho| to| gho rooster’s crest
   (iv) E| to| lo| to| lo turkey
   (v) E| lu| ke| lu| ke river tortoise

From the examples above, it is observed that only one type of vowel can be inserted in the word initial position. This is front mid vowel with a low tone. It is also noticed that the tonal patterns on the nominalised ideophones in the Edo language such as in examples i-v, only the initial vowel has a low tone while all other tones are high.

The second category as we have in examples iv-v are those with tone polarization after the initial syllable. It must be noted here that the insertion of the vowel initial low tone does not change this tone of ideophones.

In all, with more than the ideophones two syllables have both sequences of identical vowel and non-identical vowel. However, a sequence of identical vowels seems to be most common types in all ideophones. The researcher noticed that the entire 12 oral and nasal vowel in the language are involved in ideophones construction. Ideophones in the language can equally be partially or totally reduplicated to give us varieties of meanings.

In this case, the base is completely copied, at least, once. The consonant, vowel and the tones are fully copied to give us this type of ideophones. This type of copying is used mainly for emphasis or intensification as we have in the examples below:

(i) Nekpe| ne| kpen ‘gradually’
(ii) Su| ku| su| ku ‘unpleasantly twisted’
(iii) La| gha| la| gha of something that is dangling’
(iv) Go| lo| go| lo ‘of a manner of talking’
Tones in Edo do not have semantic connotations. This is contrary to what operates in Yoruba as cited by Awoyale (1983). He observes that the function of tone in words is not pronounced other than ideophones in Edo language whereas in Yoruba language, tones are used to maintain lexical contrast, in ideophones, they serve to maintain a quasi-grammatical/altitudinal contrast as well, some of the examples include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yoruba ideophones</th>
<th>English equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) so</td>
<td>bo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So</td>
<td>bo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) fe</td>
<td>re</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fe</td>
<td>re</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) bi</td>
<td>ri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) Bi</td>
<td>ri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the examples above, the tone has semantic function it is performing. The reduplicated example with high tone tends to suggest smallness or light-weight, the mid tone or medium proportion and the low tone largeness, heaviness or depth. This is not the case with the reduplicated ideophones in Edo.

**TYPES OF IDEOPHONES**

Phonologically, there are about four types of ideophones that are identified in this language. These are monosyllabic, disyllabic, trisyllabic and bisyllabic ideophones.

**Monosyllabic Ideophones**

This type of ideophones consist of a single consonant and a vowel, we however, found that the vowel can be further lengthened for idiomatic effect. Some of these examples are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edo ideophones</th>
<th>Yoruba ideophones</th>
<th>English equivalents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kpoo</td>
<td>gboo</td>
<td>old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vuu</td>
<td>jin</td>
<td>deep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gbuu</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>smell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kpii</td>
<td>ho</td>
<td>peal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gbii</td>
<td>po</td>
<td>many</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The pronunciation of the above ideophones by the nature of the vocal cords (of the consonants) and the types of tones that occur on the vowel for voiceless consonants, low tones for voiced consonants, and high tones on the vowels.

**Bisyllabic Ideophones**

The same type of lengthening phenomenon is found in some bisyllabic forms. The final vowels of this form are lengthened for ideophonic effect. Examples are shown below:
### Contrastive Linguistics: An Exploration of Ideophones in Yoruba and Edo Speech Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edo ideophones</th>
<th>Yoruba ideophones</th>
<th>English equivalents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hi</td>
<td>gboo</td>
<td>gi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hu</td>
<td>roo</td>
<td>da</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gbadaa</td>
<td>so</td>
<td>won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gbodoo</td>
<td>gbo</td>
<td>oro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These types of ideophones have a structure where only the vowel and the tones are identical. Some examples are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edo ideophones</th>
<th>Yoruba ideophones</th>
<th>English equivalents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giri</td>
<td>giri</td>
<td>fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisi</td>
<td>yara</td>
<td>quick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyere</td>
<td>bintin</td>
<td>little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perhe</td>
<td>pere</td>
<td>just</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reghe</td>
<td>fiofio</td>
<td>tall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Trisyllabic Ideophones

These types of ideophones have a sequence of where the vowels, consonants and the tones are fully copied. Examples of such include:

(i) So| so| so  ‘of excessively foamy’
(ii) Re| re| re  ‘of a very high pitch sound’
(iii) Pu| pu| pu  ‘of the fluttering of a bird’
(iv) Du| du| du  ‘of very dark’
(v) Wo| wo| wo  ‘of brightly-burning fire’

From the above examples, there are no cases of non-identical consonant vowel and tones. Going by McCarthy’s (1983) proposal, the researcher assumes that the base of the above constructions or reduplication is copied trice. It is observed, however, that some reduplication, such as those shown above have no base or root form. The base forms are non-existence in the language.

#### Polysyllabic ideophones

These ideophones have the sequence where the vowel and the tones are identical. Let us consider these examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edo ideophones</th>
<th>Yoruba ideophones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Ra</td>
<td>gho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Se</td>
<td>ke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) So</td>
<td>gho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v) Ma</td>
<td>lo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vi) Kpe</td>
<td>we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vii) Mi</td>
<td>tan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We also note that certain type of these ideophones have the base form that are meaningful. The reduplicated form further derived their meanings from them. Some of these include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edo ideophone</th>
<th>Yoruba ideophone</th>
<th>English equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Mi</td>
<td>tan</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Su</td>
<td>ku</td>
<td>fun, hun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Sun</td>
<td>no - rin</td>
<td>din</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) Tu</td>
<td>ke</td>
<td>ke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Similarities**

- Reduplication is highly productive in the two speech form
- Certain types of reduplication in the two languages involved class changing. In Yoruba, the verb is the input, but once the affix is attached to it, what we have in the output becomes a noun. In Edo the verb is the input, after affixation, what we have in the output is an adjective.
- Virtually all lexical categories in both languages, including ideophones can be reduplicated.

**Differences**

The two languages in question differ in number of ways with respect to reduplication.

- There is partial reduplication of the verb in Yoruba which invariably gives us gerundive nominalization. There is none in Edo, however when verbs are fully reduplicated in Edo the outputs are either another verb or adjectives.
- There is agentive nominalization in Yoruba, but Edo does not have this.
- The tones play significant roles in reduplication (except ideophones) in Edo. However the effect of tone is highly minimal in Yoruba except in the reduplication of ideophones, where they play vital roles to maintain quasi-grammatical altitudinal contrast.
- While there is only one morphological linker in Edo, Yoruba has about eight of such linkers. The researcher notes that these linkers can be related, semantically to a full verb in Yoruba while this is not possible in Edo.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The researcher looks at reduplication in Yoruba and Edo languages. Relevant data are provided and discussed. The researcher shows with concrete examples that traditional linear account could not take care of reduplication in both Edo and Yoruba languages. But non-linear account of reduplication produces useful insights into the mechanism of this linguistic phenomenon. The researcher highlights areas of similarities and differences in the two languages with respect to how the process of affixation takes place in two languages.

Apparently, ideophones have a striking grammatical structure that sets them apart from word classes in each language. In the establishment of word classes, it is usually these same functional criteria that are used to tease words apart.

It could be concluded that ideophones are a cohesive class of words and that these cohesive classes of words exists in each of the Edo and Yoruba ideophones. However, one may have subparts, sub categorization is indeed a feature of word class in general. A number of similarities have been attested between Edo and Yoruba ideophones. But it has also observed that ideophones in Edo are more like adverbials in the language, while the ideophones in Yoruba are more like adjectives. The forgoing observation has consequences with regard to lexical categorization.
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across the two languages. Surely, we can say that one can find word classes in each language, which is never a new thing to say, but that more interestingly, word classes may not have the same taxonomy from language to language, and that indeed some word classes as it is the case with ideophones are existent in some languages but certainly not in others. The study has also addressed the fact that ideophones have a special expressive and dramatic function that other words may lack in any one language.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of this work, the researcher recommends that;

- Contrastive analysis should completely be used to aid student existing linguistics skills rather than replacing them.

- Contrastive analysis should also be used to teach speakers to translate or “code switch” from one language to the other. This method provides explicit description of the forms and contrasts between both language and thus is similar to teaching a second language.

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