

VERBS OF PERCEPTION IN UKWUANI LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Verbs of perception has been ignored over the years by Ukwuani Language speakers. The term "verbs of perception" such as "see, hear, taste, smell, look, listen, feel e.t.c has not been given adequate attention by linguistics scholars. The number of basic perceptual verbs differ across various languages. The objective of this research is to identify and analyze perceptual verbs in Ukwuani Language syntactically. The theoritical framework employed in this research is Lexical semantics. I collected the data used in the analysis of this research from competent native speaker of Ukwuani Language. The method of data collection was through an oral interview where the informants participated. This research categorized perceptual verbs in Ukwuani into five classes which are, verbs for seeing, verbs for hearing, verbs for tasting, verbs for smelling, verbs for feeling. Ukwuani Language highly exhibit a great number of perceptual verbs and these verbs tend to be ambiguous. Unlike other Languages that combine sensory activities, Ukwuani language have different terms for each of the basic perceptual verb. All perceptual verbs in Ukwuani are expressed in relation to the sense organs.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

This research work is centered on the verbs of perception in Ukwuani language widely spoken by the Ndokwa people of Delta state South South Nigeria. Verbs that are used to refer to sensory information perceived by humans are known as verbs of perception or perceptual verbs. These verbs, expresses the action encountered by the physical senses. They describe or specify an action involving the sense organs or the capacity of people to perceive things in their environment. The use of perceptual verbs in communication cannot be avoided because we perceive and receive information through our senses daily. It is evident that these perceptual verbs are been used by humans all the time. Viberg (1983) after carrying out a research on the most frequently used verbs in 11 European languages, He observed that verb of perception “see” is one of the mostly used term in communication. As humans, we must perceive things through our senses. Looking at how important perception is in our day to day live, this research work will look into the verbs of perception in Ukwuani and how they are used by speakers of the language.

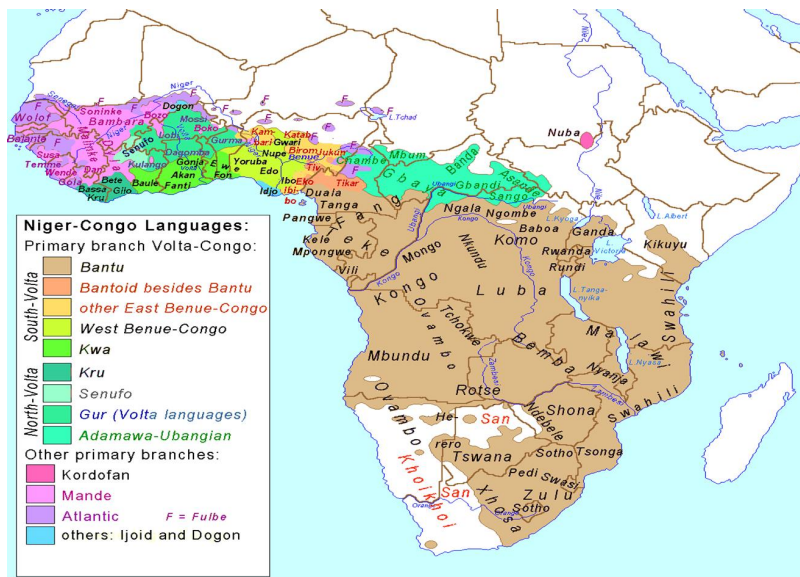
1.1 UKWUANI PEOPLE AND CULTURE

There is no written account on the history of Ukwuani, what is known was told orally by the older generation and some by the Europeans that visited the area back in the days. The name “kwale” was given to the people of Ukwuani by Europeans

who visited the land and could not properly pronounce the term “ukwuani”.

Ukwuani is widely spoken by those who come from the Ndokwa east and Ndokwa west area of Delta state. Speakers of Ukwuani are largely located in Delta state and in some local government areas of Rivers state (Ogba, Egbema, Ndoni).

Although it is the second largest ethnic group in Delta state, Ukwuani is one of the minor ethnic groups in Nigeria. The Utakwa dialect is the standard dialect that is been used in the studies of Ukwuani language. This language has been accepted by the federal government for the purpose of “mother tongue education”. Ukwuani is estimated to have about 555,000 native speakers. This language is classified among the Igboid group of languages within the Volta-Niger branch of the Niger-Congo family.



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The Ukwuani people are one of those that make up the Igbo west of the river Niger.

The land is divided into three sub groups which are, Ndokwa east, Ndokwa west, and Ukwuani local government areas. The headquarter is located at Aboh, Utakwa-Ogbe kwale and Obiaruku. They have fifteen clans in Ukwuani namely, Abbi, Akoku, Amai, Ebedei, Emu, Eziokpor, Ezionum, Obiaruku, Ogume, Onicha-

Ukwuani, Umuebu, Umukwata, Umutu, Utagba-Ogbe and Utagba-Uno. There have been an argument on the true origin of Ukwuani people. It is believed that Ukwuani people originated from two wave. First from Benin and the other wave from Igbo land. The Aboh clan and some others claimed they left Benin in the 16th century. The people of Ukwuani are widely known for their music and delicious meals like “Ofe-Isege, Mpikor, Nri-Iji, Ofe-Ikele, Utala Iji, Eba, Ofe Ilolo, Oto, and Ofe Eku. Their dressing style is also very unique. The man dresses up with George wrappers, native shirt, beads and hat while the woman dress in two wrapper, a blouse and hair tie.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

The method and technique employed in this research work is strictly inquiry method from the competent speakers of ukwuani language. It was a primary source of data collection which was collected orally by a well organized interview. The instruments used in the collection of data is a tape recorder and writing materials to avoid loss of data. I choosed this method because it is a more reliably means of data collection, this method also allows me to interact with my informants in order to get the appropriate pronunciation of the perceptual verbs in Ukwuani language. The data was collected from native speakers of ukwuani ranging from both the old and new generation of speakers. The reason for this is to check and see if there had been changes in the language over the years. I interacted with seven (7) native speakers of the language within the age grade of seventy five to thirty three years old. The native speakers comprises of three old speakers, two middle aged speakers and two young speakers. They are namely;

1. Mr Amaechi Lassan

75years old

2. Mr Akadichieme 62 years old
3. Mrs Nelly Ogwu 59 years old
4. Mr Emmanuel Onwuneme 48 years old
5. Mr Great Okechukwu 42 years old
6. Mrs Ada Odishika 36 years old
7. Mr Austin Wisdom 33 years old

1.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research is a model of lexico-semantics which can also be referred to as lexical semantics. Lexical semantics is the field of linguistics within the study of semantics that deals with meaning at word level. Lexical semantics analyses the meaning of words, and sub words like affixes and compound words. In lexical semantics, words and sub words are referred to as lexical items. The use of lexical semantics in this study examines the words in Ukwuani language and their meaning. It focuses on the classification of the lexical items in this research, how it relates structurally with the language and the relationship between the meaning of lexical items and the meaning when they are syntactically represented.

Furthermore, lexico-semantics explains if the meaning of a word is derived when the word is in isolation or when it occurs with other words in the same environment, and how a lexical item could have diverse meaning depending on the context or interpretation of the hearer. Another aspect of lexical semantics is the relationship between meaning which is referred to as “sense relations”.

Kreidler (1998:303) defined sense relations as “the relations of meaning between words, as expressed in synonymy, hyponymy, antonymy.”

SYNONYMY

This is the study of words that have nearly the same meaning in a language. These words have different spellings and pronunciation, but their objective meaning is similar. Examples of synonyms in the verbs of perception in Ukwuani Language are:

1. shí and nshìshí which means “ to smell”
2. òtèlì /métù which means “ to touch”
3. ódàmà /só which means “to taste”

ANTONYMY

Antonymy is the study of words that have contrasting meaning or words that are opposite in meaning. The words under antonymy are divided into three, which are:

1. Complimentary pairs
2. Implicitly gradeable pairs
3. Relational pairs

In complimentary pairs, the negation of one means agreement with the other. For example, if someone is not dead then the person is alive and vice versa. This is also the case of gender, its either one is a female or a male, you cannot be both.

Implicitly gradeable pairs are words that belong to the same field they qualify. An example of such kind of word is “healthy and sick”. They both belong to the same field of “health” while one describes good health, the other describes an unhealthy state.

For relational pairs, they cannot exist without each other. They are words that show relationship between two opposites..

HYPONYMY

Hyponymy shows the connection between a word and the category it falls under. For example we can say “see, hear, feel, taste and smell” are all hyponyms of ‘perceptual verbs’. The association between a word and its category can be described hierarchically using a diagram which is called “taxonomy”. The taxonomy of body parts will be: eyes, legs, skin, nose e.t.c.

POLYSEMY

Polysemy is a circumstance in which a word has more than one meaning. Polysemous words can also be referred to as ambiguous words. For example the word “bank” in English language is polysemous because it could be a financial institution or a river bank.

The study of lexical semantics is broad as it does not just look at words in a language, it compares identical words between languages and also looks at how they contrast.

Baldwin (2007:1) defined lexical semantics as “the study of what individual lexical items mean, why they mean what they do, how we represent all of this, and where the combined interpretation of an utterance comes from”. Geeraerts (2006) explained that an overview of the main theoretical trends in lexical semantics has not been fully discovered.

Cruse (2011) described lexical semantics as “a branch of linguistics which is concerned with the systematic study of words”. Mensah (2011) says that the beginning of the theory of lexical semantics is breaking down lexical meaning in terms of semantics primitives, truth condition, entailment relations, by providing

specific and complete meaning for individual words, looking at how these words are understood first before their meaning could accurately be analysed.

Lyons(1977) wrote a text that changed the nature of lexical semantics. They were written when structuralist lexical semantics carried on separately from major generative theories of grammar. As time began to advance, linguists started an indepth research on lexical semantics away from the focus on synonyms, antonyms, polysemy e.t.c.

This theory was first proposed by Tier in the 1930's, he explains that semantic field theory proposes that a group of words interrelated in meanings can be categorized under a larger conceptual domain. The entire domain is known as semantic field. In semantic field, a set of words are analyzed looking at them holistically. The verbs see, hear, touch, taste, and smell as used in this research fall under the larger semantic category of perception. This theory says that the meaning of a word cannot be ascertained by looking at the word in isolation but by looking at other group of words related to it semantically.

This study focuses on verbs of perception, the relationship with humans and their sensory modalities. Perception verbs are connected to the five sense organs. This study classifies the verbs of perception in Ukwuani Language into five. They are;

1. Verbs for seeing
2. Verbs for hearing
3. Verbs for smelling
4. Verbs for tasting
5. Verbs for touching

1.4 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Verbs of perception are very important in communication as it shows how people perceive things. Perception is how things are viewed by people, it has to do with the five sense organs (eye, ear, skin, tongue, and nose). These verbs describe sensing in relation to the sense organs. Sensory information is received everyday by people but it is not regarded in languages. Humans perceive and receive sensory information everyday, we use these perceptual verbs when interacting with people daily. This explains why verbs of perception are very important in the classification of verbs and in communication generally. These various verbs of perception have diverse semantic roles they play in communication. Noticing how important verbs of perception are in our everyday conversation, I wonder why less attention is been paid to this type of verbs?. Why are verbs of perception not properly, classified in Ukwuani language, why is there no focus on the polysemous nature of these verbs and how they can cause a change in meaning when replaced?.

Verbs of perception in Ukwuani language have not been given attention over time in linguistics research and a thorough study have not been conducted in Ukwuani language and in other Igboid languages. In this research, I intend to bring to light the various verbs of perception in Ukwuani language, and how they are important in semantics. This project also aims at showing how verbs of perception are classified in Ukwuani.

1.5 PURPOSE OF STUDY

The following are the fundamental purpose of this study

1. To show how the basic perceptual verbs are described in Ukwuani Language
2. To show the ambiguity of perceptual verbs in Ukwuani Language
3. To properly group perceptual verbs into their various categories
4. To show the semantic properties of perceptual verbs in Ukwuani Language.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTION

1. Does Ukwuani Language have different words for all the perceptual verbs or do they combine sensory modalities in the language.
2. Are verbs of perception ambiguous in Ukwuani language
3. How can perceptual verbs be classified in Ukwuani language.
4. What constitute the semantic properties of verbs of perception in Ukwuani Language.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings derived during the course of this research will be beneficial to the society in view of the fact that perceptual verbs is very paramount in the study of verbs and language in general. We cannot do away with perceptual verbs in our day to day live so this study will be of utmost benefit to learners of Ukwuani language and to institutions also. Teachers and learners of perceptual verbs in ukwuani language can draw appropriate references from this study for better understanding on how verbs of perception are classified in Ukwuani and the various semantic properties of these verbs. The findings of this research work will

serve as a framework for Ukwuani speakers, schools and everyone who has interest in Ukwuani studies. Upcoming linguists and syntacticians can employ the findings of this research work for adequate understanding on how perceptual verbs work in Ukwuani language. During the research, I noticed that there are not adequate materials that could serve as a guideline in the study of perceptual verbs. This work will serve as a guideline to future researchers who would love to do a thorough research on verbs of perception in various languages.

The techniques employed in the analysis of this work can be used alternatively in the future studies of perceptual verbs in Ukwuani language and other languages respectively.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

2.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter gives a detailed explanation on works and related works carried out by different scholars in relation to the present study. The highlights of this chapter include: the conceptual review, empirical studies, and the present study.

2.1. CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Verbs of perception are verbs that describes the action performed by the physical senses. Humans have five basic physical senses; the sense of sight, hear, touch, smell and taste. These verbs of perception express the action of seeing, touching, hearing, smelling, and tasting.

Gisborne (2010) divides perception verbs into three : listen class, hear class and sound class. Perception involves both recognizing environmental stimuli and actions in response to these stimuli. The perceptual process begins with receiving stimuli and ends with our interpretation of those stimuli. It also involves cognition processes. These cognition process could be the ability to perceive smell/scent, feel pain or taste a flavor. Harm (2000), explains that the relevance of perception in everyday life makes it probable that all humans possess a concept for perception and that in all human societies these concepts are communicated.

Perception begins with the environment according to Joseph Reitz “perception includes all those processes by which an individual receives: information about his environment –hearing, seeing, feeling, tasting, and smelling”. Previous study on these perception verbs has shown that their functioning is affected by three classes of variables: the object being perceived, the environment in which the perception occurs and the person doing the perception. This clearly means that perception is influenced by three things

- 1.The perceiver
- 2.The object
3. The environment.

2.2 WHAT IS A VERB

Universally, verb is seen as an action word, a word that shows or explains an action. Verb is gotten from the Latin word “verbum” which means “the word”. The study of verbs is very integral in language studies. A verb expresses an action or state of being. They serve as predicates of a sentence, verbs like Fú (to see), Nù (to hear), Shì (to smell) Só (to taste) and ótéí (to touch).

. Krisdalalsana (2008) describes a verb as a class of words which usually functions as a predicate.

Nayan (2009) introduced a way to check for the grammaticality of verbs in a sentence, where he stated that the subject of the sentence must agree with the verb in that sentence. In his analysis, he used the Malaysian language where he observed that the subject verb agreement rule is not been followed by native speakers of the language because the Malaysian speakers do not different between

singular and plural. This led him to conclude that languages have their different ways of accounting for grammaticality. Chafe (1970) differentiated verbs into three types: state verbs, process verbs and action verbs. The action verb is divided into two:

1. Action process
2. Experiential verb

The action process is a verb that explains what the subject does while desiring the presence of another noun as object. The experiential verb itself is divided into 3: emotional verb, cognitional verbs and perceptive verbs. The perceptive verb is an experiential verb which is experienced by the subject is a sensation that can be received by the five senses

Some verbs describes what action is being performed by the subject of the sentence.

EXAMPLE, “ó lì nì nli”,

She ate it food

She ate her food

In this sentence, the action performed is “li” meaning ‘to eat’. Some other verbs describes the state of being of the subject.

EXAMPLE:

óyì nà tù m

Cold is feel I

I feel cold

In this sentence, the state of being of the subject is “cold”, so the verb “feel” is describing the state of being cold.

There exists in the world today various types of verbs, some of which include: action verb, transitive verb, intransitive verb, linking verb, helping verb, e.t.c. A verb can be in different tenses, the action might be present, an action taken place in the past, or an action that will take place in the future. Tense verb refers to the time an action takes place, whether it happened in the past, is happening now or will happen in the future. The tense of a verb is usually language specific. While some languages change the words of verbs in their past tense, some do not. This present study researches on the state of perceptual verbs in Ukwuani language.

2.3 EMPIRICAL STUDY

Viberg (1983) pioneered the investigation of verbs of perception in 53 languages. In his book, typological linguistic work investigating the encoding of the sensory modalities in verbs. He observed that language differ in their number of basic perceptual verbs. English, have a verb used to describe each of the five senses (vision, hearing, taste and smell), other languages combine multiple sensory modalities in a single verb. He also noticed that the perception verb “see” and “hear” tend to be polysemous as it has different cognitive meaning. It was based on this discovery that he formulated a hierarchy in which the verb “see” takes the first position, followed by the verb “hear” and then by “touch, smell, and taste” Viberg explained that “a verb having a basic meaning belonging to a sense modality higher in the hierarchy can get an extended meaning that covers some or all of the sense modalities lower in the hierarchy. He cited examples with the Kurdish verb “ditin” (see) and the Luo verb “winjo” (hear) which can extend their meaning to

touch, smell and taste. He also stated that “hear” is more connected to “smell” since they don’t require contact with the body, while “touch” is closer to “taste” where contact with the body is made. Viberg in his analysis noticed that the verb “feel” covers for “taste and smell” which is not the case in English. He also classified verbs of perception into subject oriented and object oriented. Subject oriented perception verbs are those verbs whose grammatical subject is the perceiver and they emphasize the perceivers’ role in the act of perception. Object oriented verbs of perception describes a non-intended act of perception. Viberg was able to establish (based on the languages he investigated) that some languages do not have words that account for the sense of “smell” so they use other senses to cover for it.

Howes (2006) observes that speakers of several Malenesian as well as African languages talk about “hearing a smell” and connects this to what he calls audio-olfactory synesthesia, that is the cultural fusing together of the modalities (hear, and smell). for example, in Ukwuani Language, you can have a sentence like “M nù nì nshìshí” which is interpreted to mean “I heard the smell”. This goes to show that Ukwuani Language fuses the sense of hearing and smelling together.

Classen (1992:2) is of the opinion that other culture may have different ways of thinking about sensory experience. He believed that they could view the mind as a sixth sense or conceive of a sense of balance. The perception verbs of a language can provide insight into a cultures conceptualization of the senses.

Ritchie (1991) did a research on verbs of perception in Hausa language. He came to the conclusion that Hausa exhibits only two sensory modalities, one for vision and the other for non-visual sensory modalities. He proposed that there is only a difference in two out of the five sensory modalities. He also emphasized that the

distinction between the perceptual verb of vision and the others is as a result of cultural system.

Rogers (1971:206) identifies three types of perceptual verbs: cognitive verbs, active verbs, and descriptive verbs. Cognitive perceptual verbs according to Rogers are not used in the progressive and imperative, this form of perceptual verbs are static. Active verbs are consciously controlled by human agents. Rogers concludes that all cognitive verbs of perception mean the same thing except for the fact that they represent perception of different kinds of sense data. Descriptive form of perceptual verbs presuppose corresponding sentences involving the cognitive form. His research was more of a syntactic work where he explained how perceptual verbs are used in sentences.

Okeke (2022) explained that the sensory modalities of perception verbs in Igbo evolve from the physical world to a more abstract world, this leads to the extension of meaning of these verbs. According to Okeke, the differences in the meaning of these verbs do not just come from the but from the general pragmatic principles. In his research, he focused on how pragmatics determine the meaning encoded in perceptual verbs. In as much as context plays a huge role in how people perceive things, every perceptual verb has its own individual meaning which should not be overlooked.

2.3. VERBS OF PERCEPTION IN UKWUANI

As explained earlier, verbs are action words that describes the state of an action or how an action was performed. The base form of a verb is its simplest form, that is the base form can also be referred to as the stem of the verb. They exist without a special ending or suffix on their own but can be changed and added onto to fit

different uses and tenses. In Ukwuani language, verbs describes the state of an action in a sentence, these verbs could be in their base form;

Example;

Shì (smell).

Nù (hear).

Só (taste).

Fú (see).

ótèlí (touch).

It is from the base form of these verbs that they undergo different morphological processes to realize different tenses and function. Verbs in ukwuani serve different functions, they function as VERB PHRASE HEADS. Verb phrases consist of the main verb and an helping verb.

Example

ó nù nì nsishí ké

She heard smell the

she heard the smell

ó nè nè únò ké

He look look house the

He is watching over the house

í gidéni ébìkpàzù ébù ké

You hold last side song the

You caught the last part of the song.

These are examples of verb phrases where the verb functions as the head word.

The second function of a verb or verb phrase in Ukwuani is that it functions as the predicate of a clause. A clause consists of a subject and a predicate.

Example;

Chioma nè nì ékùkwó éyè nkòkò

Chioma look book hers fast

Chioma glanced through her books

The third function verbs in Ukwuani is that they function as noun phrase modifiers.

Noun phrase modifiers describes the noun or the noun phrase.

Example;

M fù nì ónyèkè ké kò nà làsùlà n'ùgbó

I saw man the on sleep the bus

I saw the man sleeping on the bus

They function as adjective phrase complements. Adjective phrase complements complete the meaning of an adjective phrase. They function as verb phrase complement. Verb phrase complements completes the meaning of a verb phrase.

Verbs in ukwuani can be in their present tense, past tense and future tense.

Examples;

M nà fùyí

I can see you

M fù nì

I saw you

M kà fùyí échí

I will see you tomorrow

A verb of perception would differ in meaning when it is followed by a progressive verb from when it is followed by the infinitive form of the verb.

Example;

M fù nì kì lì nì nì

I saw that eat food

I saw you eat

In this sentence, the emphasis is on “fù” (to see). In contrast to another example like;

í nè lì nì

you are eating,

where the emphasis is more on “eating”.

Verbs of perception in ukwunai Language shows different tenses and have different functions which will be carefully studied and examined in this research work.

From the previous studies carried out on perceptual verbs, it can be seen that perception is viewed from different angles amongst various languages. This research work focuses on perceptual verbs in Ukwuani Language and how these verbs are viewed by speakers of the Language.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 DATA PRESENTATION

This chapter is focused on the presentation of data gathered during this research work. The verbs of perception presented in this chapter has been grouped into five, which are, verbs of seeing, verbs of hearing, verbs of smelling, verbs of tasting, verbs of touching.

3.1 VERBS FOR SEEING IN UKWUANI

1. fú “see”
2. né “look”
3. kílì “watch”
4. ínèbùsé “notice”
5. ínèògónògó “stare”
6. ífùófù /ífùífè “sight”

7. ínyù /ónyìnyò “peep”
8. ínèáwà /nènkòkò “glance”
9. ónyòcháífè “scrutinize”
10. ínèífè “behold”
11. nènwátà “glimpse”
12. ínyò “peek”
13. élinàfùáyà “view”
14. ínèkùméífè “gaze”
15. íchòbùsàífé “browse”
16. ínèbùsé “observe”

3.2 UKWUANI VERBS FOR HEARING

1. nù “hear”
2. gòntí “listen”
3. ígòmèntí “heed”
4. tí ènyá “pay attention”
5. ínùní “over hear”
6. ítìèntí /dòmèntí “eavesdrop”
7. ígòkùmàntí “strain”
8. ígòmèntí “lend ears”
9. ónùkùmèné “mishear”
10. ówòsá “understand”
11. ówòsá “get”

12.ánùwóm	“take in”
13.ṅtíjù	“earful”
14.nùífé	“hearken”
15.ígòmentí	“take heed”
16.gòntí	“hear out”
17.ówòsá	“apprehend”
18.áwòsáwòm	“make out”
19.ígòmentí	“make out”

3.3 UKWUANI VERBS FOR SMELLING

1. shí /ṅshíshí	“smell”
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2. ṅshíshí “odour”
3. ṅshíshdìké “stink”
4. ṅshíshdìké “stench”
5. ùfó “scent”
6. ùfóómà “aroma”
7. kpòyé “snuff”
8. . kpòyé “whiff”
9. ṅshíshíòjọ “pong”
10. kùlé “inhale”
11. ùfóómà “fragrance”

3.4

UKWUANI VERBS FOR TASTING

1. ódàmà /só “taste”
2. éniné “sweet taste”
3. ígìnù “bitter taste”
4. ógbàkà “sour taste”
5. ñnùèpkù “salty”
6. nэгínàsó “bittersweet”
7. íféénìné “flavor”

3.5

VERBS FOR TOUCHING OR TO FEEL

1. ótélí /mètù /tétú “touch”
2. tú “feel”

3. gídé	“hold”
4. ígbèkà	“tap”
5. núwàtá	“nudge”
6. ífùénýá /ífèòsìsò	“love”
7. áwùlì	“happiness”
8. óyí	“cold”
9. ítùénýà	“surprise”
10.ónùmá	“anger”
11.té	“rub”
12.ḡtùtùlì	“tickle”
13.kú	“hit”
14.gídè	“gide”
15.ílùífè	“poke”
16.nó	“massage”
17.áshímá	“sign”
18.tùrù	“pain”
19.nú	“push”
20.ítùékà	“stroke”

21.ídidàékà

“caress”

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Introduction

This section presents the analysis of perception verbs presented in the previous chapter. The analysis is subcategorized into five segments in which perception verbs has been grouped. These segments are;

1. Verbs of seeing
2. Verbs of hearing
3. Verbs of touching
4. Verbs of tasting
5. Verbs of smelling

The perceptual verbs are all evident in Ukwuani language based on the data gathered from competent native speakers of the language. Adequate examples have been given in this chapter to further describe these perceptual verbs.

This section presents the analysis of perception verbs discussed above. The analysis is subcategorized into five segments in which perception verbs has been grouped.

4.1 VERBS FOR SEEING

The umbrella term for the verbs under seeing are referred to as “fu” verbs in Ukwuani Language. Let us look at how these verbs are classified morphologically and structurally.

1a. fú (see)

To become aware of something by using the eyes

Example;

M nà fu àyà

I can see him

mé shì nwónyè ké fùzó

I follow woman the see road

I can see through the woman

In the second context, the meaning assigned to “see” in the first example changes. While the first example of “see” means to see without any intention of noticing a behavior or hidden agenda, the second example means the speaker has realized the true intention of the person.

1b. kílì (watch)

To direct the eyes in a particular direction.

Example;

Kùshí ném ényà

stop look eye

stop looking at me

1c. ónyìnyó (peep or peeping)

Example;

To look cautiously or stylishly

ónyè kè nè nyò óghè ùnò

person the look peep hole house

The person is peeping through the window

1d. ínèbùsé (observe). This is a compound word, “ínè” which means “to look” and “bùsé” which means “to bring”. The compounding of both words led to the derivation of the meaning to “observe”.

Observe means to watch carefully paying attention to details or behavior for the purpose of arriving at a conclusion.

Example:

wé né bùsé ágùgù éyé

They look bring attitude his

They have observed his attitude.

The examples in 1a-1d has carefully illustrated the perceptual verbs of seeing in Ukwuani Language.

4.2

VERBS FOR HEARING

The example shown here all depict the perceptual verb of hearing referred to as “nú” in Ukwuani Language. The verb of hearing is associated with the perception of sounds through the ears.

2a. nù (hear)

To become aware of sounds through the ear.

M nù nì ùfìlà

I heard a sound.

2b. góntì (listen)

To pay attention to someone in order to hear what is been said.

The morpheme “gó” in isolation means “to buy” while “ntì” means “ear”. The affixation of “gó” and “ntì” forms the word “góntì” which means to “listen”

Example;

góntì nì ifé nnè é kùni

listen to thing mother your said

Listen to what your mother said

2c. ínùní (over hear)

To hear without the permission of the speaker

M nù nì ífé wé kú nì

I overheard their conversation.

2d. ítièntì (eavesdrop)

To listen secretly to what is been said in private.

The morpheme “ítìé” means “to put” while “ntì” means “ear”

ó tièntì nì ókù éni

He put ear on talk our

He eavesdropped on us.

The examples in 2(a)-(d) are perceptual verbs of hearing in Ukwuani Language which have been analysed using adequate examples.

4.3 VERBS OF SMELLING

The perceptual verbs under “smell’ are all abstract because it is not a physical or tangible phenomena. Smell cannot be touched or seen. The perception of smelling something is visible only in the mind.

3a. nshíshì (smell)

To perceive or detect the odour or scent of something.

Example;

í nè shì nshíshì

You are smelling smell

You are smelling

In Ukwuani, the perceptual verb “smell” can also be used to refer to an unfortunate

incident that is about to occur like death and sickness. e.g

M nè shì ówù

I can smell death.

3b. ùfómà (aroma)

The morpheme “úfò” in Ukwuani Language is used to describe a smell that is pleasant to the nose while “ómà” means “good or beautiful”. The reason the vowel “ó” was elided is because in Ukwuani language, two vowels cannot be together at word boundary.

A usually pleasant or savory smell.

ófè ékù ké wé nì ùfómà

Soup banga the has a nice smell

The banga soup has a nice aroma

3c. ùfó (scent)

To yield an odour of some specific kind.

ùfó ódòdó

Scent flowers

The scent of flowers

3d. nshìshídìké (stench)

An offensive odour that is unpleasant.

The word “nshìshí” means “smell” while “dìké” means “strong”.

nshìshídìké ánù léfù nì

Stench meat spoilt a

The stench of rotten meat.

In Ukwuani language, the findings of Howes (2006) where he mentioned that African languages talk about “hearing a smell” is evident. He referred to this as “audio olfactory synesthesia”.

Example: M nà nù nshìshí

I can hear smell

I can hear a smell.

The examples in 3(a)-(d) has analysed the verbs of hearing in Ukwuani Language.

4.4 VERBS FOR TASTING

Tasting is the act of perceiving a substance or flavor through the tongue. When you taste something, it is felt in the tongue.

The examples below shows the contextual inquiry of of the verb of tasting.

4a. ódàmà /só

To sample the flavor of something

The perceptual verb of “ódàmà” and “só” cannot be used interchangeably. While “só” is used to describe taste,

Example;

ófè kè só né éniné

Soup the taste nice

The soup taste nice

The perceptual verb “ódàmà” is used to express the term “taste” irrespective of the kind of

taste, e.g dàmà ófè ké

Taste the soup.

4b. ígìnù (bitter taste)

An acrid or harsh taste

ífè òlílà gínìnù

Thing drink bitter

The coffee taste bitter.

4c. nnúékpù (salty)

Tasting of salt

In Ukwuani Language, “nnú” means “salt” while “ékpù” means “plenty”

nnù kpù nì nli kè

Salt plenty food the

The food is salty

4d. ífèéniné (flavor)

A substance that produces a certain kind of taste

The word “ífè” means “thing” while “éniné” means “sweet”

M chó nì ífè éniné ùné

I want thing sweet banana

I want banana flavor

The examples above are perceptual verbs of tasing in ukwuani. These verbs have been contextually analysed. Taste is perceived when a substance touches the tongue. Taste can also be perceived through the nose in the case of a spicy or peppery food.

4.5

VERBS OF TOUCHING OR TO FEEL

These perceptual verbs are divided into two in Ukwuani Language. First the verbs of touch which is physical then the verbs of feeling that comes from a mental or abstract situation.

4.5i PHYSICAL VERBS OF TOUCH

5a. ótèlí /métù /tétù

These perceptual verbs above all mean the same thing in ukwuani which is to have physical contact with the body. They can be used interchangeably and the meaning realized will not be affected or changed except in a contextual situation where “métù” could mean to “deal with someone or to inflict pain on someone”.

Example;

M tétù nì ísù éyè

I touch face her

I touched her face

Mè métù ífè

I touch thing

I will deal with you

5b. ógìdé (hold)

To physically grip someone.

ó gìdé kém èyè

She held tight him

She held him tight

4.5ii MENTAL VERBS OF FEELING

5c. t̀ (feel)

To sense or perceive information through the skin

Example:

óyì nà t̀ m

Cold is feel I

I feel cold

5d. T̀r̀ (pain)

Example;

An ache or unpleasant feeling

és̀ m nà t̀r̀ m

Body my is pain me

I feel pain all over my body.

Touch results in a feeling or triggers feeling. When someone touches your skin, it is perceived by a feeling. You cannot see your feelings because they are in the mind.

In this, the data gathered have been duly presented and analysed looking at how context affects the meaning of perceptual verbs. In this chapter, it has been shown for a fact that verbs of perception can be realized psychologically as well as physically. The data presented in this chapter have been morphologically and structurally analysed.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This is the last chapter of this research where I will be rounding up. This chapter is focused on summarizing the whole work. It is the final wrap which contains the description of the research from chapter one to chapter four. The research questions are analysed and answered in this chapter.

Based on the data presented and analysed in the previous chapters, I have adequately expanded the five perceptual verbs which are; see, hear, touch, taste and smell. This research has been able to increase the lexicon of Ukwuani Language by bringing to light other words that can be used to refer to these main perceptual verbs.

5.1 Summary

This research work has been able to analyse verbs of perception in their specific shape. Verbs are very important in Ukwuani Language because without verbs, a sentence is seen as incomplete. Every sentence must have at minimum one verb for elucidation.

This research work has been previously broken down into four chapters.

Chapter one reveals the topic of discussion where a brief background on the topic and the whole idea surrounding this research was presented. The chapter also gave the why this research was carried out by showing the significance and objective of

the research. It was in this chapter the research method, theoretical framework and research questions were presented.

Chapter two is all about the reviewing of literature on the topic or related to the topic of discussion. This chapter was divided into three which are; the conceptual review which are definition of literary terms involved in this research, the empirical study which has to do with the previous research relating to this topic that has been carried out by other scholars, the present study was also presented in this chapter.

Chapter three presents the data that has been used in this research. The data was properly arranged in their different classes of perceptual. The meaning of these perceptual verbs was also shown in this chapter.

In chapter, the analysis of data that was presented in chapter three was shown. In the analysis, these perceptual verbs were used in different sentences to further buttress their meaning.

5.2 Findings

The findings of this research has been presented below.

1. In Ukwuani language, the verbs of perception have different terms that the are been referred. Which are;
 1. fù “see”
 2. nù “hear”
 3. só or ódámá “taste”
 4. shì or nshíshì “smell”

5. ótèlì “touch”

They do not combine the sensory modalities in Ukwuani language except in the rare case where “hear” and “smell” are fused together to further describe “smell” and in some rare cases where “smell” in cases not relating to the nose. Like in the expressing “shì ówù” which means to “smell death”.

2. Based on the analysis carried out in chapter four, it has been proved that verbs of perception are ambiguous in Ukwuani Language. That is, a perceptual verb tend to have more than one meaning like in the case of “see” which could mean to physically view with the eyes or to notice someone’s true intention or character.
3. Perceptual verbs in Ukwuani can be classified or grouped into five, which are;
 1. Verbs for seeing
 2. Verbs for hearing
 3. Verbs for smelling
 4. Verbs for tasting
 5. Verbs for touching.

The verbs under “touching” was further sub categorized into two, which are

1. The physical touch

Example; ógìdè which means to “hold”

2. Feelings that are abstract

Example; tùrú which means “pain”.

These feelings exist but they are not tangible, the can only be felt but cannot touched.

4. Verbs of perception are constituted to the five sense organs in Ukwuani

Language. These five senses include;

1. The eyes
2. The ears
3. The nose
4. The tongue
5. The skin.

The perceptual verbs must be related to these senses or else it will not be seen as a perceptual verb.

5.3 Conclusion

This research has defined perceptual verbs adequately. With the appropriate description, analysis, and expansion of verbs, perception, and verbs of perception, people will now comprehend the full idea of perceptual verbs.

This research will also assist Ukwuani writers, scholars and also teachers in expanding their idea on perceptual verbs and verbs in general. This research will go a long way in helping Ukwuani speakers, learners and intending learners of the language. Ukwuani speakers will now understand the semantic knowledge of the perceptual verbs in relation to their physical senses.

Based on observation from other scholars where the vision verbs have an encoding meaning of other perceptual verbs, this research work has been able to prove that this is not the case in Ukwuani as tall sensory activities can be accounted for using different terms. This research has provided a new starting point for further comparative research in this area.

This work enhances our knowledge on the Ukwuani grammar and the larger domain of perception.

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