

A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF AFFIXATION IN THE GHOTUO LANGUAGE

BY

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FACULTY OF ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY,

EDO STATE.

FEBRUARY, 2025.

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS STUDIES,
FACULTY OF ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA.
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) DEGREE IN LINGUISTICS**

FEBRUARY, 2025.

CERTIFICATION

I, EGBEIDO SAMUEL KAYODE, a student in the Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Benin, with matriculation number ART2008949 has completed the requirements for coursework and research for the Bachelor of Arts Degree of the University of Benin. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or whole for any other degree or diploma programme of this or any other university or institution.

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PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATION

I, EGBEIDO SAMUEL KAYODE with matriculation number ART2008949 declare that this work titled A MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF AFFIXATION IN THE GHOTUO LANGUAGE has successfully passed the anti-plagiarism test and so does not violate any copyright regulation.

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Date: _____

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to God Almighty for His unwavering love, grace, provision, protection, favor, mercy, and wisdom throughout the duration of this project.

APPRECIATION

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to God Almighty for His unwavering guidance throughout my education. His strength has enabled me to overcome challenges, and His wisdom has brightened my journey. I am truly grateful for every blessing and lesson received.

My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor, Dr. A. E. Ideh for her support, patient, love and guidance. My special thanks go to the Head of Department (Language and Linguistics), Prof. M. S. Agbo, and Late Dr W.I Aighedo, my special thanks also goes to the non-teaching staffs and all my informants, who contributed to the success as well, God bless you all immersely.

To my exceptional, beautiful and loving parents, MWO (rtd). & Mrs. EGBEIDO, a big thank you for believing in me always, for your unwavering, advice, support and prayers, I love you so much. My warmest gratitude to my brother, Egbeido Ibrahim David your presence in my life has been a blessing, and I truly appreciate you. A heartfelt thank you to my aunties, Cpl Agbebaku Elizabeth and Cpl Agbebaku Blessing for their constant support financially and emotionally, words of encouragement, and belief in me.

To my wonderful roommates: Victor, Peter, and Paul; and to my friends, in no particular order, Duru, Marvis, Triumph, Delphine, Joy, Abigail, Vivian, Peace, Mary-Ann, and Precious just to mention a few, thank you for the unforgettable memories, laughter, and support. You all made my journey incredibly special and I cherish every moment we've shared. To my amazing course mates, we have walked this journey together, shared laughter, stress, and countless memories. Your support and teamwork have been invaluable, and I cherish the bond we have

built over the years. This journey would not have been possible without each and every one of you. Thank you all for being a part of my success story. May God bless you abundantly!

Finally, to all others whom I could not mention due to space limitation that might have contributed directly or indirectly to the successful completion of this work I appreciate you all.

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ABSTRACT

This research provides a morphological analysis of affixation in the Ghotuo language using a descriptive linguistics approach. The study examines how affixes, including prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes, modify root words to create new words and alter their grammatical and lexical functions. The research uses a qualitative method of data collection by conducting oral interviews with native speakers and consulting secondary sources. The analysis also explores other morphological processes such as disfixes, duplifixes, reduplication, suprafixes, and simulfixes. The research demonstrates that affixation is a productive process in Ghotuo for creating new words and modifying their grammatical and lexical functions, including indicating plurality, negation, possession, and changes in lexical categories, while also showcasing processes like reduplication and tone alterations.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Morphology is a crucial area within linguistics that investigates how words are formed and how they relate to each other within a language. It is considered a key branch of language study, focusing on the principles and processes of word formation, their structures, and their relationships. Morphology is a branch of grammar that examines the structure of words and how they change. It's divided into two main fields: inflectional morphology (the study of inflections) and derivational morphology, also known as lexical morphology (the study of word formation). A core area of focus within morphology is the study of word formation, particularly the process of affixation.

Affixation is a morphological process whereby a group of letters (the affix) is attached to the base or root word to form a new word. Affixation is an example of bound morpheme (a bound morpheme is a morpheme that cannot stand on its own, but must appear alongside a root words to get their meaning). Katamba (2004) defines affixation as "the morphological process of adding a bound morpheme to a base or root word to create a new word or modify its meaning" (p. 83). This definition emphasizes the addition of morphemes—specifically, affixes (which can be prefixes, suffixes, infixes, or circumfixes)—to existing words. Affixation allows for two main types of changes: derivation, which creates new words with new meanings, such as adding the suffix "-ness" to "happy" to form "happiness," and inflection, which modifies a word to express different grammatical categories, like adding "-ed" to "walk" to indicate the past tense as

"walked." Through affixation, languages can expand their vocabulary and convey nuanced meanings, showcasing the flexibility and richness of morphological processes.

Affixation as a morphological process is present in various languages and language families, including the Ghotuo language. As stated earlier, affixation is a word formation method used in Ghotuo for creating and modifying words. Therefore the study of the various affixes present in the Ghotuo language gives us more insights on how new words are formed as well as how words are modified after undergoing certain processes.

1.1 THE LANGUAGE AND THE PEOPLE

Before we proceed to the main work, it is appropriate we look at the historical background of the Ghotuo people.

The Ghotuo people, also known as Otuo, are located in the Owan East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. There are varying accounts of the origins of the Ghotuo people. According to an oral narrative collected by Marshall, the Ghotuo people are descendants of twelve tribes who were followers of Prince Uguan, the founder of Ora, after he left Benin. These twelve tribes, known as "Otu ni'egbeva," included: Oluma, Amohon, Olila, Orake, Ohigba, Amoya, Imoukpe, Iyeu, lshiokha, lghera, Obo, Imafun. Initially, these tribes lived in Ora and served Prince Uguan, his son Ora-ekpen, and their descendants. However, they later had a dispute with the Ora people, leading them to leave and establish an independent community in the inaccessible Oruo hills. The Ghotuo clan is composed of twelve village units, with each one representing one of the original twelve tribes. A 1971 government report and field research support this narrative.

The Otuo language is unique and shares little or no linguistic similarities with its neighboring communities or others in the state. One of these features that may be unique to the Ghotuo language is Ghotuo possessing a three-tone system. These tones are high, mid, and low. A significant effect of this tonal system is the ability to create new words. This means that changes in pitch can alter the meaning of words. Even if two words sound the same, their tones can make them mean completely different things. This makes tone an important part of communication in the language. For example, the same sequence of sounds may mean different things when pronounced with different tones. In other words, a small change in tone can create a new word. This tonal system helps distinguish words in the language, making it unique among its neighboring languages.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

1.2.1 Method of Data Collection

The research made use of the qualitative method of data collection. This method can be further divided into two: The primary and the secondary method of data collection. The primary method involved the use of oral interview with the elderly native speakers of the Ghotuo language. Three native speakers were the main sources of this data. The age range of the informants used for this data collection was from 40 years and above. The first informant was MWO Ibrahim Abdulganiyu Egbeido, a fifty six year old Soldier hailing from Imoukpe quarters, Otuo, Edo state. The second was Mrs Ibrahim Endurance Unuebemume, a forty six year old trader, also native of Ghotuo language, hailing from Ighera quarters, Otuo, Edo state. The third was Cpl Agbebaku Elizabeth, a forty one year old soldier who is a native of Ighera quarters, Otuo, Edo state. The area of residence includes, Ikeja cantonment, Lagos., and Iyeu Quarters,

Otuo, Edo State. The reason for these location choices was due to the limited access to Ghotuo speakers outside Ghotuo, and based on certain reasons like limited resources and time I could not travel to Otuo, Edo state.

The tools used for the primary means of data collection involves an audio recorder, a book and pen. The first informant, MWO Ibrahim assisted in providing the orthographic forms of the data collected data and translated them into English. The data were gathered using a tape recorder and saved on a flash drive for future use. The secondary method of data collection involves consultation of articles, books, etc. Examples of this secondary sources are “Ghotuo Noun Morphology”, “The traditions of the Origin of the Otuo people,” etc.

1.2.2 Method of Data analysis

After successfully collecting and translating a significant amount of data, I selected a few primary pieces to focus on this topic. Using information from the secondary data, I analyzed the primary data, which allowed me to present an accurate representation of the project's subject matter. This project has a morphological focus, therefore I employed a morphological model for my data analysis. I chose to use the Descriptive linguistic framework for my analysis, applying it to all the collected data."

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This research seeks to identify the affixation processes present in the Ghotuo language, provide a detailed analysis of the affixation process in Ghotuo language, how certain affixes (suffixes, prefixes etc.) help in formation of new words.

This research will examine both derivational and inflectional affixes, their semantic and phonological effects on base words, and their role in changing grammatical categories such as tense, number, and aspect. The observation from this study can contribute to an in-depth understanding of the structure of the Ghotuo language, while also enriching the broader field of African linguistics by documenting and analyzing an understudied language.

1.3.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVES.

This research aims to explore how morphological analysis in Ghotuo language is carried out using affixation as a case study. The study sets the following research objectives.

- i. To identify the various affixes present in Ghotuo language.
- ii. To examine how the affixes help in the creation of new words
- iii. To investigate how these affixes cause changes in the lexical or grammatical category of root words
- iv. To investigate and identify the various morphological processes in Ghotuo language.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Ghotuo is an under-documented language, and by documenting how affixes are used in Ghotuo, the research helps in understanding the word formation process in Ghotuo and the relationship it has with other languages in the Benue-Congo sub-group. This research will serve as reference for linguists interested in studying the affixation processes in other languages. This work will also contribute to promotion, preservation and revitalization of the language (if the language is endangered).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter aims to provide comprehensive review of existing literature, gathering insights from renowned scholars concerning this research. This chapter examines the various definitions of morphology and its branches, affixation and the various affixation process present in the Ghotuo language. The chapter will be divided into three sub-groups. The first is the conceptual review. The conceptual review extensively discuss or emphasize the concepts that are relevant to this research. The second sub-group is the previous studies. In this sub-group, previous studies carried out that can be a point of interest and reference to this study will be reviewed and this shortcomings will be discussed. Lastly, the third sub-group is the Present study. The aim, objective and motivation behind this study will be discussed in this sub-group.

2.1 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

The following are relevant concepts to be reviewed and extensively discussed:

- 1) Morphology
- 2) Morpheme
- 3) Free and Bound Morpheme
- 4) Inflectional and Derivational Morpheme
- 5) Morphological Processes

6) Affixation

2.1.1 Morphology

The term morphology is Greek and is a combination of morph- meaning ‘shape, form’, and -ology which means ‘the study of something’. Therefore, morphology can be seen as study of forms. Various fields have also adopted the term morphology as a representation for various concepts. In biology, morphology is seen as the study of the size, shape, and structure of animals, plants, and microorganisms and of the relationships of their constituent parts. In psychology, particularly in the context of Gestalt psychology, morphology can relate to the study of patterns and structures of perception and behavior. In botany, morphology involves the study of the structure and form of plants, including aspects such as leaf shapes, flower structures, and root systems. In computer science, particularly in image processing and computer vision, morphology refers to a set of operations that process images based on their shapes. In anthropology, morphology can refer to the study of the physical form and structure of human beings and their ancestors, including aspects of human evolution and variation. For the purpose of this research, we will be focusing on linguistic view of morphology. In linguistics, morphology refers to the study of the structure and form of words in a language. It involves the analysis of morphemes, which are the smallest units of meaning or grammatical function. Morphology examines how morphemes combine to form words and how word forms change (inflection, derivation).

Morphology as a sub-discipline of linguistics was named for the first time in 1859 by the German linguist August Schleicher who used the term for the study of the form of words. Prior

to the nineteenth century, before the term morphology was adopted, “grammar” was what was used because it evoked word structure, i.e. Morphology.

Over the years, different scholars have attempted to define morphology linguistically based on their perspective:

Booij (2005) defined morphology as the “grammar of words”. He sees morphology as the study of the internal structure of words that deals with the forms of lexemes (inflection), and the ways in which lexemes are formed (word formation) (2005: 24)

Aronoff & Fudeman (2005:1-2) define morphology as “the mental system involved in word formation or the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed.” According to them, morphology is a part of the mental system, indicating it is a subconscious process. This mental system governs the creation of words. Morphology also refers to the study of words by linguists. The study is concerned with what words are made up of (internal structure) and how words are created. They also accounted that term “Morphology” was attributed to the German poet, novelist, playwright and philosopher, Johan Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-1832) who coined it in the early nineteenth century in a biological context (Aronoff & Fudeman 2005:1).

Katamba & Stonham (2006:1) defined morphology as “the study of the internal structure of words”. According to them, morphology is concerned with how words are formed. That includes the analysis of the various meaningful units (morphemes) that combine to create words and the rules governing their combination. They also see it as the branch of linguistics that delves into the building blocks of language, exploring how words are constructed and how their structure reflects their grammatical function and semantic content.

Martin & Andrew (2010:1) also initially define morphology as “the study of the internal structure of words”. However, they felt the definition of morphology as “the study of the internal structure of words” was inadequate because, according to them, words have internal structure in two different senses. On the other hand, they are made up of sequences of sounds (or gestures in sign language), i.e. they have internal phonological structure (2010:2). Therefore, they defined morphology as “the study of systematic co-variation in the form and meaning of words.” They believe morphological structure exists if there are groups of words that show identical partial resemblances in both form and meaning (2010:2). For example, words like dogs, cups, boys etc all have a partial resemblance – that is the final “s” which from the use, shows multiplicity of entities. They also emphasized the importance of the form-meaning co-variation occurring systematically and not mere coincidence. They concluded by simply defining morphology as “the study of the combination of morphemes to yield words” (2010:3) but cautions that it does not work in all cases. They prefer the more abstract definition quoted above because it encompasses the complexities of morphology more effectively.

In conclusion, we can see that different scholars gave their individual definition of morphology based on their opinion and research. Some saw morphology as a set of “rules governing the formation of words in a language” (Öz, 2014:83) as seen in his book “Linguistics for English Language Teaching Studies”, while some see a “mental system involved in word formation...” (Aronoff & Fudeman 2005:1-2). But one thing they all agree on is the idea that morphology deals with the process of word formation.

2.1.2 Morpheme

Aronoff & Fudeman (2011) defined morpheme as “a word or a meaningful piece of a word that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts.” Examples include school, read, or the “re-

” and “-ing” of “rereading”. The author views morphemes as meaningful units of language that contribute to the overall meaning of a word. They are the smallest units of meaning in a language, and words are built by combining these units.

O’Grady, Archibald, Aronoff, & Rees-Miller (2017:123) defines a morpheme as “the smallest part of a word that has grammatical function or meaning (NB not the smallest unit of meaning).” The authors emphasize that a morpheme is not necessarily the smallest unit of meaning, but rather the smallest unit that carries grammatical function or contributes to the overall meaning of a word. The author see morphemes as the fundamental building blocks of words, comparable to phonemes as the building block of sounds

Harsa (2023:3) defines a morpheme as “the smallest indivisible units of semantic content or grammatical function which words are made up of.” The further expatiate upon this definition by stating that a morpheme represents an “arbitrary union of a sound and meaning that cannot be further analyzed.” This means that a morpheme is the most fundamental building block of meaning in language. It cannot be broken down into smaller components that carry meaning on their own. Every word in every language is composed of at least one morpheme.

Haspelmath & Sims (2010:14) defines a morpheme as “the smallest meaningful constituents of a linguistic expression”. This definition posits that morphemes are the fundamental building blocks of meaning in a language. Just as atoms are the smallest units of matter, morphemes are the smallest units of meaning that cannot be further divided. When a word or sentence is broken down into the smallest meaningful parts, those parts are morphemes. For example, the word “unfriendly” can be broken down into three morphemes: “un-”, “friend,” and “-ly”. Each of these morphemes contributes to the overall meaning of the word. The authors emphasizes that morphemes are identified through segmentation, the process of breaking down

words into constituent parts. They use the example of the word “chameleon” to illustrate the concept of a morpheme. While it might be tempting to divide “chameleon” into “cha” and “meleon,” neither of these parts carries any independent meaning or appears in other words with a relating meaning. Therefore, “chameleon” is considered a single mono-morphemic word. In essence, the authors sees morphemes as the atomic units of meaning in language, identifiable through the process of segmentation and crucial for understanding the structure and meaning of words.

Morphemes can be classified into free morphemes and bound morphemes depending on whether they can constitute words by themselves.

2.1.3 Free and Bound Morphemes

Arokoyo (2017) defines a free morpheme as “a morpheme that can exist in isolation.” That is, a free morpheme is a morpheme that can stand on its own. She also defined it as “a morphological unit whose existence is not dependent on any other unit whether morphological, phonological or syntactic, it occurs unattached.” Since a morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit of a language, then a free morpheme is the smallest unit of a language that is independent and carries meaning. For example, words like “boy,” “table,” “car” etc. are seen as free morphemes because they can stand on their own and still be meaningful. In other words, a free morpheme is a simple word, consisting of one morpheme e.g., house, work, high, chair, wrap. They are words in themselves.

On the other hand, Arokoyo defined bound morpheme as “a dependent morpheme.” They are words that cannot stand on their own, rather they depend on other words (roots) to derive meaning. It is only meaningful when it is attached to a root. (Stemberger, 1985; Marquis & Shi,

2012) defined a root as “a term used to refer to a word form that cannot be further divided, cannot be analyzed again, there is no additional affix.” Roots that can stand independently are known as free morphemes. For example, words like “boys,” “tables,” “cars” etc are made up of two morphemes: “boy” + “-s”; “table” + “-s”; “car” + “-s”. The words “car,” “table,” and “car” are known as the roots or free morphemes. They can stand independently and still be meaningful. But “-s” is a bound morpheme. It carries no meaning neither can it stand on its own. It depends on the root word for it to carry meaning. In other words, bound morphemes are morphemes that must be attached to another morpheme to receive meaning. EG: UNKINDNESS. UN- and -NESS are the bound morphemes, requiring the root KIND to form the word. These are also called affixes as they are attached to the stem.

Bound morphemes perform two basic functions: inflectional and derivational.

2.1.4 Inflectional and Derivational Morpheme

Dan & He (2013:36) defined inflectional morphemes as “bound morphemes which are for the most part purely grammatical markers and signify such concepts as tense, number, case and so on.” The author emphasizes that inflectional morphemes primarily function as grammatical indicators within a sentence. Their role is signal syntactic or semantic relationship between different words. The author highlights that the decision to use an inflectional morpheme often hinges on other elements within the sentence or phrase, as it’s driven by grammatical requirements rather than lexical choices.

According to Lan (2020:25), a derivational morpheme is “so called because when it is added to a word, it creates a new word, by changing either the meaning or the grammatical class of the original word.” The author illustrates that derivational morphemes primarily function as

meaning changers within a word. Their role is to indicate semantic relationships within the word itself. They act on a lexical level, altering the inherent meaning of a word. The author emphasizes that the use of a derivational morpheme generally hinges on simple meaning distinctions, contrasting with the grammatically driven nature of inflectional morphemes.

Aziz, Libra, Putri, Purwanto, & Chusna, (2017:22-23) outlined some differences between inflectional and derivational morphemes. These differences are:

1. Inflectional morphemes never change the grammatical category of a word. For instance, adding the inflectional morpheme "-er" to the adjective "tall" results in "taller," which is still an adjective. Derivational morphemes frequently change the part of speech of a word. For example, the verb "read" changes to the noun "reader" when the derivational morpheme "-er" is added.
2. When both a derivational and an inflectional suffix are added to the same word, they always occur in a specific order: inflectional suffixes come after derivational suffixes. For example, the word "readers" is formed by adding the derivational suffix "-er" to "read," and then adding the inflectional suffix "-s".
3. Some derivational morphemes create new base forms to which additional derivational or inflectional affixes can be added, while inflectional affixes are always added to existing words. For example, the derivational suffix "-atic" can create adjectives from nouns (e.g., "systematic," "problematic"). To these adjectives, the derivational suffix "-al" can be added, resulting in "systematical" and "problematical"

2.1.5 Morphological Processes

Adebayo (2024) defined morphological processes as “mechanisms for altering a word stem to adapt its meaning to suit its syntactic and communicative context.” This definition emphasizes how morphology is used to modify words, and it highlights the roles of these modifications in both grammar and communication. There are different kinds of morphological processes. They are: Affixation, Prefixation, Suffixation, Circumfixation, Infixation, Reduplication, etc.

2.1.6 Affixation

Umera-Okeke (2008:10) defines affixation as “the process of attaching affixes to a root word.” The author defined affixes as “appendages” added to the beginning or end of a root word. The author further explains that the root is the “base word” that contains the core meaning.

Toluspayeva et al., (2024:1) defines affixation as “the process of adding affixes to the base word, which consequently leads to the formation of new words with changed lexical and grammatical meanings of the derived word.” The authors view affixation as a vital process in word formation. It involves adding affixes, which can be prefixes or suffixes, to a base word to create new words that possess altered lexical and grammatical meanings.

Toluspayeva et al., (2024:329) states that “many linguistic researchers argue that affixation is considered the main method of word formation in English language, influencing the formation of new words through the inclusion of one or more affixes to the root morpheme.” This process involves adding an affix or a multiple affixes, to the root of a word in order to create a new word. The authors elaborate on this by explaining that affixation is a method of word formation that involves adding at least one affix to a root morpheme. They go on to note that this process,

which is considered to be a productive way to form words in English, results in the creation of new words.

Bauer (1993:328) defines affixes as “always bound” and notes that “it is often not obvious where the boundary between a bound root and an affix lies.” He further explains that a root, base, or stem constitutes a form that is not further analyzable in terms of derivational processes or variations in a word’s form. In essence, an affix is a crucial element in the structure of a word, where further affixes can be attached.

“Agbedo (2008:29) posits that affixes are classified in terms of “position and function.” The classification of affixes into function include: Derivational Affixes and Inflectional Affixes. While the positional classification of affixes yields the following: prefix, suffix, interfix, circumfix, and infix.” (as cited in Ojukwu (2018:42))

Jan (2021) defined affix as “one or more than one syllable or letter attached at the beginning, middle or the end of a root word, intentionally to change its meaning.” In simpler terms, an affix is something attached to a root word to create a new word. The author also listed different types of affixes namely:

2.1.6.1 Prefix

Rowe and Levin (2016:86) define prefixes as “affixes added before a root.” They view prefixes as derivational affixes that rarely alter a word’s grammatical category but introduce a different lexical meaning. For instance, the prefix “dis-” in the word “disappear” changes the meaning to the opposite of “appear” without changing the grammatical category (verb). However, prefixes can be class-maintaining (like the example given above) or class-changing, like the

prefix “re-” in the word “reforest”. The prefix “re-” changes the noun “forest” into a verb meaning “to plant trees on an area of land.”

According to Jan (2021), prefixes are [“pre” (before) “fix”ed (attached)] morphemes added to a root or stem to create a new word with a new meaning. The word "prefix" comes from Latin, where "pre" means "before" and "fix" means "attached," so it literally means something attached before the main part of a word. When you add a prefix, it changes the meaning of the root word and often creates a new word. For example, if you take the word "happy" and add the prefix "un-," it becomes "unhappy," which means not happy. This process of using prefixes helps us change words to express different meanings, making language more flexible and allowing us to create new words easily.

2.1.6.2 Suffix

According to Ballard (2001:51), suffix is defined as “an affix which is added to word-final.” In simple terms, a suffix is something that gets attached to the end of a word. Ballard describes it as an affix that you add to the final part of a word. This means that when you take a base word and put a suffix at the end, it can change the meaning or form of that word. For example, if you take the word "play" and add the suffix "-er," it becomes "player," which refers to someone who plays. So, if you have a base word, a suffix is tacked on to its tail end to change its meaning or grammatical function.

Markwick (2010:1), defines a suffix as “a group of letters attached to the end of the root word that changes the meaning of that word.” For example, adding the suffix “-ness” to the root word “happy” changes the meaning to “happiness”. Markwick emphasizes that many scientific terms utilize suffixes derived from Greek and Latin. Understanding the meaning of these suffixes

can help decipher the meanings of most scientific words. He provides several examples of suffixes and their meanings such as “-meter” (to measure), “-scope” (examine or to look at), and “-vore” (swallow or devour)

2.1.6.3 Infix

Yu (2002:26), defines infixes as “nothing more than morphemes that affix to some phonological unit, rather than a morphological one.” This definition suggests that the author views infixes as elements that are integrated into words based on sound patterns rather than grammatical structures. They function similarly to prefixes and suffixes but their positioning is determined by phonological rules leading to their insertion within a word.

Hall (1964) defines an infix as "a type of affix that is inserted within a word to modify its meaning or grammatical function." This means that infixes are not just added to the beginning or end of words; they are placed inside the word itself. By doing this, they can change the meaning or grammatical details of the base word. For example, in some languages, an infix can indicate different tenses, showing how infixes play an important role in altering words to express complex ideas.

2.1.6.4 Circumfix

Marušič (2021:1) defines circumfixation as “a morphological operation as a result of which an affix appears to surround or circumscribe the stem.” The author describes three possible arrangements where the stem is circumscribed by the affix:

- i. A single affix on both sides of the stem, referring to as monomorphic circumfix
- ii. Two independent affixes, a prefix and a suffix, placed on different sides of the stem
- iii. An affix alternating between a suffix and prefix, called a mobile affix.

Marušič (2021) argues that true circumfixes are bimorphic and most likely bimorphemic, meaning they are composed of two independent affixes – a prefix and a suffix. Theoretical and processing reasons are presented in the article to support this restriction. The author claims that despite documented cases of apparent monomorphemic or monomorphic circumfixation, these are not true circumfixes and offers alternative explanations. The argument for this based on the principle that “a single morpheme has only one attachment site” and can only be a prefix, an infix, or a suffix to a single stem.

2.1.6.5 Suprafix

Arokoyo (2017) defined suprafix as “an affix which is marked over the segments that form the root.” They include supersegmental features such as stress, pitch, and tones. They are called morphemes because they can carry meaning.

Croft (1990) defines a suprafix as a "morpheme that operates at a level above the segmental structure of a word, often affecting the word's pronunciation or stress patterns instead of adding phonetic material." What Croft means by this is that suprafixes modify the way a word is pronounced or understood without physically altering its spelling. For example, in some languages, a change in stress can signify a shift in grammatical function or meaning. In English, the word "record" can function as a noun (RE-cord) or a verb (re-CORD) based on the stress pattern applied.

2.1.6.6 Simulfix

According to Jan (2020), A simulfix is a change or replacement of vowels or consonants (usually vowels) which changes the meaning of a word. This modification within the word itself, rather than adding a prefix or suffix, is what characterizes a simulfix.

Aronoff (1976), describes a simulfix as "a process in which the internal structure of a morpheme changes to indicate grammatical relationships, such as tense or number, without the addition of external morphemes." According to the author, simulfixes represent an internal alteration within a word that reflects a grammatical change. For example, in the English language, the transformation of "man" to "men" illustrates a simulfix. Here, the vowel change signifies a shift from singular to plural form, demonstrating how internal modifications can serve grammatical purposes without adding any prefixes or suffixes.

Elson and Picket noted that a kind of simultaneous affix is being referred to as Simulfix in (Elson & Picket 1976). The authors define simulfix as a process where a single part of a word changes internally, usually by altering vowel sounds, to show different grammatical meanings without adding prefixes or suffixes. They use examples like changing "foot" to "feet" to demonstrate how these internal changes can indicate things like plural forms. Their definition highlights that understanding word formation involves not just adding parts but also modifying existing ones to convey meaning, reflecting the complexity of language.

2.1.6.7 Duplifix/Reduplication

Nadarajan (2008:39) defines reduplication as "a morphological process in which the root, stem of a word or a part of it is repeated. The author further added that it is "a word formation process in which some part of a base (a segment, syllable, morpheme) is repeated, either to the left, or to the right of the word, or occasionally, within the middle of the word." (2008:40) The author views reduplication as an important phenomenon in language studies and believes its usage is more widespread than assumed

2.1.6.8 Disfix

According to Jan (2020), A disfix is a subtractive morpheme that manifests itself through elision (the removal of segments from a root or stem). This subtraction or removal of segment or morpheme is known as elision. This elision process, however, does not affect the meaning of the root word.

Disfix is defined by Booij (2005) as a process in which segments of a word are removed rather than added. Specifically, Booij explains that disfix involves taking away a part of a morpheme from a word, effectively separating or "disfixing" it from its original form. For example, in the formation of certain words, parts of the original morpheme may be dropped to create a new word, rather than simply adding prefixes or suffixes.

2.2 PREVIOUS STUDIES

Different researches done by scholars which is relevant to this study will be revised. The previous work done by researchers will serve as a means in comparing with the present study.

Elugbe & Bankale (2019) carried out a linguistic analysis of the Ghotuo Noun Morphology. The authors cited the definition of morphology by Aronoff & Fudeman (2011), stating that morphology in linguistics is "the mental system involved in word formation" or the branch that "that deals with their internal structure and how they are formed." This study of Ghotuo noun morphology aims to describe the structure and derivation of nouns in the language. The method of analysis involves examining the prefixes and stems of nouns, as well as the processes by which nouns are derived. The theoretical framework draws on concepts from general linguistics, such as morphology and inflection, and also from studies of the Niger-Congo language family to which Ghotuo belongs. Key findings include that Ghotuo nouns consist of a prefix and stem, with various prefix and stem structures such as V-CV, VV-CV, CV-CV, V-

CVV, and V-CVCV. Nouns are classified by singular/plural prefix pairings, which sometimes reflect semantic classes such as body parts, man-made objects, and small birds. Inflectional prefixes indicate number, while derivational processes form nouns from verbs or based on semantic notions. For instance, abstract nouns like *ē-jà* 'laughter' are derived from verbs like *jâ* 'laugh'. Agent nouns are formed through tonal changes or by associating a low tone morpheme to a basic habitual clause. Proper nouns are often derived from philosophical or religious expressions. The study also identified single-class nouns, state nouns, nouns of origin, nouns of time, diminutives, augmentatives, total nouns, locative nouns, and relative clause nouns, demonstrating the complexity of Ghotuṣ noun morphology.

Ekiugbo & Ayunku (2018) examined the Affixation processes in the Izon language, a Proto-Ijoid language spoken in Nigeria, with the objective of identifying the types of affixation present and their functions. The method of analysis involved using data collected from secondary sources, including Odisi (1997) and Ayunku (2017), and cross-checking with a native speaker. The study operates within a theoretical framework that defines morphology as the study of word structure and affixation as the process of attaching bound morphemes to root words. The findings indicate that only suffixation and interfixation are attested in Izon. Suffixation is the most productive process in Izon, serving as both inflection, marking past tense (e.g., *bó* 'come' becomes *bódé* 'came'), plurality (e.g., *áru* 'shirt' becomes *áruámá* 'shirts'), and continuous tense (e.g., *fí* 'eat' becomes *fíméné* 'eating'), as well as derivation of agentive nouns (e.g., *fúru* 'steal' becomes *fúrubó* 'thief'). Interfixation, using the interfix *-ke-*, is used for intensification (e.g., *mènè* 'swallow' becomes *mènèkémènè* 'keep swallowing'). The study also shows that what might be considered prefixes in Izon (e.g. *ifamó* 'beat me') are actually free pronouns and do not

function as affixes, and that supposed cases of suprafixation are tonal contrasts without a semantic relationship between the root and derived forms (e.g. t̀ró 'eye' and t́ró 'river').

Offiong (2011) in his article “Efik Morphological Process” examines morphological processes in the Efik language, drawing examples from English for comparison. The objective is to investigate how words are formed in Efik, identifying both universal and language-specific processes. The method of analysis involves a morphemic analysis to understand semantic and grammatical relationships, focusing on derivational and inflectional morphology. The theoretical framework is based on the concept of morphemes as the minimal units of meaning, with a distinction between free and bound morphemes, and it explores morphological processes including affixation, borrowing, compounding, and reduplication. The study finds that Efik has unique morphological processes such as infixation, which is not common in English. It also shows that Efik uses prefixes to mark grammatical categories like pluralization, tense, and aspect, whereas English uses suffixes. Borrowing from English is common and includes loan words, loan blends and calques. The study highlights that compounding combines words from different parts of speech and that reduplication in Efik is usually complete and found in verbal situations. The analysis demonstrates the productive nature of morphological processes in Efik.

Damkor, Tyoh, and Igbe (2021) analyzes the morphology of the Tiv language. This study examines affixation as a derivational process in Tiv, aiming to identify derivational processes in the language and correct a misrepresentation regarding agentive noun formation. The research used a survey design to collect data through oral interviews with native Tiv speakers and the researchers' intuitive knowledge of the language. The analysis is based on Hockett's Item-and-Arrangement (IA) and Item-and-Process (IP) theories, which consider how morphemes are arranged and the rules governing their combination. The findings indicate that nouns are derived

from verbs using the prefix {m-}; nouns are formed from verbs using a prefix {i-}, infix {-y-/-h-}, and a suffix {-m/gh/nev/n}; diminutive nouns are formed with the prefix {an-}; and nouns are derived from adjectives using the prefix {m-} and the suffix {-n}, although some adjectives only use {m-}. The study also concludes that the formation of agentive nouns is a compounding process, not a derivational one.

2.3 PRESENT STUDY

The concern of this study, is a study that is focused on the affixation processes present in the Ghotuo language. The study looks into relevant concepts like morphology, morpheme, types of morphemes (free and bound morpheme), classification of morphemes (inflectional and derivation morphemes), affixation and the types of affixes present in the Ghotuo language. This study was carried out by analyzing 50 words of Ghotuo language. The aim is to identify the various affixation process that occurs in the Ghotuo language.

In summary, this work can serve as a reference for further researches that will be carried out on the Ghotuo language or other African languages. This work can also serve as a means of preserving the language.

2.4 SUMMARY

In this chapter, various concepts were extensively discussed which are of relevance to this study. This includes an elaborate definition of morphology, morphemes, the types of morphemes (which are the free and bound morpheme), the classification of morphemes (which are the inflectional and derivational morpheme), affixation and all other relevant components of

affixation such as what affixes are, the various types of affixes etc. This study was done using past relevant literatures that served as an important link to this present study.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the theoretical framework for the research “A morphological analysis of affixation in Ghotuo language.” The theoretical framework to be employed for this research is “Descriptive Linguistics” by Ferdinand De Saussure.

3.1 DESCRIPTIVE LINGUISTICS

Descriptive linguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies language construction or languages are structured. Ferdinand de Saussure is regarded as the father of descriptive linguistics. He was the first to carry out the analyses of breaking down language into its smallest component parts for a more systematic study. Modern descriptive linguistics is based on a structural approach to language as exemplified in the work of Leonard Bloomfield.

François & Ponsonnet (2013) defined Descriptive linguistic as “the scientific endeavor to systematically describe the languages of the world in their diversity, based on the empirical

observation of regular patterns in natural speech.” According to them, it involves the meticulous documentation of the world’s diverse languages and this process is carefully carried out based on the observation of recurring patterns in spoken language to create systematic descriptions. Researchers in this field strive to understand how language function and how they differ, rather than making judgments about their value. The goal is to build a comprehensive understanding of linguistic diversity.

There are various sub-groups under descriptive linguistics. The three main aspects are Phonology, Morphology, and Phonetics.

1. Phonetics

Phonetics is the study of human speech sounds. It encompasses how sounds are produced, which is known as articulatory phonetics. It also covers how sounds travel through the air (acoustic phonetics) and how they are perceived by the ear (auditory phonetics). Descriptive linguists use phonetics to analyze and document sound variations in different languages and dialects, noting how sounds function within their linguistic context.

2. Phonology

Phonology is concerned with the abstract, cognitive aspects of sounds in a given language. It examines how sounds are structured in the mind and how they interact with each other. Descriptive linguists explore phonemes, which are the smallest units of sound that can differentiate meaning, and their patterns, including processes like assimilation, dissimilation, and vowel harmony.

3. Morphology

Morphology is the study of word structure. It focuses on morphemes, which are the smallest units of meaning in a language. Morphemes include roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Descriptive linguistics examines how morphemes combine to form words and how these word formation processes differ among various languages.

Under descriptive linguistics, the research topic "morphological analysis of the affixation process in Ghotuo language" primarily falls under morphology, which is the branch of linguistics that studies the structure, formation, and classification of words. More specifically, within morphology, this topic can be categorized under derivational morphology and inflectional morphology, as it involves analyzing how affixes (prefixes, suffixes, infixes, etc.) are used to create new words or modify existing ones in the Ghotuo language.

Additionally, this research might encompass aspects of syntactic morphology, since understanding how morphological processes interact with syntactic structures can provide deeper insights into the language's grammar. Overall, the research is situated at the intersection of morphology and syntax within the broader field of descriptive linguistics.

3.2 Application of the theoretical framework to morphological analysis of the Affixation process in Ghotuo language

Morphology plays a crucial role in the research on the "morphological analysis of affixation in Ghotuo language" by providing insights into the structure and formation of words through various affixation strategies. By examining prefixes, suffixes, infixes, and circumfixes, the study can unravel how these morphemes modify root words to convey different meanings, grammatical functions, or semantic nuances.

Understanding the morphological processes in Ghotuo enables researchers to identify patterns in word formation and to explore how affixation contributes to the language's richness and complexity. This analysis can highlight the roles of derivational and inflectional morphemes, thus revealing how affixation shapes lexical access and syntactic constructions.

Moreover, morphology aids in documenting the linguistic features unique to Ghotuo, such as tonal variations that often accompany morphological changes. By mapping out these morphological rules, the research can contribute to a better understanding of Ghotuo as a whole, assisting language preservation efforts and enhancing teaching methodologies for learners.

Syntactic morphology will enhance the research on the "morphological analysis of affixation in Ghotuo language" by examining how morphological structures interact with syntactic functions. It allows for a deeper understanding of how affixes influence sentence formation and word order in Ghotuo. By analyzing the relationship between morphemes and their syntactic roles, the study can uncover patterns in grammatical constructions and semantic meanings. This approach also aids in identifying how morphological variations can alter syntactic behavior, providing insights into the dynamics of language use and revealing the interplay between syntax and morphology in Ghotuo.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

Data analysis in the research of the affixation process in Ghotuo language is crucial for understanding how affixation processes are utilized to modify and create meaning in this vibrant language. Affixation, a key morphological process, involves the addition of this morphemes to based words, allowing for the expression of terms, aspects, mood, and other grammatical functions. Analyzing affixation patterns aids to clarify the roles and conventions that govern word formation in Ghotuo language.

4.1 Data presentation

4.1.1 Prefix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. Ọ̀gbò́má	‘Boy’	È̀gbò́má	‘Boys’
2. Ọ̀mọ́hà	‘Girl’	È̀mọ́mọ́hà	‘Girls’
3. À̀gbàhà	‘Argue’	È̀àgbàhà	‘Argument’
4. khọ́khọ̀	‘Happy’	È̀khọ́khọ̀	‘Happiness’

5. Àgá	‘Chair’	Ègá	‘Chairs’
6. Dóhò	‘Price’	Ẹdóhò	‘priceless’
7. Óhámò	‘wife’	Éhámò	‘wives’
8. Mìràámà	‘I Disagree’	Èràámà	‘They disagree’
9. Óshẹ	‘Church’	Ẹshẹ	‘Stone’
10. Ẹwẹ	‘Goat’	ẸẸwẹ	‘Kolanut’
11. Āgbá	‘Drum’	Ègbá	‘Hoe’
12. Khékhekẹ	‘Don’t wait’	Èkhèkhè	‘Time’
13. Ẹshẹ	‘Sin/Offence’	Èeshẹ	‘Sins/Offences’
14. Yinó	‘Do’	Khèyinó	‘Redo’
15. Vyó	‘Write’	Khèvyó	‘Rewrite’
16. kwènó	‘consider’	khè-kwènó	‘reconsider’
17. lẹ	‘go’	khè-lẹ	‘Don’t go’
18. Kháo	‘Barbing’	Khè-kháó	‘Rebarb’
19. Ózẹ	‘Good morning’	Úzẹ	‘Ask’
20. Ózẹ	‘Stranger’	Ízẹ	‘Strangers’
21. Òkó	‘Hill’	Khókó	‘Mortar’
22. Lēlēnórē	‘Spell’	Únēlēlēnórē	‘Misspell’
23. Nyènámá	‘Approve/agree’	Ọnámà	‘Disapprove/disagree’
24. Fíánó	‘Like’	Mífíánó	‘Dislike’
25. Ọyémè	‘Understand’	Ọọyémè	‘Misunderstand’
26. Khái	‘To teach’	Ọnọkhái	‘Teacher’
27. Ōsē	‘Beauty’	Yẹmōsē	‘Beautiful’

4.1.2 Suffix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. Ûváhú	‘fear’	Ûváhúmè	‘fearless’
2. Ûdóhó	‘sad’	Ûdónóbè	‘sadness’
3. fọ́ọ	‘kind’	fọ́ọrē	‘kindness’
4. Àbófó	‘Tired(singular)’	Àbófómā	‘Tired (plural)’
5. ēlēlī	‘achievement’	ēlēlīmē	‘My achievement’
6. Ọhāmō	‘wife’	Ọhāmē	‘my wife’
7. Ēhāmō	‘wives’	Ēhāmā	‘our wives’
8. Īkpō	‘Position’	Ûkpōō	‘Kneel’
9. Ómọ	‘Child’	Ómọ̀nọ̀	‘This child’

4.1.3 Infix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. Vàré	‘Come here’	Vànàré	‘Leave here’
2. Mìrāmā	‘Agree’	Miràámà	‘Disagree’

3. Whāīkhōbō	‘Help’	Whāīmēkhōbō	‘Helpful’
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4.1.4 Circumfix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. bọ́	‘Build’	kyèbọ́onọ	‘Rebuild’
2. khósé	‘play’	kyèbékhóséò	‘Replay’
3. rhúdónāgī	‘hopeful’	khérhúdónāgīòsò	‘Hopeless’
4. Ọhāmē	‘my wife’	Ēhāmēò	‘wives of the community’

4.1.5 Disfix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. Ọnibú	‘it is okay’	Ọbú	‘it is okay’
2. Ọshēmē	‘he offended me’	Ọshēmē	‘he offended me’

4.1.6 Suprafix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. Újò	‘you’	Újó	‘do you’		

	don't listen'		hear?'		
2. Ózè	'strange'	Ózè	'Good morning'		
3. Óbù	'it's enough'	Òbù	'group'	Òbù	'It's not enough'
4. Khé khē	'don't wait'	Khē khè	'food'	Khè khé	'pot'
5. Khè éhì	'come and eat'	Khē ēhī	'don't eat'		
6. Éghó	'money'	Éghò	'shame'		
7. kyèbòṅṅó	'Rebuild'	kyébòṅṅó	'Don't Rebuild'		

4.1.7 Simulfix

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. Mukhe	'what are you waiting for'	Makhe	'what are we waiting for'		
2. Mágú	'What did you say?(past	Mègú	'What did they	Mùgú	'What did you say?

	participle)		say?'		(past tense)'
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4.1.8 Reduplication

Root	Gloss	Affixation	Gloss
1. mẹnẹ	'at all'	mẹnẹmẹnẹ	'at all, at all'
2. Chọ̀nọ̀ – vọ̀nọ̀	'from one thing to the other'		

4.2 Data Analysis

4.2.1 Prefix

1. Ọ̀gbọ̀má 'Boy' ẹ̀ (prefix) → ẹ̀ + ọ̀gbọ̀má = ẹ̀gbọ̀má 'Boys'

In this data, the affix 'ẹ̀' was used as a prefix and was used to show plurality. The 'ẹ̀' prefix was attached and the word initial of root word 'ọ̀' was deleted. The affix, when attached to the root word, modified the meaning of the root word and indicated in change in the number (i.e plurality) of the word therefore changing from singular 'boy' to plural 'boys.'

2. Àgá 'Chair' ẹ̀ (prefix) → ẹ̀ + gá = ẹ̀gá 'Chairs'

In this data, the affix ‘è’ was used as a prefix and was used to show plurality. This is another example of where the ‘è’ affix is used to show plurality. When added to the root word, it changed the number from singular to plural.

However there are cases where the ‘è’ are used to change or create new words when added to base words.

3. Óshē ‘Church’ ē̄(prefix) → ē̄ + óshē = ē̄shē ‘Stone’

In this data, the affix ‘ē̄’ was used as a prefix and was used to form a new word in the Ghotuo language, and ‘ó’ was deleted.

4. Yinó ‘Do’ khè(prefix) → khè + yínó = khèyínó ‘Redo’

In this data, the affix ‘khè’ was used as a prefix and was used to modify the root word. In the data, ‘khè’ was used to indicate the repetition of a particular action/verb.

5. Vyó ‘Write’ khè(prefix) → khè + vyó = khèvyó ‘Rewrite’

In this data, the affix ‘khè’ was also used as a prefix and was used to modify the root word. In the data, ‘khè’ was used to indicate the repetition of a particular action/verb.

6. lé ‘go’ khē (prefix) → khē + lé = khē-lé ‘Don’t go’

In this data, the affix ‘khē’ was used as a prefix. It wasn’t used to as an indication of the repetition of the verb, rather it was used to indicate a negation in the root word.

4.2.2 Suffix

1. Ómò ‘Child’ nò (suffix) → ómò + nò = ómónò ‘This child’

In this data, ‘nò’ was used as a suffix and it was used to indicate the position or location of the base word ‘ómò’

2. òhāmō ‘wife’ ē (suffix) → òhāmō + ē = òhāmē ‘my wife’

In this data, ‘ē’ was used as a suffix and it was used to indicate possession. When added to the base word ‘òhāmō’ (wife), the word final of the root word ‘ō’ was deleted and it changed to ‘òhāmē’ (my wife)

3. ēhāmō ‘wives’ ā (suffix) → ēhāmō + ā = ēhāmā ‘our wives’

In this data, ‘ā’ was used as a suffix and it was used to indicate possession. When added to the base word ‘ēhāmō’ (wives), the word final of the root word ‘ō’ was deleted and it changed to ‘ēhāmā’ (our wives)

4. ùváhú ‘fear’ mē (suffix) → ùváhú + mē = ùváhúmē ‘fearless’

In this data, ‘mē’ was used as a suffix and it was used to change the lexical category of the root word. When ‘mē’ was added to the root word ‘ùváhú’ (fear) which is a verb, the result was ‘ùváhúmē’ (fearless) which is an adjective.

5. fọ́ọ́ ‘kind’ rē (suffix) → fọ́ọ́ + rē = fọ́ọ́rē ‘kindness’

In this data, ‘rē’ was used as a suffix and it was used to change the lexical category of the root word. When ‘rē’ was added to the root word ‘fọ́ọ́’ (fear) which is a verb, the result was ‘fọ́ọ́rē’ (fearless) which is an adjective.

4.2.3 Infix

1. v̀aré ‘Come here’ ǹà (infix) → v̀à + ǹà + ré = v̀aǹaré ‘Leave here’

In this data, ‘ǹà’ was used as an infix and it was used to indicate the opposite or reversal of the action. The infix "-ǹà-" changes the meaning of "v̀aré" (Come here) to "v̀aǹaré" (Leave here), effectively reversing the direction of the action.

2. m̀irāmā ‘Agree’ á (infix) → m̀irà + á + mà = m̀iràámà ‘Disagree’

In this data, ‘á’ was used as an infix and it was used to indicate a tone reversal. This tonal alternation changed the meaning of the word from ‘m̀irāmā’ (agree) to ‘m̀iràámà’ (disagree), showing the opposite attitude or response.

3. whāikhōbō ‘Help’ m̄ (infix) → whāi + m̄ + khōbō = whāim̄khōbō ‘Helpful’

In this data, ‘m̄’ was used as an infix. The infix "-m̄" was added to the root word "Whāikhōbō" to form the adjective "Whāim̄khōbō". The added infix "-m̄" changes the meaning of the word from a verb (help) to an adjective (helpful).

4.2.4 Circumfix

1. b̀óó ‘Build’ kyè - ǹó (circumfix) → kyè + b̀óó + ǹó = kyèb̀óóǹó ‘Rebuild’

In this data, ‘kyè - ǹó’ was used as a circumfix. This circumfix was used to indicate repetition or renewal of the action, changing the meaning of the word from ‘build’ to ‘rebuild’.

2. khósé ‘play’ kyèbé - ò (circumfix) → kyèbé + khósé + ò = kyèbékhóséò ‘Replay’

In this data, ‘kyèbé- ò’ was used as a circumfix. The added circumfix ‘kyèbé- ò’ indicates repetition or re-doing of the action, changing the meaning of the word from ‘play’ to ‘replay’.

3. rhúdónāgī ‘hopeful’ khé - ɔ̀sò(circumfix) → khé + rhúdónāgī + ɔ̀sò = khérhúdónāgīɔ̀sò ‘Hopeless’
The circumfix ‘khé - ɔ̀sò’ added was used as a negation marker, which reverses the meaning of the word from ‘hopeful’ to ‘hopeless’.

4. Ọhāmē ‘my wife’ ẹ̄ - ò(circumfix) → ẹ̄ + ọhāmē + ò = Ẹ̄hāmēò ‘wives of the community’
In this data, ‘ẹ̄ - ò’ was used as a circumfix. The replacement of the prefix "Ọ-" (which likely indicates possession or singular) with "Ẹ̄-" (which may indicate plural or communal) and the addition of the suffix "-ò" (which could indicate a collective or communal noun) together change the meaning of the word from ‘my wife’ to ‘wives of the community.’

4.2.5 Disfix

Root	Gloss	Affix	Affixation	Gloss
1. ọ̀nìbù	‘it is okay’	nì (disfix)	→ ọ̀ – nì - bú = ọ̀bù	‘it is okay’

In this data, the morpheme/disfix ‘-nì-’ was deleted from the root word ‘Ọ̀nìbù’ to form the word ‘Ọ̀bù’. The deletion of ‘-nì-’ did not change the meaning of the word, which remains ‘it is okay’

Root	Gloss	Affix	Affixation	Gloss
2. ọ̀shẹ̀mē	‘he offended me’	ī (disfix)	→ ọ̀shẹ̀ – ī – mē = ọ̀shẹ̀mē	‘he offended me’

In this data, the morpheme/disfix ‘ī’ was deleted from the word ‘Òshẹ́īmē’ to form the word ‘Òshẹ́mē.’ The deletion of ‘ī’ did not change the meaning of the word, which remains "he offended me".

4.2.6 Suprafix

1. Újò ‘you don’t listen’ Ùjọ - ‘do you hear?’

The word ‘Újò’ undergoes a tone change to become ‘Ùjọ.’ Specifically, the high tone (Ú) is replaced with a low tone (Ù). This tone change, completely alters the meaning of the word. The resulting word "Ùjọ" now means "do you hear?", whereas the original word ‘Újò’ meant ‘you don't listen.’

2. Khẹ̀ éhì ‘come and eat’ Khē ēhī - ‘don’t eat’

The tone change from low (Khẹ̀) to high (Khē) alters the meaning from "come and eat" to "don't eat".

3. Éghó - ‘money’ Ēghọ - ‘shame’

The tone change from high (Éghó) to low (Ēghọ) changes the meaning from "money" to "shame".

4. kyèbọ́ọ̀nọ́ ‘Rebuild’ kyébọ̀ọ̀nọ́ ‘Don’t Rebuild’

The tone change from high-low (kyèbọ́ọ̀nọ́) to low-low (kyébọ̀ọ̀nọ́) alters the meaning from "Rebuild" to "Don't Rebuild".\

5. Ọ́bú ‘it’s enough’ Òbù - ‘group’ Ọ̀bú - ‘It’s not enough’

The tone changes from high (Óbù) to low (Òbù) to mid (Ỗbù) result in distinct meanings: "it's enough", "group", and "it's not enough", respectively.

4.2.7 Simulfix

1. Mukhe ‘what are you waiting for’ m-a-khe = Makhe ‘what are we waiting for’

The change indicates a shift in the subject of the sentence from second person singular ("you") to first person plural ("we").

2. Màngú ‘What did you say?(past participle)’ Mègú ‘What did they say?’ Mùgú ‘What did you say? (past tense)’

The "à" vowel sound in Màngú indicates past participle and second-person singular ("you"), the "è" vowel sound in Mègú indicates third-person plural ("they"), and the "ù" vowel sound in Mùgú indicates past tense and second-person singular ("you")

4.2.8 Reduplication

1. méné ‘at all’ → ménéméné ‘at all, at all’

The word ‘méné’ was repeated to form the new word ‘ménéméné’.

2. Chònò – vònò ‘from one thing to the other’

The duplifix occurs when the morpheme "nò" is repeated in both words, which creates a sense of continuity or connection between the two ideas.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY

5.0 Introduction

The primary aim of this project is not only to identify the affixes in the Ghotuo language but also to examine these affixes and to see how these help in the formation or modification of words.

Chapter one introduces morphology as a crucial area of linguistics that studies word formation, structures, and relationships, particularly focusing on affixation. It also provides background information on the Ghotuo people and their language, including their location in Nigeria and their unique linguistic identity. The chapter outlines the methodology used for data collection, involving oral interviews with native speakers and the consultation of secondary sources, and it states the purpose and significance of the research, which aims to identify and analyze affixation processes in the Ghotuo language to contribute to its documentation and preservation.

Chapter Two provides a review of existing literature relevant to the study, including definitions and discussions of key concepts such as morphology, morphemes, free and bound morphemes, inflectional and derivational morphemes, morphological processes, and affixation. It

examines previous studies related to the research topic, such as analyses of Ghotuo noun morphology and affixation processes in other languages, to identify gaps and inform the present study. The chapter concludes by outlining the aims, objectives, and motivations behind the current study, emphasizing its focus on affixation processes in the Ghotuo language.

Chapter Three focuses on the theoretical framework for the research, employing "Descriptive Linguistics" by Ferdinand de Saussure to analyze the affixation process in the Ghotuo language. It explains descriptive linguistics as a scientific endeavor to systematically describe languages based on empirical observation and outlines its main aspects: phonetics, phonology, and morphology. The chapter details the application of morphology and syntactic morphology to the analysis of affixation in Ghotuo, emphasizing how these approaches provide insights into word structure, formation, and interaction with syntactic functions.

Chapter four presents the data analysis of affixation processes in the Ghotuo language, categorizing and illustrating various types of affixation with examples. It includes prefixes, suffixes, infixes, circumfixes, disfixes, duplifixes, reduplication, suprafixes, and simulfices, providing a detailed analysis of how each type of affix modifies the meaning and grammatical function of root words. The chapter explains how affixes are used to indicate plurality, repetition, negation, possession, and changes in lexical category, as well as tonal variations that accompany morphological changes.

This final chapter will provide a summary of key observations noted during the data analysis, along with the concluding insights.

5.1 Summary of findings

The research on affixation in the Ghotuo language reveals several key findings about how different types of affixes modify the meaning and grammatical function of root words. Prefixes, such as "è" and "è," are used to indicate plurality, while "ē" is used to form new words. Additionally, the prefix "khè" indicates the repetition of an action, and "khē" expresses negation. Suffixes like "nò" indicate the position or location of a base word, and "ē" indicates possession. The suffixes "mè" and "rē" can change the lexical category of the root word.

Infixes also play a role, with "nà" indicating the opposite or reversal of an action, and "á" indicating a tone reversal. The infix "mē" changes a verb (help) to an adjective (helpful). Circumfixes, such as "kyè - nò" and "kyèbé- ò," indicate repetition or renewal of an action. The circumfix "khé - ḡsò" functions as a negation marker. The circumfix "ē - ò" can change the meaning of the word from 'my wife' to 'wives of the community'.

Other morphological processes include disfixes, where the deletion of morphemes like "-nì-" or "ī" does not change the meaning of the root word. Duplifixes create a sense of continuity between two ideas through the repetition of a morpheme. Reduplication involves repeating a word, such as "méné" becoming "ménéméné". Suprafixes involve tone changes that alter the meaning of words, such as a high tone (Ú) changing to a low tone (Ù). Simulfixes feature internal vowel changes that indicate shifts in person, number, or tense.

5.2 Conclusion

This research has examined how Ghotuo uses various affixes to build words and express different meanings. The use of affixation in the Ghotuo language has been seen to be very productive in the creation of new words, as well as in the modification of grammatical and

lexical functions. . Further research into the specific types of affixes and their historical development could reveal even more about the language and its connection to other languages in the region.

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