

**THE NOUN PHRASES IN ETUNO LANGUAGE**

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**Submitted in partial fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of  
a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree in Linguistics and African  
Languages, University of Benin.**

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## CERTIFICATION

I, **EBOSELE OIZA JOY** a student in the Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Benin, with Matriculation Number **ART1101045**, 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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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated first to God Almighty, my father and friend, to the Lord Jesus Christ my savior and closest companion, to the Holy Spirit my teacher and comforter who has been a present help for me in the writing of the work

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to first and foremost acknowledge the Almighty God in whom I live, breath and have my being.

Secondly, I want to acknowledge my precious and treasured family- my beloved husband, Mr. E.O. Onomuefor, whose unfeigned love and care encouraged me to complete this work, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Imina for their love and prayers.

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Also, my sincere appreciation goes to one of my lecturers, Mr. O.O. Evbuomwan for impacting intellectually in my studies.

I thank my siblings, amongst whom I must not forget to mention, Samuel and Wahab for their morale support.

I wish to also appreciate some of my course mates who persistently encourage me to complete this work; Peter, Charles, Jennifer, Abies and others too numerous to mention.

I am grateful to Mr. Pendor, my Pastors, Pastor Obiora, Pastor Mrs Omorogbe for their encouragement and prayers.

Thanks to you all

## ABSTRACT

This study begins with the first chapter, this chapter shows the historical background of the language and the people. This chapter also went further to talk about the purpose of study, the limitation of study, the method of data collection and also the significance of the study to linguistics in general.

The second chapter, features the review of relevant literature as regards to the noun phrases in Etuno language.

The third chapter, examines the theoretical framework used in the research which is the x-bar theory.

The fourth chapter depicts the presentation of data and the analysis of the data using the x-bar theoretical framework. This chapter focuses on examining the internal structure. This chapter focuses on examining the internal structure of the Etuno noun phrase with the aim of investigating how different constituents that make up the noun phrase are combined together.

The major results of this study are:

- that the language is an headfirst language.
- that the language is a tone language.
- that the language share linguistic affinity with Igarra and most importantly Yoruba.
- With Etuno language shares no linguistic affinity with any of its neighbouring villages such as Uneme, Okpe Somorika, Ssasaro etc not even with any language in the whole of Edo State.

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATION

N	-	Noun
N <sup>I</sup>	-	N-Bar
N <sup>II</sup>	-	N – Double Bar
X <sup>I</sup>	-	X-Bar
X <sup>II</sup>	-	X-Double Bar
NP	-	Noun Phrase
VP	-	Verb Phrase
PP	-	Prepositional Phrase
Adjp	-	Adjectival Phrase
Adj	-	Adjective
Prep	-	Preposition
Det	-	Determiner
Conj	-	Conjunctions
Pres	-	Present Tense
Past	-	Past Tense
Tns	-	Tense
Spec	-	Specifier
DP	-	Determiner Phrase
Poss	-	Possessive
Num	-	Number/Numerals

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 4.0 Background of Study

Language is a very useful tool in human society it performs so many functions to man and also part of man that we are not even conscious of it.

As native speakers of our language, we are able to distinguish between expressions that are grammatical and those that are not irrespective of our academic/educational status. This arise as a result of fact that we have been able to internalize the rules for combining elements (combining sounds into lexical items, lexical items with phrases etc) as well as the rules for assigning meaning to the structure.

This is in respect to phrase and phrasal categories, words are grouped together to form phrases and phrases to clauses and sentence. This study will make known the noun phrase which is a phrasal constituent in Etuno language, how it is derived and the various possible form it can take (N, + Det, N + Adj etc) and also various constituent in which the NP can be in Etuno language. Here, the different typological

categories that noun phrase in Etuno language falls into is taken into consideration. The grammatical function of noun phrase (NP) in Etuno language will be made manifest I.e. the grammatical function, if it function as a subject, object or as indirect object.

This work or study is expected to show the noun phrase system in the language and sentences or word formation (morphemes) this is how words are formed into nominal.

## **1.1 Location**

Igarra is a town located in the Northern outskirts of Edo-State, Nigeria. A place very peaceful and unique for her customs and traditions. It is the administrative head-quarters of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo-State. The distance from Benin-City, Edo State capital to Igarra is about 100 kilometers. Its topography is mountainous and situated at the Lee wind side of Kukuruku hill with rocky terrain. This rock at first, looks like they are on the verge of rolling down. Those different rock formation have always caused a big scare to people who are visiting the land for the first time. For such people it takes time to get used to the fact

that these rock which have been there, will probably remain like that forever.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF LANGUAGE**

The language, by its geographical location is in Edo-State and it is spoken by the people from Akoko Edo Local Government Area of Edo State, but the language is totally different i.e. it is not part of the Edoid or Akokoid group of languages by Williamson (1968), Hoffman (1974), but rather falls under the KWA group of languages.

According to J.H. Greenberg (1963), the language belongs to the KWA group of languages under the Niger-Congo group as shown below.



## **Language and the People**

Igarra people are migrants from the Kwarafara confederacy of the Junkun Kingdom of Wurkian, in the present Taraba State of Nigeria in about the 12<sup>th</sup> century to Idah in the present Kogi State. Etuno language is spoken by the Igarra people found in the Akoko-Edo Local Government Areas. Pita and Femi (1993:1) in their book 'IGARRA' stated that Igarra is the headquarters of Akoko-Edo Local Government and her immediate neighbours are Enwan, Akuku, Sassarro, unemhe -Nekhwa, Somorika and Okpe.

The language share no linguistic affinity with any of its neighbours not even in the whole of Edo-State. The speakers of Etuno were estimated by the National Population Census (1991) to be about 60,000.

Etuno has borrowed from other languages mainly Yoruba, English and Igbira, but the most obvious it has borrowed from is Yoruba language. This is so because Yoruba language serves as a Lingua-Franca for the people of the 37 (thirty-seven) villages that makes up Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, who otherwise have a cross-section of the diverse languages that are not in any way mutually intelligible. This explains the

presence of a lot of Yoruba words in Etuno lexicon. Some examples are given below.

<b>Etuno</b>	<b>Yoruba</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
Ijova	Ijoba	Government
Akowe	Akowe	Clerk/Academician
Ikokoro	Kokoro	key
Iwe	Iwe	Book
Adura	Adura	Prayer
Ipata	pata	Pants

## **1.2 Purpose of Study**

The purpose of study is to improve on linguistic knowledge. Another major purpose is that the language i.e. Etuno has not been fully recognized. I want to make known and probably draw out my own rule on how nominals are organized into nouns.

## **1.3 Limitation of Study**

One major limitation encountered on the language is that the language has not majorly be worked on or looked into critically. Other areas include financial constraints, hence the study would have been

broadened it not for those constraints. It is also to note that the researcher is a native chance speaker of the language. Another constraints is issue of getting a real competent speaker in my collection of data for further studies.

#### **1.4 Methodology**

The method as employed in this study especially in areas of data collection are basically from competent speakers from various setting like marriage, burials, and some social gathering. Data was also elicited from both published and unpublished works/materials. Some of the data was acquired through informant. And me being a native speaker of Etuno language. Most of the data used in this study were further verified by other competent native speakers of the language. Recorded folktales, festival on the language will also be used.

#### **1.5 Scope of Study**

This study which focuses on the Noun phrase of Etuno language tends to be significant both to students, linguists and language teachers as well as researchers and language learners in the sense that it stands as a foundation for understanding the grammar of the language as well as the

different forms which the noun phrase in the language take as against the English language and also tend to be a method of preserving the language due to the nature of the fact that the language is gradually going into extinction.

In this work I shall examine the noun phrase in Etuno language. Nouns phrase in Etuno language will be featured showing possible relationships it has with other syntactic component.

## **CHAPTER TWO:**

### **REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURES**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

In this view of this study, reviewing relevant literatures in the study will be of three dissegmentalized phases:

- (i) Conceptual Review.
- (ii) Previous Literatures.
- (iii) Present Studies.

#### **2.1 Conceptual Review**

The conceptual review as ascertained in this study depicts various phenomenon which cut across the study, hence in which the study is built upon. The phenomenon or features are:

- (i) Language.
- (ii) Grammar.
- (iii) Syntax.
- (iv) Constituent structure.
- (v) Phrase structure.
- (vi) Noun.

(vii) Noun phrase

### **2.1.1 Language**

This is a very useful tool in human society, it performs so many functions for man even to the extent that we are not conscious of it. As native speakers of a language, we are able to distinguish between expressions which are grammatical and the one's which are grammatical and the one's which are not irrespective of our educational status. This is because we have been able to internalize the rules for combining elements as well as the rules for assigning meaning to the structures. It is in view of this that Greenberg (1956) defined language as a "system of signals conforming to the rules which constitute this grammar or a set of culturally transmitted behaviour pattern, shared by a group of individuals. Language therefore cannot be separated from one another, they complement each other". It is with reference to structures and the rules for combining them that we talk about the term grammar. Language is also seen by Edward Sapir (1921) as "purely human and non-intuitive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols".

### **2.1.2 Grammar**

According to Fromkin V., Rodman R., Hyma N. (1978:13) “in our sense, the grammar is the knowledge speakers have about the rules of their language; rules for combining sounds into words (phonology), rules of word formation (morphology), rules for combining words into phrases and sentences (syntax) and the rules for assigning meaning (semantics).

The grammar together within mental dictionary; that list the words of the language, represents our linguistic competence. To understand the nature of language we must understand the nature of grammar. When linguist wish to describe a language they attempt to describe the rules (grammar) of the language that exist in the minds of the speakers.

For Fromkin, Rodman & Hyman; Linguistic use the word Grammar in two ways; the first refers to the mental grammar speaker’s have in their brains; the second to the model of description or this internalized grammar studied by linguists. Thus when we say a sentence is grammatical, we mean that it conforms to the rules of mental grammar (as described by the linguist); when we say it is ungrammatical, we mean it deviates from the rules in some way.

Dionysius Thrax, a G grammarian defined grammar “as that which permits us either to speak a language or to speak about a language”. Hence, to classical grammarians it was the art of speaking and they were interested in producing this art.

To modern grammarians, the term grammar is all encompassing covering the aspect of phonology, syntax, semantics, morphology etc and it attempts to account for what goes on in our mind when we use our language.

### **2.1.3 Syntax**

Syntax is basically about arrangement of structures which brings about the issue of grammar. It is the aspect of grammar of language which deals with how words are put together to form sentences and how sentences are interrupted in natural languages. This branch of linguistics uses a building block; words which are put together in a rule governed way. This is to say that words are not string together randomly but are followed by rules allowed by human language.

Ndimele (1999:77), stated that “syntax is concerned with the study of how words are arranged to build up longer expressions”.

### **2.1.4 Constituent Structure**

The constituent structure of a language entails the representation of different elements (lexical and grammatical) that are used to generate well formed and acceptable constructions in a language. It is also the basic unit of grammatical analysis that shows how words are represented and what constitute an acceptable utterance in a language. They therefore stand to be seen as articulatory pattern of a language especially at the syntactic level.

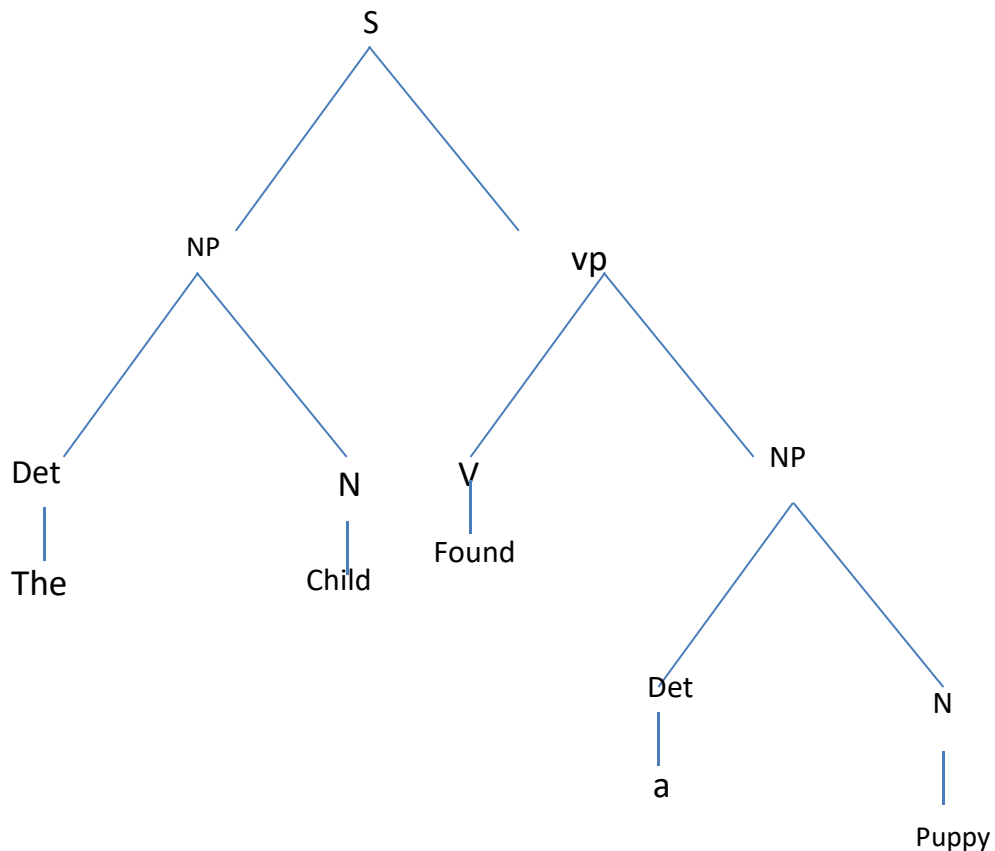
Experimental evidence has shown that speakers do not represent sentences as strings of words but rather in terms of constituents.

### **2.1.5 Phrase Structure**

Phrase structure reflects the compositional nature of phrases and how such phrases are combined to derive a sentence. Its history dates back to the early period of structural linguistics where a sentence is seen as been composed of several phrasal constituent and phrases in turn composed of several lexical units.

Under phrase structure we have two basic parts; the phrase structure tree and the phrase structure rules. The branches in the phrase structure tree will have category labels identifying each constituents.

The following tree diagram provides labels for each of the constituents of the sentence. 'The child found a puppy'. These labels shows that the entire sentence belong to the syntactic category of S (because the S- node encompasses all the words). It also reveals that the child and a puppy belong to the category NP.



The above phrase structure tree (PS) shows that a sentence is both a linear string of words and a hierarchical structure with phrases nested in phrases.

Phrase structure (P.S) trees represent three aspects of a speakers syntactic knowledge:

- (i) The linear order or the word in the sentence.
- (ii) The identification of the syntactic categories of words and group of words.
- (iii) The hierarchical structure of the syntactic category e.g. An S- is composed of an NP followed by a VP a VP is composed of a V that may be followed by an NP and so on.

Phrase structure rules, capture the knowledge that speakers have about the possible structure of a language.

Below is a typical PS rules:

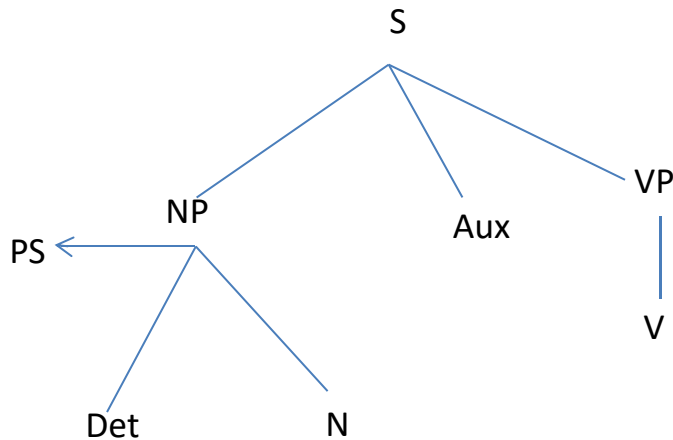
$S \rightarrow NP, VP$

$NP \rightarrow Det, N$

$VP \rightarrow V, NP$

The interpretation of the phrase structure rule above is: A phrase structure is made up of a sentence.

A sentence is composed of several phrases.



Phrase structure rule, specify well-formed structures of a language precisely and concisely. According to Fromkin v., Rodman R., Hymas N. (1978:128) they express the regularities of the language and make explicit a speaker's knowledge of the order of words and the grouping of words into syntactic categories. For example in English language an NP may contain a determiner followed by a noun in that order; A determiner followed by a noun is a noun phrase. Rule1says that a sentence (S)

contain an NP and a VP in that order. Rule 3, say that a verb phrase consist of a verb (V) followed by an NP. These rules are general statements and do not refer to any specific VP, V, or NP.

### **2.1.6 Noun**

Nouns are “words used to refer to people (boy), object (back pack), creatures (dog), places (school), qualities (roughers), phenomena (earthquake) and abstract ideas (love) as if they were all things” (George Yule 2006:74).

According to Kristin Denhams & Anne Lobeck; Many Children learn in school that a noun is a “person, place or thing” while this semantic definition is useful, it tell us nothing about the fact that we use a great deal of information, other than meaning, to identify nouns. For example, we can recognize noun even though we have no idea what they mean. Nouns can also be introduced by more than one determiner. The six houses, all eight dogs, a few people-and these element must also occur in a particular or order.

Typical categories for which nouns may be specified either morphologically or syntactically are case, number, class or gender, and definiteness. Case making indicates grammatical function (such as subject, direct object, indirect object) e.g. in Etuno.

(i) Oyene Onon - O-si            ache yi      Ozioshi onon

Woman the    give+past    drink to    girl        the

“The woman    gave+past    drink    to    the    girl”

House/houses; Ireshi/Ireshi enen as in Etuno

Class or gender marking partitions the sets of nouns into subject e.g. in Etuno Onoru-man/Oyene-woman Ozioshi-girl/Omusha-boy.

Some examples of definite distinction are a man vs the man as in Etuno Onoru – a man/Onoru onon- the man.

Nouns can be classified into three major types proper noun, (common nouns, count and non-count nouns.

## 2.1 The Noun Phrase

This is the category of a sentence structure that codes the participant of the event or state described by the verb. The NP is headed by a noun or pronoun and its by the virtue of its headedness that the phrase is called Noun Phrase (NP). The head of the phrase is the single and that can stand for the whole constructions. We may have features of NP like numbers (singular or plural), gender (masuline or feminine) and case (nominative , accusative or oblique) for languages that codes these attribute morphologically e.g. English.

The NP can be found in different constituent in the sentence.

- In the subject position.
- In the object position.

As object of the preposition.

According to Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum (1973:59); the noun phrase typically functions as subject, object, complement of

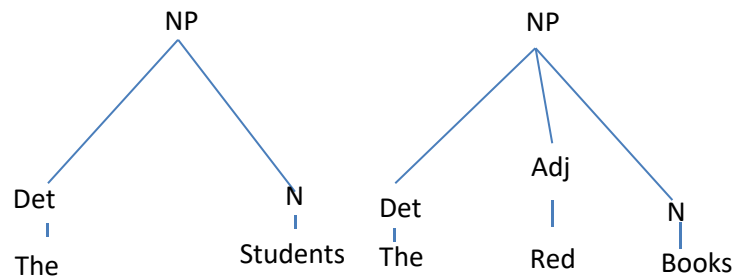
sentences and as complement in prepositional phrases. Consider the different subject in the following.

- (a) The girl
  - (b) The pretty girl
  - (c) The pretty girl in the corner.
  - (d) The pretty girl who became angry
  - (e) She
- } Is Mary

B.A. Okolo & P.A Ezikeojiaku (1999), explains that the member of each lexical category also share certain combinational properties. This means that it can combine with certain other types of words to form larger units. The word that we have grouped together as noun can all combine with determiners and adjectives to form larger phrases such as the following.

- (a) The book.
- (b) The red books.

In the above example, the adjective ‘Red’ modifies the noun books while the determiner, the speaker has in mind a definite set of books such as group of word called a noun phrase, can be represented by either a tree diagram or a set of labeled bracket as shown below:



In the diagram above, each word is marked by the appropriate lexical category label and is shown to be part of a larger phrasal unit (NP). Evidence that NP’s are syntactic units comes from the fact that they can often be replaced by a single word such as the pronoun they or it as in the example below.

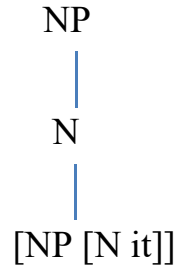
(2) The student read the red book, and the then they returned it to the library (they = the students, it = the red books).

Even though in the sequence of words the red book is longer and contains more information, than the single word ‘it’, both are NP’s and

both occur in the same place in the sentences. Infact a pronoun can replace any NP. no matter how long or complex it may be. In the example below it can replace the considerably longer NP.

(3) The red book that the teacher almost forgot to remind the student to return to the library was banned by the task force.

From the syntactic point of view, a pronoun like it or he counts as a full NP, even though it would appear in the dictionary as a pronoun only one word long.



According to R.M.W. Dixon (1991:20-21); A noun phrase (Np) can be just a pronoun (e.g. she) or a proper noun e.g. Shirley) or it can have a common noun (e.g. mountain, boy) as head. It is not ordinarily permissible to omit the noun head; if no specific head is stated, the form one may be used (.e. the big one rather than just the big). A multitude of element may precede the head of an NP.

- (a) Pre-determiner, e.g. all (of), both (of), one quarter (of):
- (b) A determiner which can be an article (the a), a demonstrative (e.g. this, those) or possessive word or NP (my, John's, the old man's).
- (c) A superlative (tallest, most beautiful) or comparative (taller, more beautiful); and/or a cardinal number (three) or a quantifier (many, few).
- (d) An ordinal number e.g. (fourth).
- (e) One or more adjectival modifies.

(f) One or more modifier describing; composition (wooden, vegetable), origin/style (British), purpose/beneficiary (rabbit in rabbit food).

All possibility (a) – (f) are unlikely all to be taken up a single NP: although it is theoretically possible to say something like; some of

(a) the

(b) best

(c) fifteen

(d) new

(e) shiny

(f) plastic

Following the head there can be any or all of the followed by an NP which refers to something in syntactic relation to the head; the relation may vary as illustrated by the arrival of the chief-corresponding to the chief arrived

NP

The destruction of the city corresponding to someone/something destroyed the city and the leaves of tree corresponding to the possessive construction-the tree leaves.

According to Fromkin V., Robert, R. & Hymas N. (1978:125-126).

A family of expression that can substitute for one another without loss of grammaticality is called a syntactic category. The child, a police officer and so on belong to the syntactic category noun phrase (NP), NP's may function as the subject or as an object in a sentence. NPs often contain a determiner (like a or the) and a noun, but they may also consist of a proper name, a pronoun, a noun without a determiner, or even a clause or sentence. Even though a proper noun like John and pronoun such as he and him are single words, they are technically NPs, because they pattern like NPs is being able to fill a subject or object or other NP slot.

NPs can be more complex as illustrated by the sentence; The girl that Paris loved married the man of her dreams. The NP subject of this

sentence is the girl that Paris loved and the NP object is the man of her dreams.

The noun phrase therefore is a very basic constituent that make up the sentence structure of all languages. When a noun phrase is not present in a sentence construction it means there is a problem with the sentence. Hence, the important component that makes up a sentence is the noun phrase and verb phrase. The noun phrase functions is subject or object in a sentence. The noun phrase construct differ from language to language. In Etuno language, the noun phrase can be a word or a string of words.

The noun, in the noun phrase is referred to as the head in the noun phrase i.e. every phrasal category, has a head of it same syntactic type. NPs are head by nouns VPs are headed by verbs etc.

## **2.2 Previous Studies**

In contra-distinction to languages like Edo, Yoruba etc little work has been done on Etuno language. In as much as one cannot help but notice that such works were not done by linguists, not even by those trained in the field of language or other related fields. That is the majority

of the books written are by native speakers or indigenes who have little or indigene who have no linguistic background. Some of these works are stated below:

Amune (1983) – ‘Brief History of Igarra and her neighbours’, This work majors on the history of Etuno speakers and the language. It also describes the caliber of people surrounding the Etuno-speakers and their various languages.

Ogumah (1992), attempts a study of the sound of the language. He investigates naming, interference and list of words among other issues.

Okuo and Onaivi (1993), trace the history and cultures of the Etuno people and also focuses on the naming system of the language, the geographical location and lineage of rules of the ‘Etuno people are also considered. Though no major work have been done on Etuno noun phrase hence our previous studies will be emphasis of the noun phrases and not limited to Etuno language.

Noun phrases in English can come in different patterns.

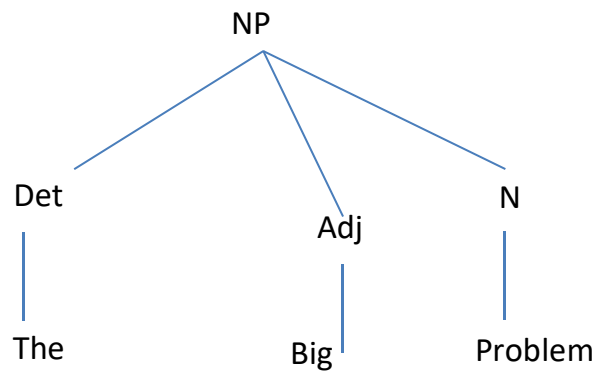
- (i) N
- (ii) Det N
- (iii) Det, Adj, N.

As seen in the example below:

The big idea is the bone of contention

The first underlined schema depicts the noun phrase comprising of:

- (a) A determiner → The
- (b) An adjective → big
- (c) A noun → idea

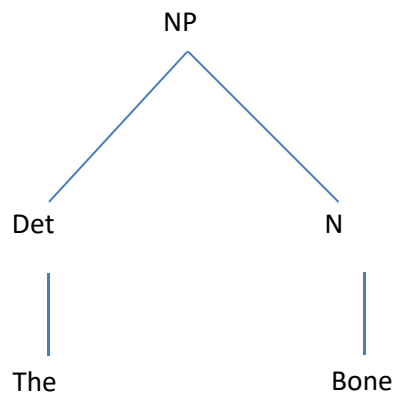


The second underlined schema depicts the noun phrase comprising

of:

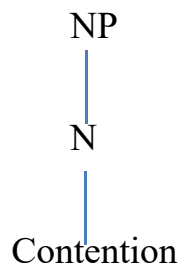
(a) Determiner → The

(b) Noun → bone



The third underlined schema sees the NP comprising of just a noun.

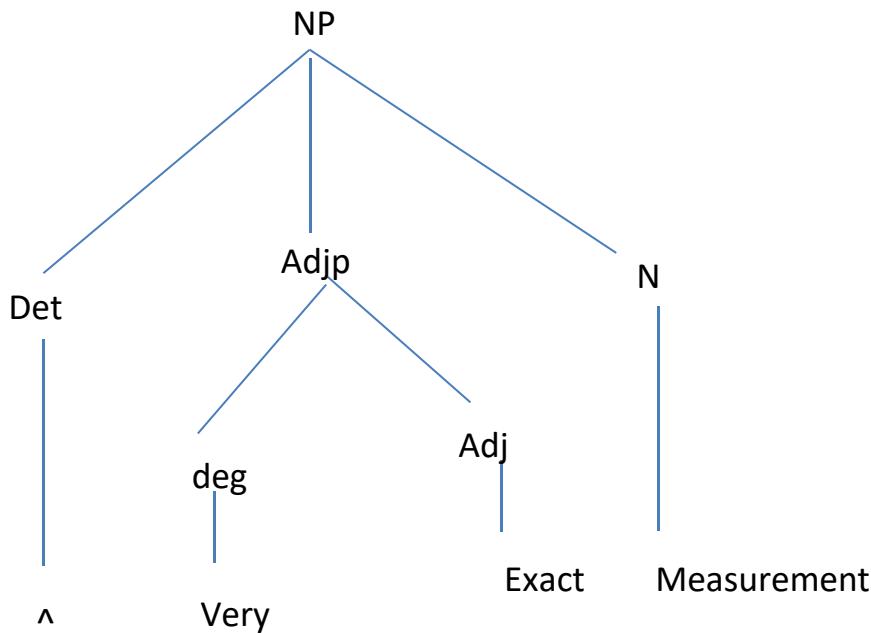
Noun – contention



Hence, as seen in the three schema the first NP is called the nominative case (subject), the second NP called accusative case (direct object) the third NP called the oblique case.

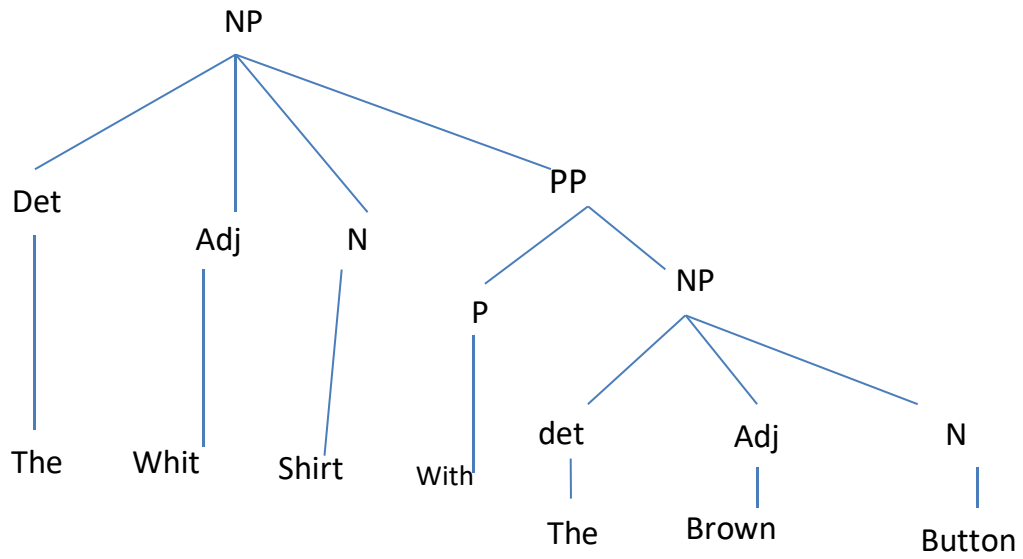
Det + Adjp + N eg

A    very    exact    measurement  
 |    |       |       |  
 Det deg    adj    N



(2) Det + adj + N + pp eg.

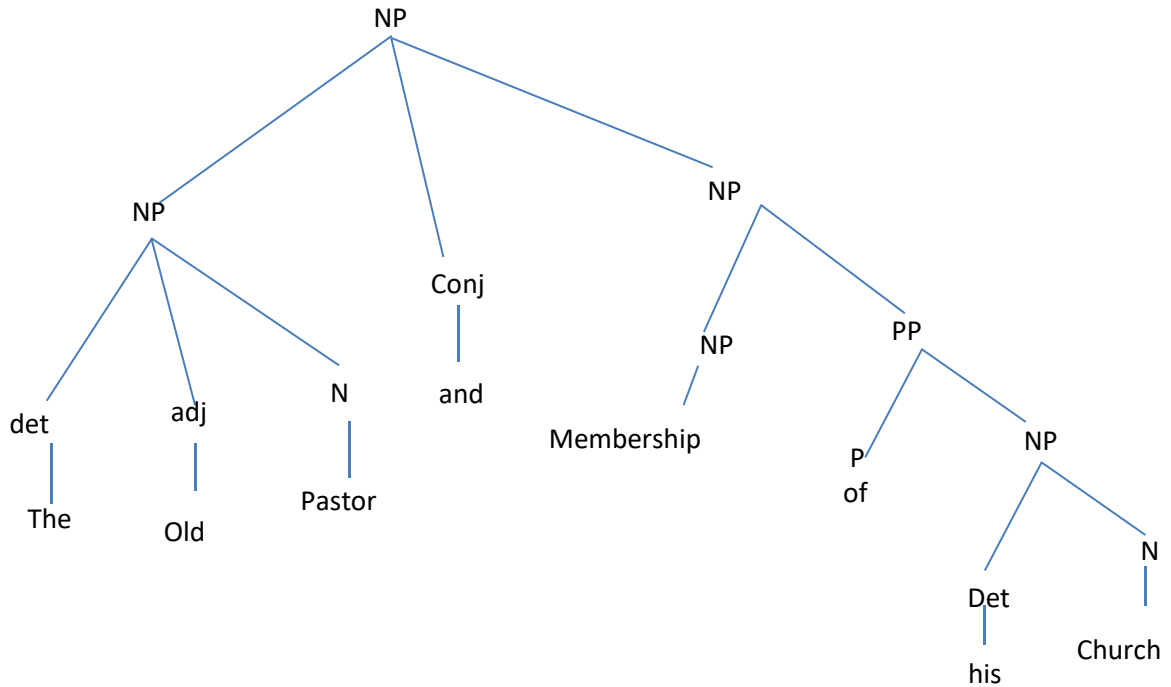
The    white    Shirt    With    the    brown buttons  
 |    |       |       |    |    |  
 det adj    N       prep det adj    N



(3) NP + Conj + NP e.g.

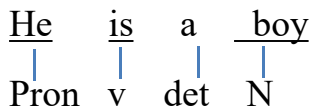
Ade and Olu

(b) The old pastor and member of his church  
 det adj N Conji N prep det N



### 2.3 Present Studies

As occurred in the previous studies where only nominals (Nouns) make up the head of a noun phrase, we now observe in this modern literature where pronouns as well as adjectives in what is so called adjectival noun occupying the head mode of the noun phrase. Examples of these with pronouns occupying the head of a noun phrase are:



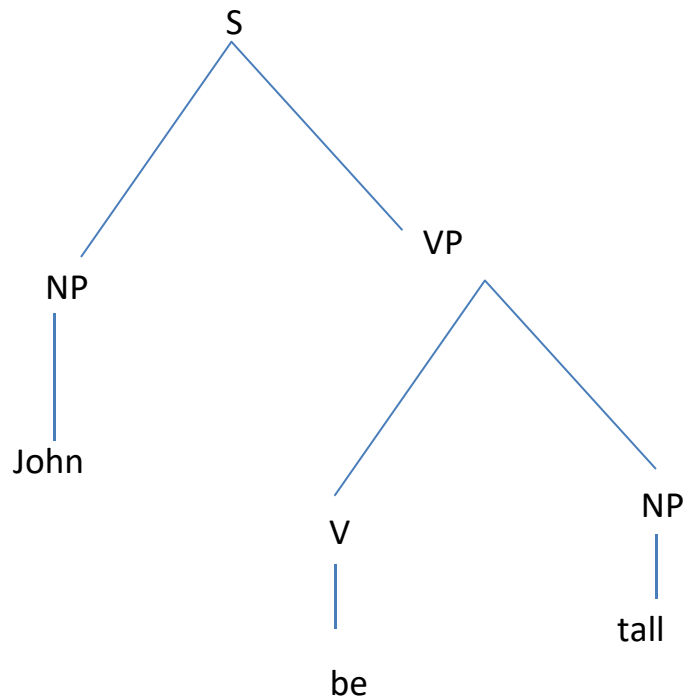
As observed in the sentence are two NP's

(a) NP → Pron - 'He'

(b) NP → Det + N 'a boy'

(2) Adjectives occupying the head of a noun phrase.

John	is	tall
N	V	N (adjectival noun)



**b) White Is the colour.**

The adjective white plays the role of a noun in the sentence hence the head of the noun phrase at the subject position.

In view of all these examples, one could see several modification though rule governed as occurred in English sentence structure. However all these occur, their roles and the changes that arises in Etuno language (if at all any), however will be made evident in our subsequent chapters (chapter 3 and 4).

Some relevant Data in Etuno Language

Noun Phrases:

Noun → N     e.g; Ojo a Ve

N

Ojo is coming

Imoto a na

N

Motor is going.

N + Det → Ozi Onon  
 Child this  
 This Child

evu enen

goat those

those goat

N + Adj + Det e.g

Onyi	ami	Oiza
Mother	my	good
My	good	mother
Imoto	Ovivi	onon
Motor	red	that
That	red	motor.

NP + Conji + NP eg.

Irisi	Onri	eza
Rice	and	beans

NP + Conj + NP

eku	onri	ochi
-----	------	------

NP + NP

Iresu	Isenyi
Head	fish
Head of fish	

## CHAPTER THREE

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 6.0 Introduction

Chomsky's "Syntactic Structures" (1957), was confronted with a lot of criticism because of its obvious inadequacies, major amongst which was that it did not give any consideration to semantic (or the semantic component of language). Due to the numerous criticisms, the syntactic structure was realized in 1965 as the 'Standard Theory'. However, due to the fact that the standard theory could not totally account for the inadequacies of syntactic structures. It has also been undergoing gradual changes starting in the early 1970s with the "Extended Standard Theory" and was later revised as the "Revised Extended Standard Theory" (R.E.S.T) then Chomsky came up with the Government and Binding in 1981.

Government and Binding (G.B), is conceived of as a set of principles which syntactic constructions must obey to the letter in order to be certified as grammatical in a given language. Government and Binding

approaches grammatical analysis from a modular perspectives. G.B is interpreted as a set of autonomous sub-systems with one system generating an output which serves as input for another system. These systems are inter-woven, it is a system of checks and balances which one every derivations in a language has to satisfy a number of modules before they can be certified as grammatical.

Furthermore, G.B. Theory posits that the grammar of languages consist of series of modules which are constraints and principles that governs the wellformedness of the output of the transformational components of the grammar of languages. Some of these modules includes; X – bar Theory, Case Theory, the Then Government Theory, Binding Theory, and Control Theory.

However, some of these theory have no relevant application in this work, this work will be centered on the X –bar theory as is theoretical framework.

### **3.1 The Lexicon**

According to Cooper (1992), “The lexicon basically refers to the total list of words in a language”. The word list of a language is infinite, it is capable to removing or rejecting old and archaic lexical items and it is also capable of adding or including new lexical items depending on the environment of the language and its linguistic interaction with other languages within the environment which the language is located.

Every language has lexical items in categories as specified by Universal Grammar(U.G). in Etuno language for example, each word has its own lexical properties (i.e. morphology–phonological structures). The categorial features specifies whether the lexical item in question is a noun, a verb, an adjective or a preposition. The sub-categorial features in a language determines the category type it chooses as it’s compliments.

According to Radford (1988:146), lexical items in languages are of the following categories.

Noun                    [+N -V]

Verb                    [+ N +V]

Adjectives            [+N + V]

Preposition           [-N -V]

This is exemplified in Etuno in the example below:

<b>Etuno</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Categorical Features</b>
Kaira	Cook	[+V -N]
Oweyi	Small	[+V +N]
Ovoshe	About	[- V - N]
Situo	Put	[+V - N]
Chere	Write	[+V - N]
Ozigodo	Short	[+V - N]
Chire	Wear	[+ V - N]
Ini	On,in	[-V - N]

These examples shows that lexical items are considered either as verbal/nonverbal, which is interpreted as [+V - N], nominal/non nominal, interpreted as [+N-V]. The categories Adjectives and prepositions are

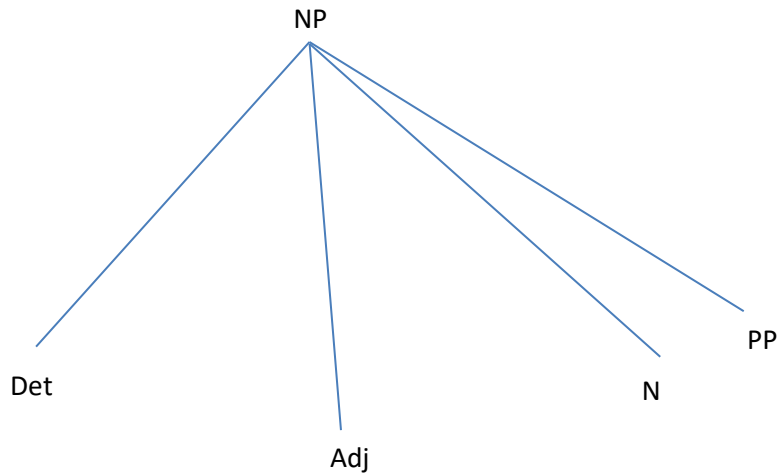
interpreted as [+N + V] and [-N -V] respectively. In the subcategorization frame, the position marked by [+N] indicates that the lexical item in question occupies such a position and it is immediately followed by an appropriate complement.

### **3.2 The X – Bar Theory**

The notion of the X-bar theory was first introduced into grammatical analysis by Chomsky (1970). In his article entitled “remarks on nominalization” and was later popularized by Jackendoff (1977). This theory played a very crucial role in GB. This theory (X – bar) was later reviewed under the Government and Bindings principles and Parameters motion in the year (1981, 1984 and 1986). Apart from accounting for word order, X<sup>1</sup> – convention arose out of the need to seek remedies to the inadequacies of phrase structure grammar (PSG).

The conception of lexical projection Chomsky (1957, 1965) was that all lexical categories project maximally. However, development new insight and revision have however shown that this position might be faulty. Chomsky (1981), thus argued that if for every position, there has to

be a head, then what could that head be in a situation where more than one head projects maximally as in fig (2) below.



It will be observed from the example above that the determiner, (Det), the Adjective (Adj), the Noun (N) and the prepositional phrase (PP) all project maximally to the noun phrase (NP). The question that arises is which among all the heads has the representation of the noun phrase?

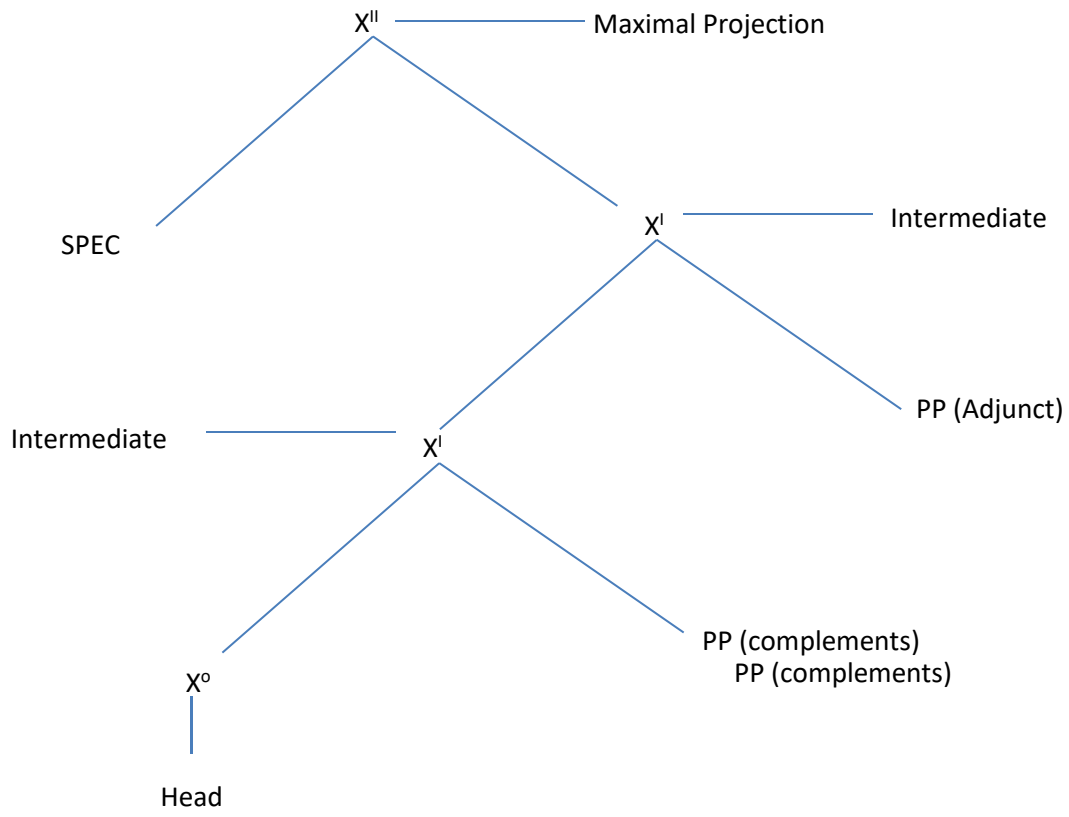
Chomsky (1981), argued that only a single head word can project maximally, such a head word must have the features of the maximal

projection. Thus an NP must have a noun as its headword. All others i.e. element head. As how in fig (3) below.



The diagram above shows that  $X^0$  has the capacity to project to an  $X^I$  which in turn may (optional) project to another  $X^I$  which then projects to an  $X^{II}$ .

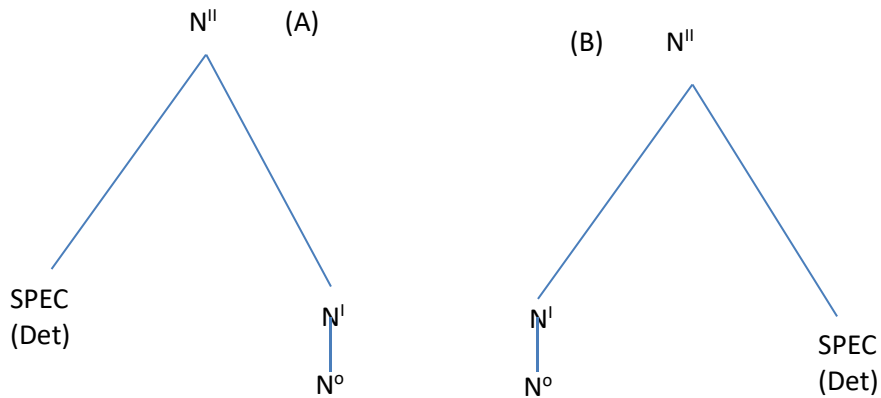
The  $X^0$  constitutes the lexical category (i.e. head of the projection). Therefore  $X^0$  can be  $N^0$ ,  $V^0$  and  $P^0$  as the case may be. Both the  $X^0$ ,  $X^I$  and  $X^{II}$  are unavoidably obligatory while the  $X^I$  which may be recursive may likely project into either an adjunct or complements (depending on the sentence) as shown in fig. (4) below.



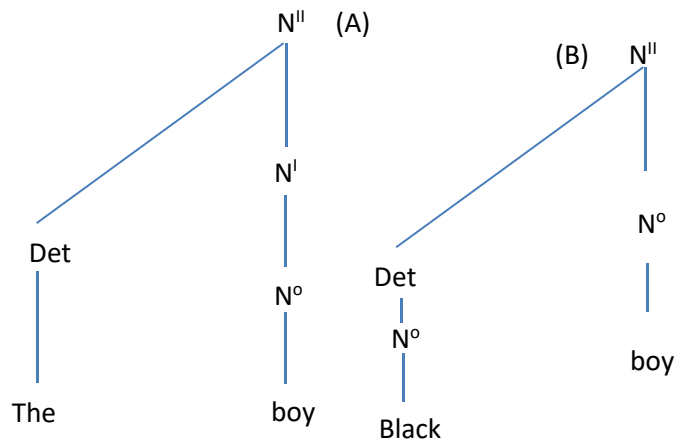
From fig (4) above it will be observed that the projection of  $X^0$  to  $X^{\text{II}}$  is channeled through a modifying prepositional phrases (PP) complement into an  $X^{\text{I}}$  projection (category). This  $X^{\text{I}}$  in turn is recursive hence the projection into another  $X^{\text{I}}$  category that is the PP adjunct category. This modifying PP adjunct eventually links to the maximal projection  $X^{\text{II}}$  among side an additional specifier position (which serves as a handing site in case of any movement).

Fig (4) above is the standard version which is subject to parametric various as long as various languages of the world are concerned. Also, the project  $X^0$  (the zero level category) is that of a lexical item (as state earlier),  $X^{\text{II}}$  is the highest of maximal projection the phrase can get to. Between  $X^0$  and  $X^{\text{II}}$  there is the  $X^{\text{I}}$  level which at least one must be present and sometimes it may be recursive. There serves as an intermediate projection.

Furthermore, Koopman (1983:3), as regard the parametric variation (mentioned above) specifies between the head first (initial) and head last (final) NP categories consider fig (5) below.



Any language(s) that follows format (A) above is said to be a head last (final) language in that the nouns in the language follows the modifier (which could be determinant, Articles, and adjectives). This is shown in the English exyamples in fig(6) and (7) English been a head last language.



It will be observed from the English examples above that in fig (6) the which is a determiner comes before the noun boy, also in fig(7) the (det) and black (adjective) both comes before the noun boy. This then clearly shows the head last characteristics of English NPS.

### 3.3 Noun Phrase

Etuno language on the other hand is a head first language. The noun phrase generally occupies two major constituent slots in Etuno language it can occur in the subject position as the agent of the action specified by the verb. The noun head is noted as the N<sup>o</sup>. In general the noun phrase can be made p of a noun and an optional modifies. Inn the midst of these modifiers is the noun which as mentioned above is the only obligatory element of the noun phrase. As others are, optional. The noun head is noted as the No<sup>o</sup> ‘as motioned earlier. Take for example the Etuno noun phrase below.

(a) Ozi

“Child”

(b) Ozi ɔnɔn

“the child”

In the example above it can be seen that the Etuno noun head does not necessarily need the determiner, that is it functions also as an optional modifier, unlike in English where in most cases the determiner may be required. More examples of Etuno noun phrase are:

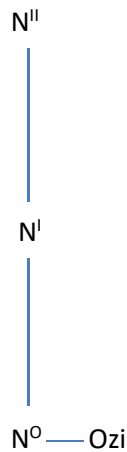
(c) Ozi Oweyi ɔnɔn  
Child small the  
“the small child”

(d) Ozi Ovivi ɔnɔn  
Child fair the  
“the fair child”

The example above (Ozi) “child” functions as the head noun while every other element is a modifier. These examples above are subject to parametric variation (Radford 1988:273) in that every language” determines the order of its constituents, so that in a language where the modifiers follow the head noun; language is said to be Head first and when modifiers precedes the head noun, the language is said to be a head

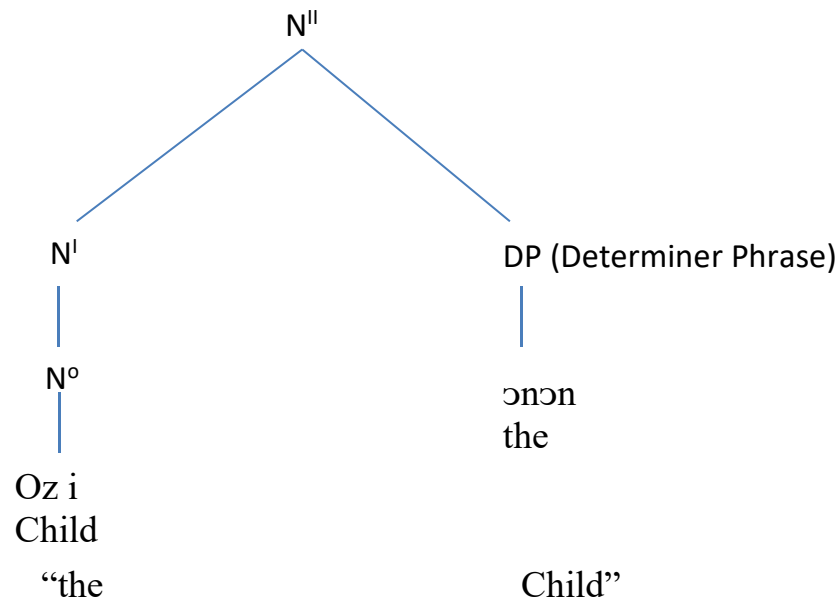
last language. Form the example above, it is a very clear fact that Etuno is a Head first language.

The X-bar notation for an head first language will be representing the head first parameter. It is also an obvious fact that in the example (2a–c) that the determiner comes last in Etuno noun phrase i.e. every other modifier follows the noun head before the determiner. The diagram below can be said to represent some previous example given above.



It is a rule without any modifier (adjunct or complements) and it project just a single head maximally. It is the way the characteristics of the head are exhibited in every projection.

The next tree diagram which is representing the example in (b) gives an instance, where the determiner functions as a constituent delimiting the noun and also functioning as a definite article showing that there is a particular child that is being described.



In concision the x-bar theory is a theory of phrase structure. That is, it is a theory of what constitutes a possible phrase in a natural language. The x-bar theory specifies what constitutes a phrase. Every phrase has a head the verb arrest(ed) is the head of a verb phrase (VP), the noun president is the head of a noun phrase (NP) and so on. A phrase like such as ‘him’ in arrest him that bears a close relationship to the head is called

the complement. Determiners be represented as SPEC. a constituent that is neither a complement nor a specifier is an adjunct.

The x-bar theory deals with the relationship between the head of a construction and the elements that are dependent on it (complement). The categories N, V and Adj are lexical categories and they constitute the heads of their corresponding phrasal expansion.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter sets out to examining the noun phrase of Etuno language. The focus of this chapter is to examine the internal structure of the Etuno noun phrase with the aim of investigating how the different constituent that make up the noun phrase are combined and arranged in the phrase and also we want to examine the functions of other noun phrase modifier (i.e. Determiners, Demonstratives and Adjective) in the Etuno noun phrase and finally we will also examine the functional role(s) of the NP in the Etuno basic clause. All these will be examined using the x-bar framework.

#### **4.1 Data Presentation**

This section aims to present data showing the various categories of the Etuno Noun Phrase. Alongside the Head Noun, there are other

constituent which come before the noun that combine to form the Noun Phrase. This constituents are presented below in Etuno language:

1. Imoto - Motor = NP → N
2. Onoru Onon - The Man = NP → DET + N
3. Ireshi Onon gedegede - That exact house = NP → DET + ADJ + N
4. Epe Epefu Oyami - My mother's Okro Soup = NP → POSS + N + N
5. Uno Ojoji onon – That black cow = NP → DEMO + ADJ + N
6. Ada Ozoku onri ozi omusha onon – The old man and the young Child = NP → DET + ADJ + N + CONJ + N
7. Oshinoyi ana Etuno – The king of Igarra = NP → DET + N + P + N
8. Ireshi Enefuwa – Enefuwa's house = NP → N + N
9. Ivata, Okuku oweyi onon – the small, old shoe = NP →  
DET + ADJ + ADJ + N
10. Ojo onri Onimisi – Ojo and Onimisi = NP → N + CONJ + N
11. Iwoli onon – The Prophet = NP → DET + N
12. Ozioshi Ozozo – The beautiful girl = NP → DET + ADJ + N
13. Iresu Omomoro Opaco onon – The tortoise bald head = NP →  
DET + N + ADJ + N

14. Ishishine oweyi onon – The small ant = NP → DET+ADJ+N

15. Upe Obani – Big festival = NP → ADJ+N

## 4.2 The Noun Phrase

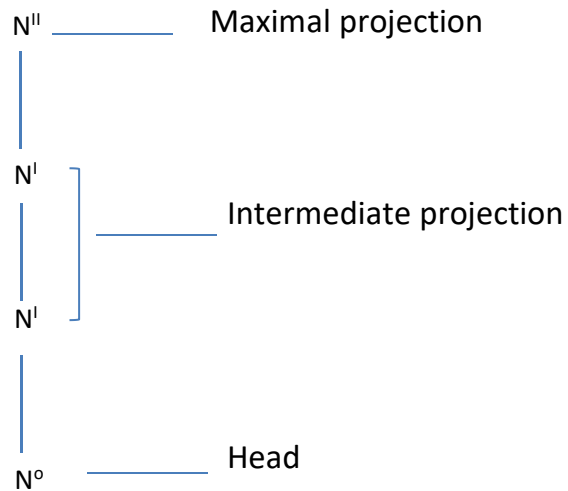
Yusuf (1992:197) explained that noun and its satellites form a noun phrase (NP) Yusuf (1997:8) also said that, “the phrase is the category that codes the participants in the event or state described by the verb in a sentence or clause”.

The dictionary of linguistics and phonetics also explained that, the construction into which nouns commonly enter and which are the head word are generally called noun phrase. The structure of a noun phrase consists maximally of the noun which usually occupies the  $N^0$  position under the x-bar schema.

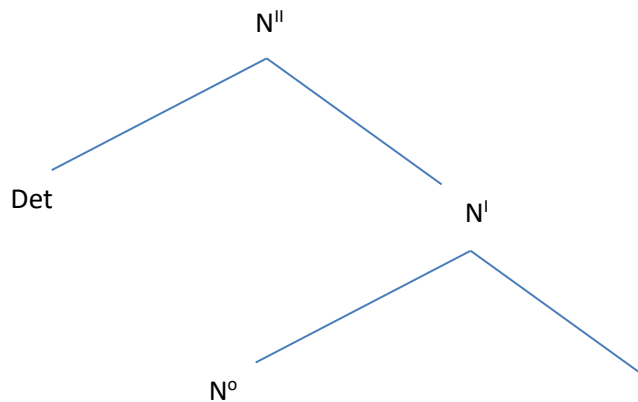
Collins (1990), described noun phrase as one of the important constituent of grammatical structure based on their multiple functions.

The noun, phrase under x-bar schema has a noun at the  $N^0$  position (which is the nominal head), this noun can project to a  $N^I$  (which may be

recursive) then it projects maximally to  $N^{II}$  which is the maximally projection as shown in fig. 1 below.



However, a complete graphical representation of the NP is shown below fig. 2.



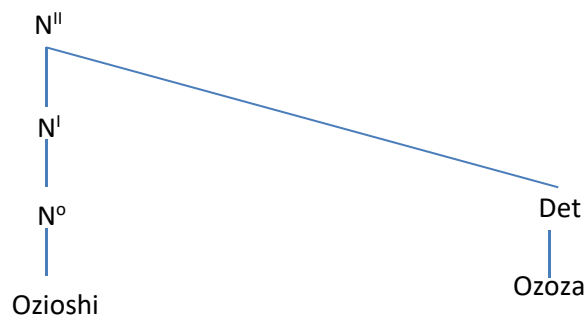
Furthermore, the structure of the NP shown above are according to Radford (1988), subject to parametric variations. This means that every language determines the order of it's constituents in the NP. Some languages determines that modifiers in the language comes after the noun in the NP, such languages are referred to as Head first languages, which in some other languages, the determiner and the other modifier come before the noun. Such languages are referred to as Head first Language. Etuno is a head first language in that modifiers comes after the noun in the language as shown in the example below.

1 (i) Ozioshi Ozoza

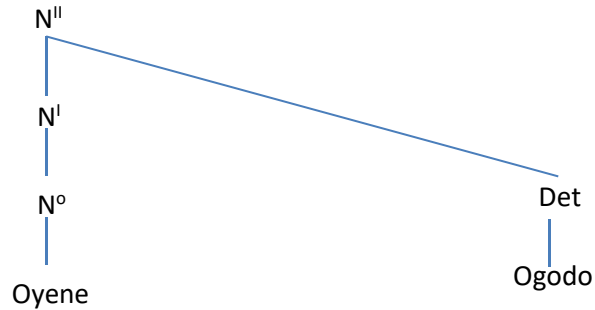
Girl beautiful

“Beautiful girl”

Fig (3)



- (ii) Oyene ogodo  
 Woman tall  
 (Tall woman)



### 4.3 The Internal Structure of the Etuno Noun Phrase

The noun phrase can be made up of a noun and optional modifiers in the midst of these modifiers is the noun which is the only obligatory elements in the NP. All other modifiers are optional.

The NP can be structured in ways and patterns shown below.

NP → Noun – Noun

NP → Determiner + Noun + Det + N

The representation above shows the internal structure of the NP –  
The NP can contain only a noun and it can consist of a noun and a  
determiner.

### **4.3.1 Determiners**

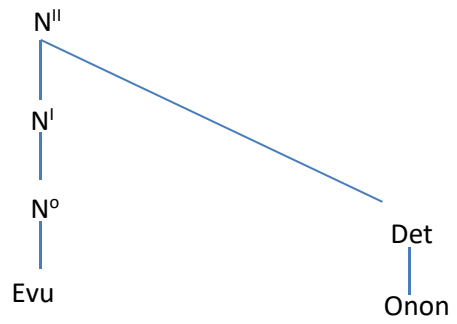
Determiners are functioning words within the noun phrase. Determiners are those elements which compliment the noun head. They are of a limited class of noun modifiers that determines the referent of noun phrase. What determiners do is that they serve to make an utterance definite, indefinite and possessive as the case may be depending on the one used.

Determiners in Etuno includes, Articles Demonstratives, Numerals, Adjectives and Possessives.

Examples of these; are shown below.

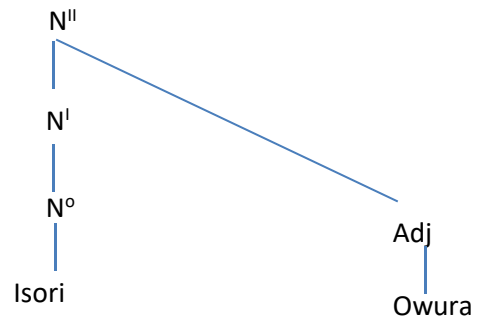
2.i. Evu onon  
Goat the  
(the goat)

Fig. 5

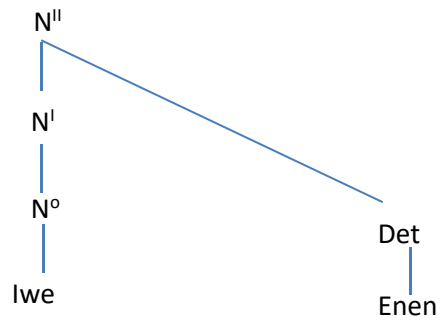


ii. Isori Owura  
Food hot  
“Hot food”

Fig. 6



iii. Iwe enen Fig. 7  
book these  
“these books”

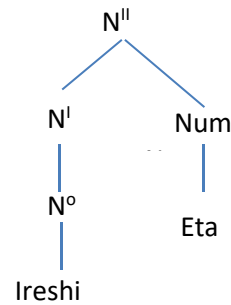


iv. Ireshi Eta

book these

“Three Houses”

Fig. 8



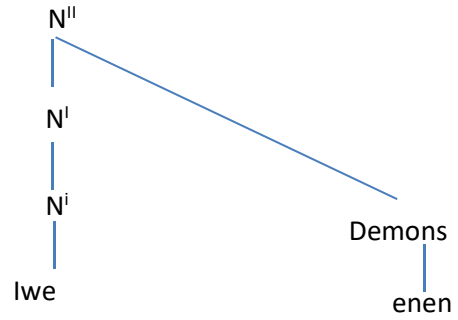
The above examples, show determiners in Etuno, first example shows the articles, the second shows adjectives, the third shows demonstratives while the last shows number. However, we will now be examining these determinants in details one after the other.

#### 4.3.2 Demonstrative

Demonstratives, specifies the relative distance of an objective from the speaker. Sometimes, in some instances, they serve descriptive purposes. Demonstratives in Etuno like all other nominal modifiers comes after the noun head as shown in example (3) below.

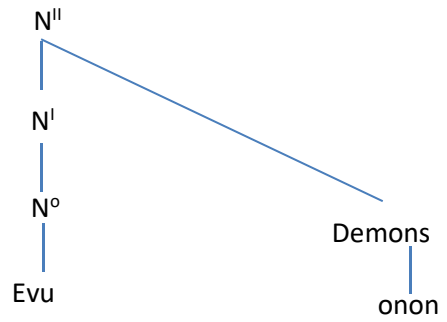
(i) Iwe enen  
 book these  
 these books

Fig. 9



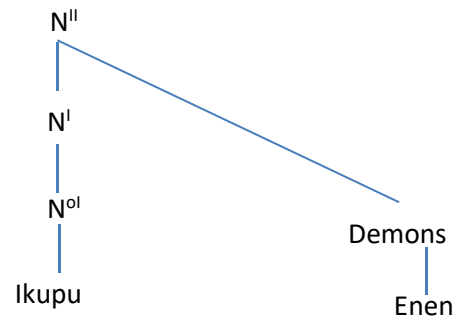
(ii) Evu onon  
 goat this  
 'this goat'

Fig. 10



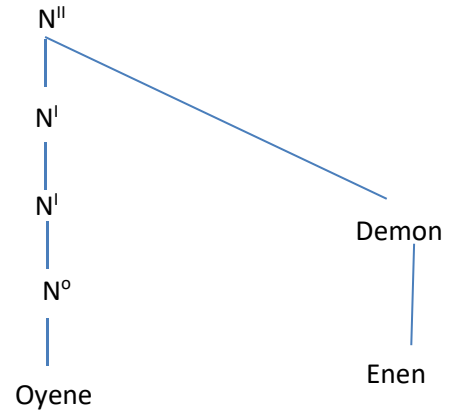
(iii) Ikupu  
 Cup these  
 'Those cups'

Fig. 11



(iv) Oyene onon  
 Woman that  
 “that woman”

Fig. 12



The example above shows that demonstratives in Etuno as it is observed that the demonstrative ‘that’ and ‘this’ are represented by the same morpheme ‘Onon’ while the plural forms (i.e. Those and these) are represented with “Enen”. Some we can rightly conclude that ‘Onon’ is used to denote proximity for singular objects while ‘Enen’ are used to show proximity for plural objects.

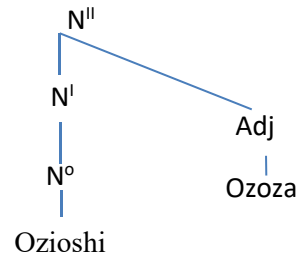
### 4.3.3 Adjectives

The noun can also be premodified by an adjective. Lamidi (2000:73), describes adjectives as words that can modify a noun and can also be modified by adverbials.

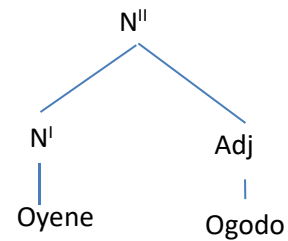
Adjectives are words that are used to qualify nouns. They serve a distinguishing purpose in terms of degree, level or value. Due to the

Head-first nature of the Etuno language, the adjectives, occur after the lexical heads of the noun phrase (the noun comes first and then the adjectives). This can be thus:

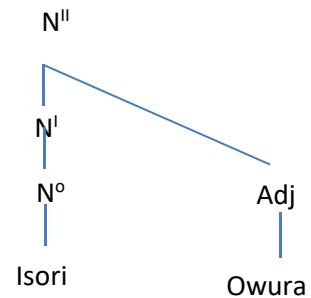
4 i Ozioshi Ozoza Fig. 13  
 Girl Beautiful  
 'Beautiful girl'

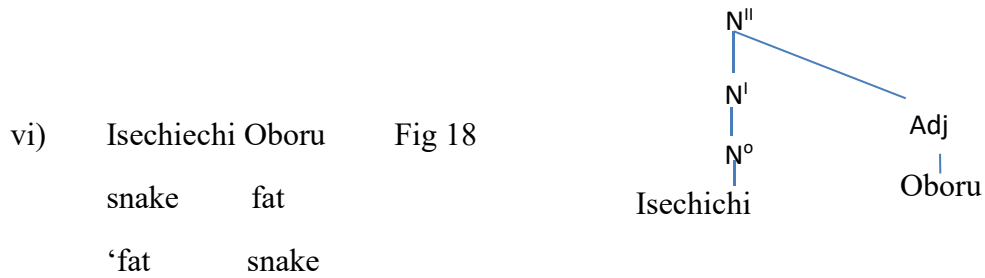
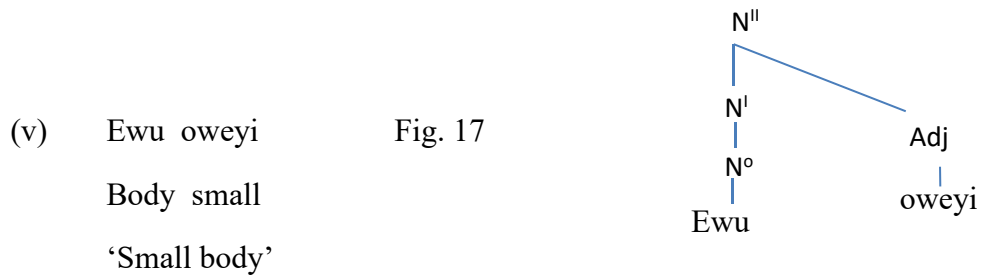
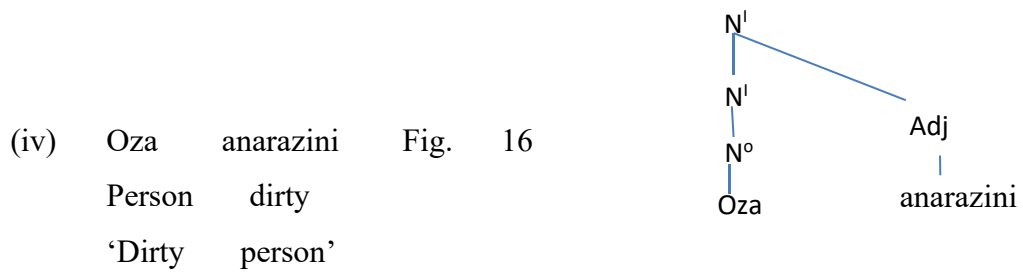


(ii) Oyene Ogodo Fig. 14  
 Woman tall  
 'tall woman'



(iii) Isori Owura Fig. 15  
 Food Hot  
 Hot Food

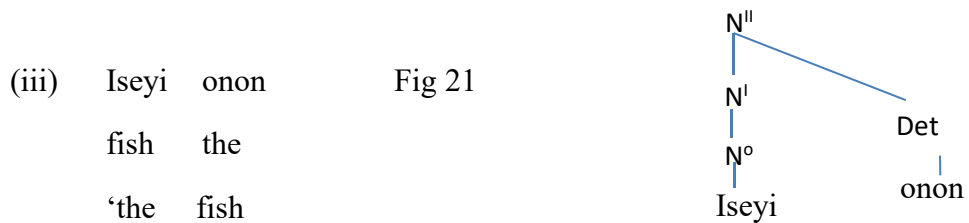
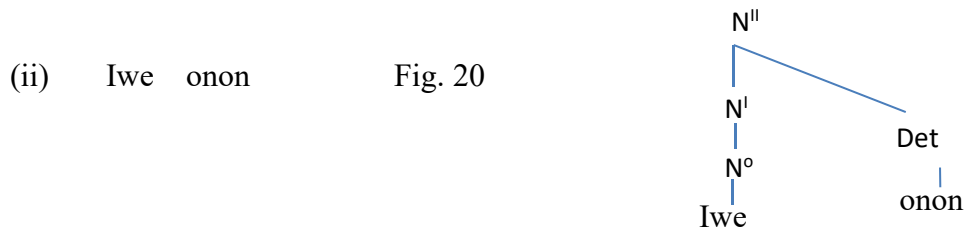
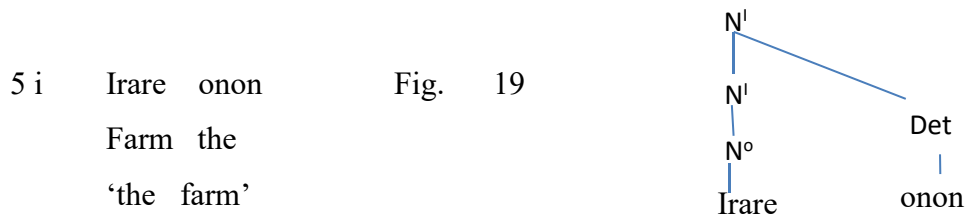




The examples above shows that adjective in Etuno as we have observed play a strict qualifying role in the noun phrase (NP).

### 4.3.4 Articles

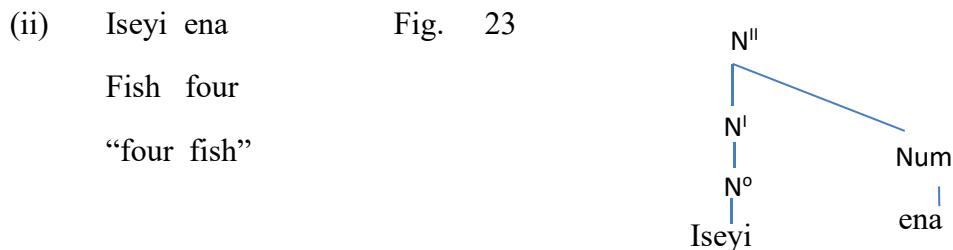
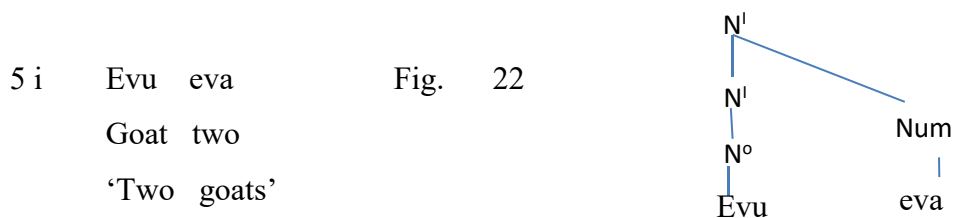
Articles are used to show the definiteness of the noun in the noun phrase. In Etuno, the article ‘the’ is represented with the morpheme ‘Onon’. This can be exemplified thus:



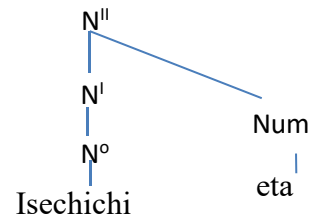
The above examples have shown articles in Etuno, which like every other modifier comes after the noun in the noun phrase. However, it is important to note that the articles a/an are not present in the language.

### 4.3.5 Numbers

Numbers according to Yuka (2008), are “limiting modifiers and are as expressive of the quantity of the modified nouns”. Number generally expresses the quantity of the noun. Number agreement in Etuno is expressed majorly by the use of number makers as shown in example (6) below.



- (iii) Isechichi eta  
 Snake three  
 “Three snakes”



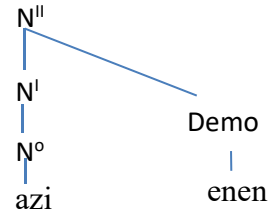
From the example above, it will be observed that number in Etuno is expressed by the use of number markers without it altering the form and structure of the nominals.

However, there are some nominal items in Etuno that their own plural forms. So when this class of nouns are used in their plural forms in Etuno they must be complemented with the appropriate possessive articles and number markers. Examples of the verbs with plural forms, are shown singular.

- i. oyaram – singular  
 eyaram –plural
  
- ii. gazi – children  
 ozi – child

Plural examples of these are shown in (7) below.

- i. azi enen  
 children these  
 ‘These children’



In general terms, numbers express the quantity of the modified nouns. Like every other modifiers in a head first language, numbers specification occurs after the noun. For example:

- (a) aga eva  
 chair two  
 “two chairs”

- (b) aruchi ena  
 trouser four  
 “four trousers”

it will also be noticed in the data below that number plays a very significant role in any Etuno construction especially with human being  
 e.g.

<b>Singular</b>	<b>Gloss</b>	<b>Plural</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
oyene	woman	ayene	woman
onoro	man	aneru	men
oza	person	aza	people
emi	me	eyi	we
ni	him/her	eni	they

From the data above it is obvious that Etuno pays particular attention to human beings because every term used in qualifying human beings, there is a plural counterpart, but this is not so with objects, take for example below.

i.a	iwe	eva
	book	two
	“two	books”
	iru	onya
	dress	one
i.b	irezi	ena
	dog	four
	‘four	dogs’

From the above we can notice that with objects numerals used in showing plurality. This can also happen eventually with human when being specific of their numbers e.g

i.c ezi           eva  
children   two  
“Two       children”

i.d aneru       eta  
men         three  
“three     men”

The role of the determiner in designating numbers leading to grammatical constructions cannot be ignored, where they are otherwise it will result in ungrammatical constructions.

ii.a Ezi           onon  
Children   the  
“The       children”

ii.b Ozi           Enen  
Child       those  
“Those    child”

ii.c Oyene Enen

Woman these

These women

Example is considered grammatical since the determiner specifies which children but (iib) and (iic) are both ungrammatical because the numbers of the determiners and the head noun do not correlate so that for a grammatical construction to be formed the determiner and the head noun must share similar number feature e.g.

iii.a Ezi Enen

Children these

These children

iii.b ayene enen

women those

“those women”

From the above we can say categorically that number is a factor that can not be ignored in the construction of grammatical sentence in Etuno.

#### **4.4 Grammatical Functions of the Noun Phrases in Etuno**

In Etuno, the noun phrase can perform different functions in the sentence. The function they perform in Etuno includes:

- (i) Subject of the sentence.
- (ii) Direct object of the sentence.
- (iii) Indirect object of the sentence.
- (iv) Complement of the sentence.

##### **4.4.1 Subject of the Sentence**

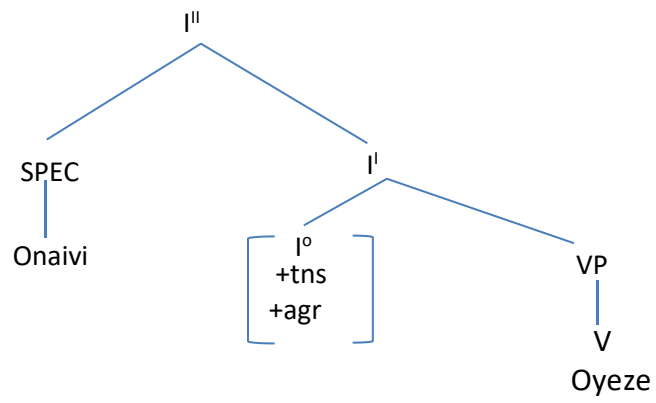
The noun phrase (NP) in Etuno, can function at sentence initial position, thereby serving at the subject of the sentence. The NP in Etuno, can serve as the performer of Agent of the action in the sentence. This can be exemplified below:

8 (i)

Onaivi oyeze

Onaivi dance

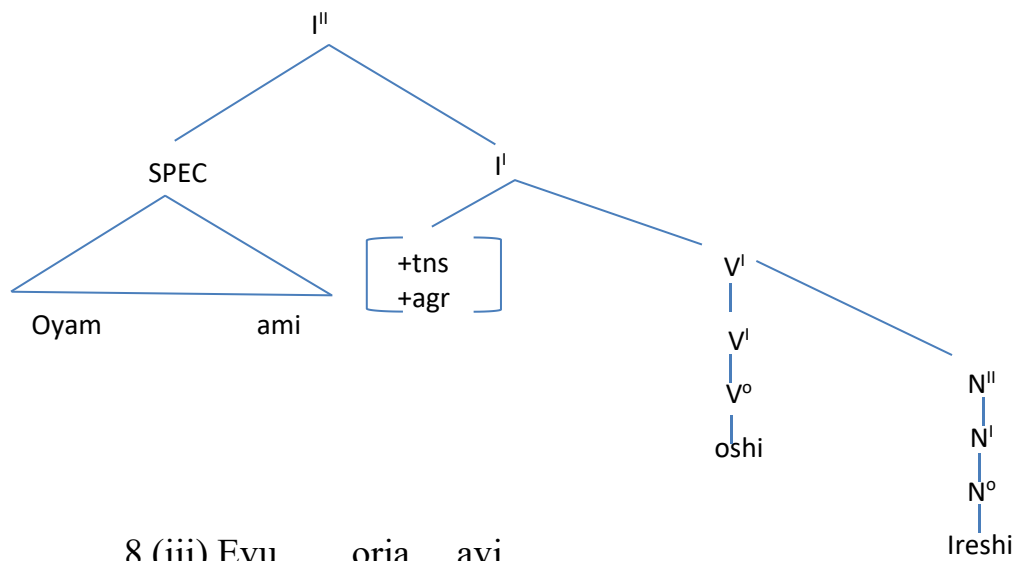
‘onaivi is dancing’



8 (ii) Oyam      ami   oshi   ireshi

Mother   me   bought   house

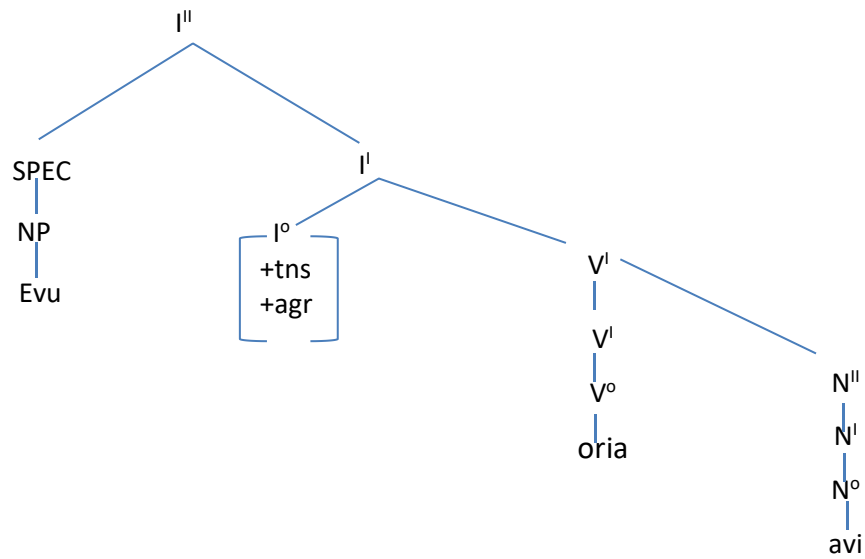
“my   mother   bought a house”



8 (iii) Evu      oria   avi

goat   eat   grass

“Goat is eating grass”



From the above illustrations, it can be observed that, the noun phrase occurs at the sentence-initial position as the subject of the sentence.

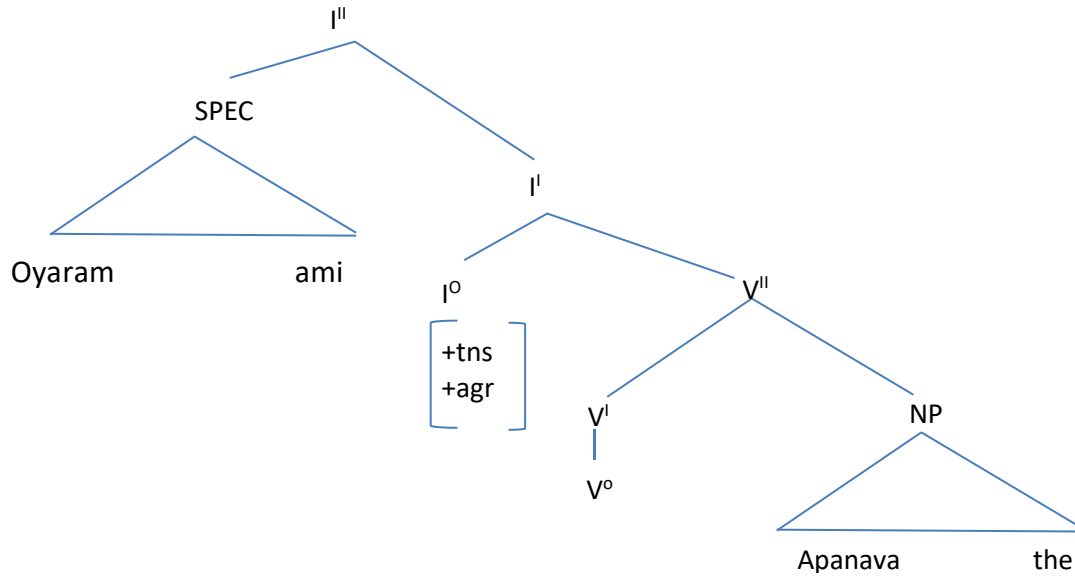
#### 4.4.2 Object of the Sentence

The noun phrase (NP) can also serve as the object of the sentences. This means the noun phrase can also serve as the recipient of the action in the sentence. The object of the sentence is of type of the sentence and indirect object of the sentence.

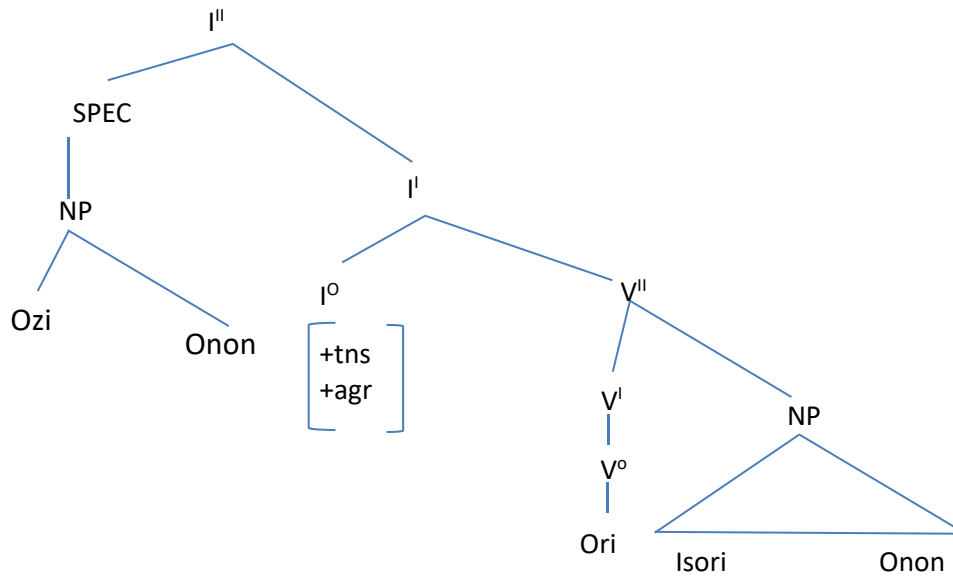
Direct object of the sentence refers to the noun phrase that receives the action of the verb directly, example of direct object NP's include.

9(i) Oyarami ami Ochaki apanava onon

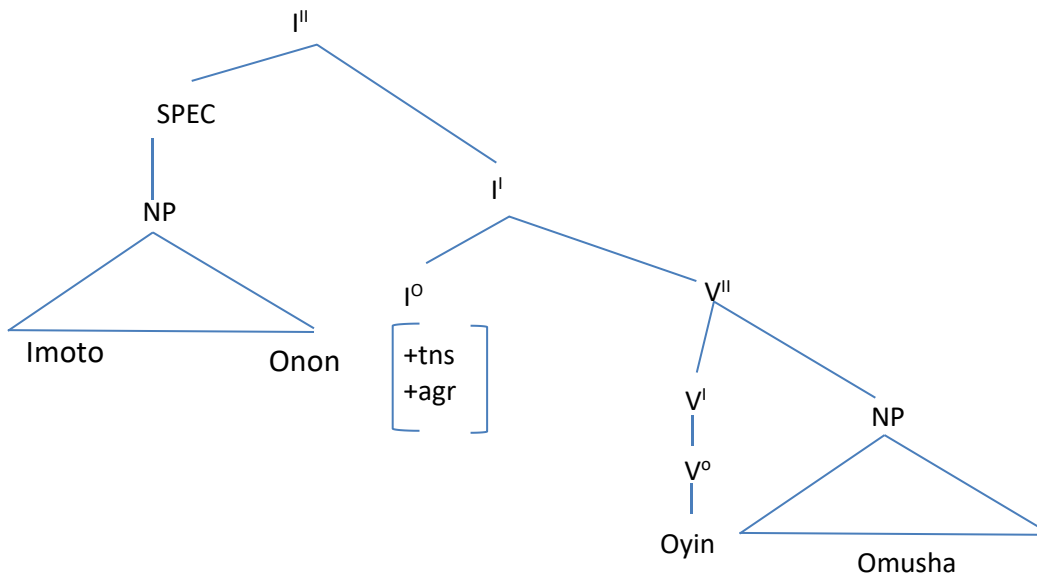
Brother my broke bottle the  
 “my brother broke the bottle”



(ii) Ozi onon ori isori onon  
 Child the eat food the  
 ‘the child ate the food’



(iii) Imoto onon oyin omusha  
 Car the hit boy  
 'The car hit the boy'



From the above illustration we can see that the NP, occurring after the verb is the one that receives the action of the verb.

#### **4.4.3 Indirect Object of the Sentence**

This refers to the noun phrase which receives action from the verb although not directly. The indirect object receives action from the direct object which in most case is an NP. The following construction indicate the position of the indirect object in the Etuno sentence.

e.g.

(10 i)

Imusa Osi Iwe yi Ojireshe

Musa give book to Ojireshe

(Musa gave Ojireshe a book)

(10 ii)

Ojo ocheri Ileta nayi Oziofu

Ojo wife left to Oziotu

(Ojo wrote a letter to Oziofu)

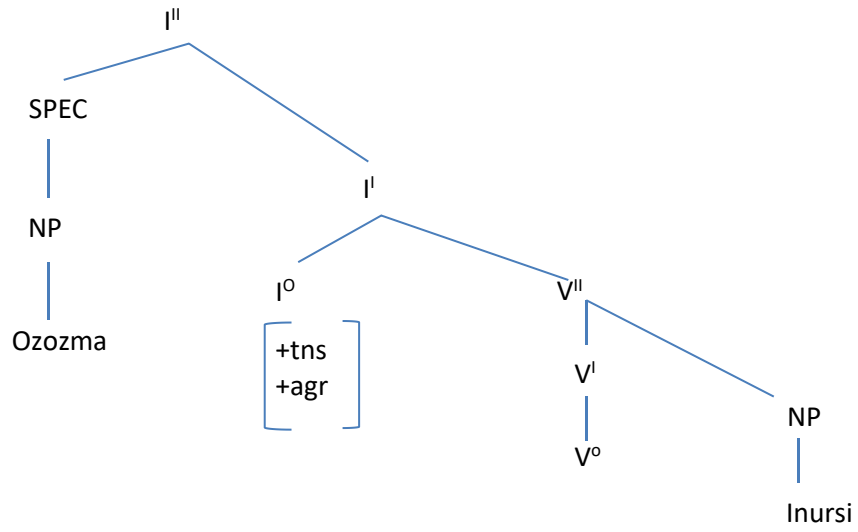
#### 4.4.4 Noun Phrase as Complement

Noun phrases in Etuno, also function as the complement of the sentence. It can either be subject complement or object complement. The subject complement is co-referential. The function of the subject complement is to give further information about the subject which the object complement function to give more information about the object. NP. Functioning as complements of the sentence include.

i. Ozozoma    vi    Inursi

Ozozoma    is    nurse

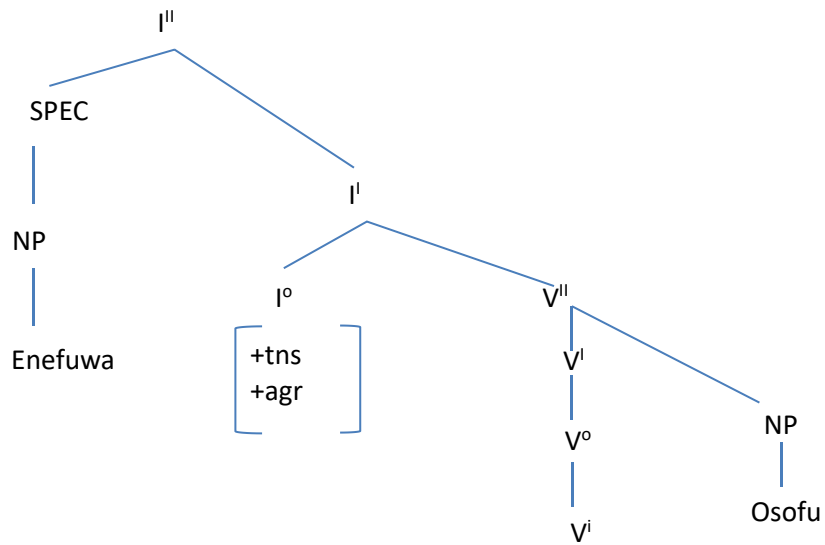
(Ozozoma    is    nurse)



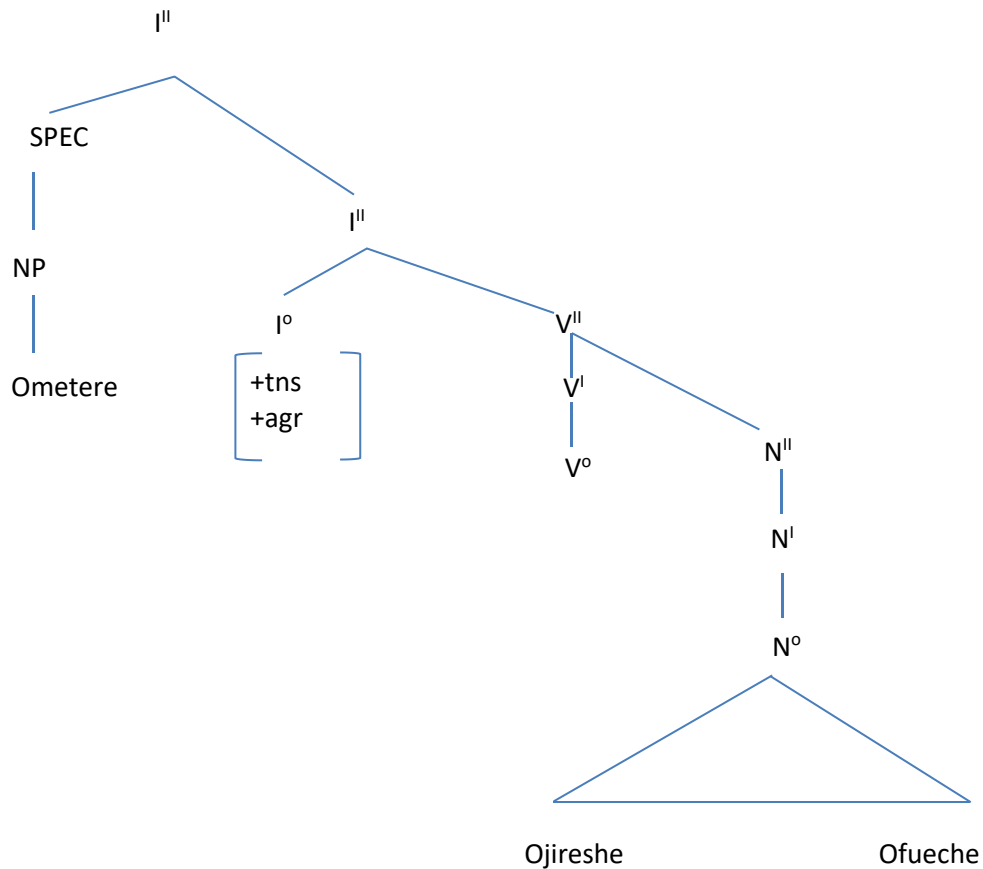
(ii) Enefuwa vi Osofu

Enefuwa is sell market

(enefuwa is a trader)



- (iii) Ometere Oshi Ojireshe Ofweche  
 Ometere call Ojireshe drunk  
 ‘Ometere called Ojireshe a drunk’

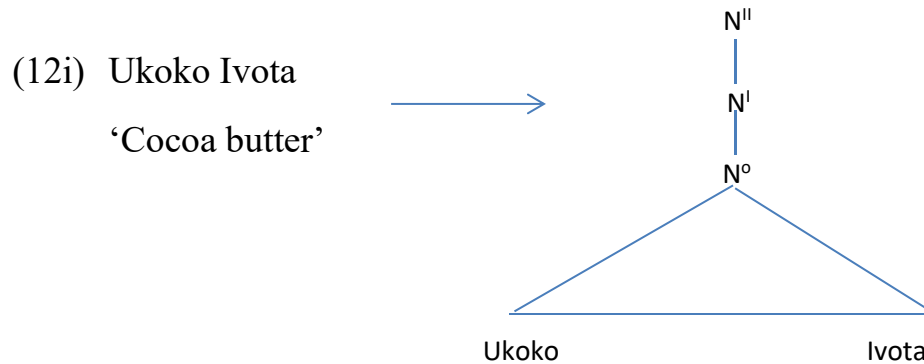


The above examples and illustration have shown that the NP's (which have been underlined) have their positions as complements of the subjects/objects in the sentences.

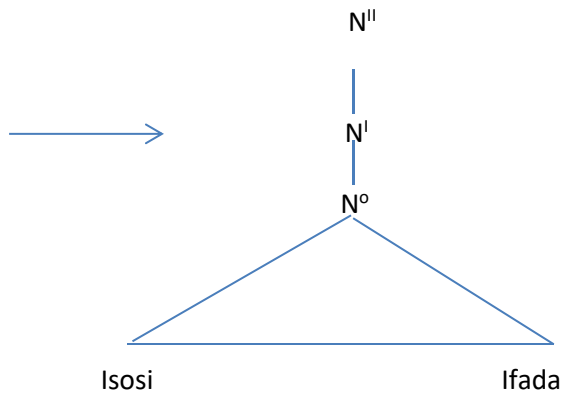
They have been used to show/specify information about the subject/object dependent on the sentence.

#### 4.4.5 Modifiers in a Noun Phrase

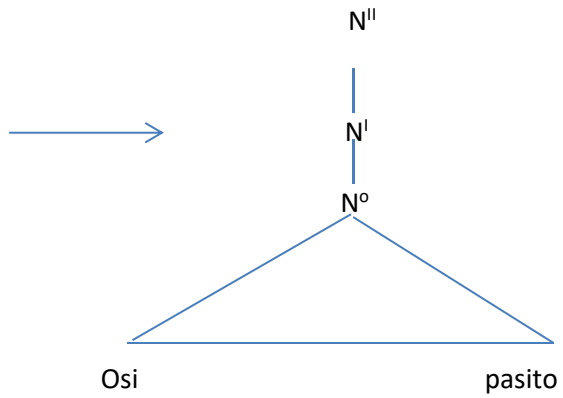
Modifiers are words/phrases that limits or qualifies the sense of another word or phrase i.e. they are words used to specific contexts, that makes partial changes to the sense of by another noun. This can be exemplified thus.



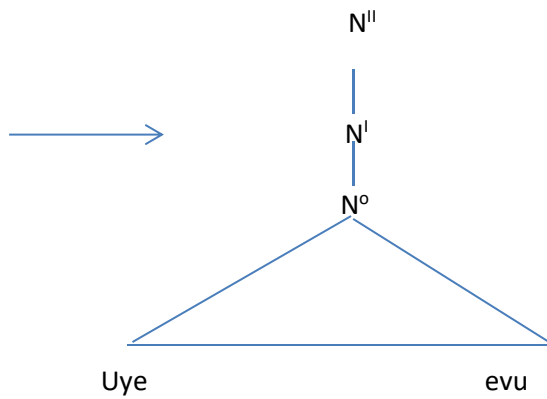
(ii) Isosi Ifada  
Church priest



(iii) Osi pasito  
Wife pastor  
Pastor's wife



(iv) Uye evu  
Meant Goat  
(Goat meat)



In summary, we have been able to examine observe the functional roles of the NP in Etuno language using the X<sup>1</sup> theoretical frame work.

The x-bar theory seeks to capture the similarities between different categories or lexical phrases by assigning the same structure to them. The x- bar theory provides principles for the projection of phrasal categories from lexical categories and imposes conditions on the hierarchical organization of categories of general the schema.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, FINDING AND CONCLUSION**

This chapter focuses on the summary, finding and the concluding part of the work. This thesis used the x-bar theoretical framework as its theoretical approach.

#### **5.1 Summary**

This study begins by talking about the historical background, the location of the language. This study also focuses on the language and the people and as well as the purpose of study which is mainly to improve on linguistics knowledge. The limitation of studies, method of data elicitation and as well as the scope of study are also taken into cognizance.

Furthermore, this study has to do with the review of relevant literature as regards to the topic which is the noun phrases in Etuno language. This study is further desegmentalized into three major phrases; conceptual review, previous literature as well as the present studies.

The conceptual review depicts various phenomenon which cuts across the study. These phenomenon are language, grammar, syntax, constituent structure, phrase structure, noun and the noun phrase.

The second section under the review of relevant literature explains that much work has not been carried out on the language and the little work that has been done on the language were not done by a linguist or by those who are trained in the field of language. I.e. majority of the books written on the language are by native speakers or indigenes who have little or no linguistic background.

The third section has to do with the present studies. This section, is talking about works done by different linguists as regarding the topic the noun phrase Etuno language and noun phrases in general.

Also, this study examines the theoretical framework used in the research work which is the x-bar theory. This theory is designed to formalise the traditional notion called the 'head' of a construction and to constrain the system in the recognition that lexical categories; nouns,

verbs, adjective, prepositions which are the heads projects to their phrasal nodes: NP, VP, ADJ, PP respectively.

Finally, this study depicts the presentation of data and as well the analysis. First, it shows the representation of data showing the different forms in which they are being represented in the language. This study focus Etuno noun phrase with the aim of investigating how the different constituents that make up the noun phrase are combined and arranged.

## **5.2 Finding and Conclusion**

This study observed and discovered that Etuno language has the presence of Yoruba lexical item and this Yoruba lexical items still persist in the language due to the fact that Etuno language has no concept for some of the lexical items. Examples of such are:

<b>Yoruba</b>	<b>Etuno</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
Keke	Keke	Bicycle
Iwe	Iwe	Book
Ogede	Ogede	Plantain/Banana
Apoti	Apoti	Box

Secondly, this study also observed that Etuno is a tone language. According to Pike K.L (1984), “a tone language is a language which has contrastive, but relevant pitch on each syllable”, Crystal, D. (1971:185) “defines a tone language in which alternation in pitch could cause the meaning of the word to be altered”. The study further observed that there are three levels of tone in the language, High, mid and low and when these tones are used in identical words it makes meaning differences. This can be observed from the example below.

Chere [tʃ ÉrÉ] - to write

[tʃ ÉrÉ] - to be choosy/selective

Ozi [Ozi] - Child

[Ozi] - darkness

It is also discovered that the language is an Head first language. Although every languages have the same characteristics, but every language tries to parameterize these characteristics to suit them. In otherwords Etuno language operates the head first parametre.

Conclusively, demonstrative in Etuno as it is observed are represented by the same morpheme ‘onon’ as in ‘this, that’ while the plural form (i.e. those and these) are represented with ‘Enen’

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## APPENDIX

1. Oziofu Oyereyi – Oziofu is sensible.
2. Oyene onon vi Iticha – the woman is a teacher.
3. Isori onon ovoze - The food is enough.
4. Ikupu enen ojoji – Those black cups.
5. Oze onon ogu – the door is shut
6. Iru ami – my cloth
7. Iwe ami ona – my book is torn.
8. Ireshi ayie ozoza – our house is beautiful.
9. Avina onon – the yam
10. Ozi onon osune - The child is crying
11. Itefonu ayie – Our telephone
12. Imoto ayani – His car
13. Ada ayani – her father.
14. Oyarami Ochaka apanava – My brother broke the bottle.
15. Ojirishe vi ozi – akamawa – Ojireshe is a disobedient child.
16. Omosu onon ori isupa onon – The cat ate the rabbit.
17. Ayode vi dokita – Ayode is a doctor

18. Itope vi Ozioshi oweyi – Tope is a beautiful young girl.
19. Onoru onon vi Iticha – That man is a teacher.
20. Iwe onon, ampo, ibiro, embo vi ami – The book, the bag, the biro are all mine.
21. Aga ovivi – The red chair.
22. Ita owowa – the new clothe.
23. Ivata okuku – The old shoe.
24. Ada ozoku – The elderly man.
25. Ishivi ori ipanu – Spoon and plate.
26. Oku onon – the fire wood.
27. Imakini vi italor – Imakini is a talor.
28. Oyene obani – The big woman.
29. Otami ami – My friend.
30. Apako onon – The tortoise.
31. Aza ami – My people
32. Ushi ami – My story
33. Ozi oyene - A female child.
34. Iroshe ovivi onon – That red house.

35. Oyam ami oshi ireshi- My mother bought a house.
36. Onaivi oyeze – Onaivi danced
37. Isechichi oboru – fat snake.
38. Iseyi anavu – Rotten fish.
39. Iwe onya – One book.
40. Ireshi eruru- Many houses.
41. Aga eva – Two chairs.
42. Ozi oweyi ovivi – The fair child.
43. Irezi Oviechi – Smart dog.
44. Oyene oshimi – Wicked woman.
45. Uno obani – Big cow.
46. Ishukuru ozoza – Good school.
47. Irisi onri eza – Rice and Beans.
48. Onimsi onri Imarie – Onimsi and Mary
49. Evu enen zi reyi - That pregnant goat
50. Onyi ozoku ene joji – That dark skinned old woman.