

ASPECTS OF THE PHONOLOGY OF IGBANKE

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ABSTRACT

This Research effort focuses on some aspects of the phonology of the Igbanke language. a language spoken in the Niger Delta area of Delta State as well as in Orhiomwon Local Government Area of Edo State. The Igbanke language is actually spoken in six speech communities which are: Omulual, Ahe, Igbontor, Obiogba, Ottah and Idumuodin. This work aims at examining the Phonological processes and rules in the language. Data gathered for this study were collected from personal interview with the aid of a digital tape recorder. The study is analyzed using the standard theory as presented by Chomsky and Halle (1968), and the Autosegmental model of analysis as presented by Goldsmith (1976). The major findings of this study however revealed the phonological processes present in the language which are: Vowel Elision, Glide formation and Nasalization.

CERIFICATION

I, Ehigiator Hannah a student in the Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Benin, with Matriculation Number Art0810613 have completed the requirements for course work and research for the Bachelor of Arts Degree of the University of Benin. The work embodied in this project in original and has not be submitted in part of whole for any other degree or di ploma programme of this or any other university or institution

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God, who gave me the ability for completing my studies successfully and has sustained me.

This work is also dedicated to my late father Mr. Ehigiator and my lovely mum Mrs. Felicia Ehigiator and my Aunt Mrs. Doris Uwabor for their helps and support towards me.

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The success of this project is not complete without the assistance of GOD Almighty, and I thank God for his faithfulness, mercy, favour and grace upon me throughout my stay in the university.

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I want to thank all the lecturers of the Department of Linguistics who in one way or the other contributed to this work and especially Mr. Williams whose door was always open to me. May God continue to strengthen you all.

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My siblings are not left out. I want to thank my brothers. Mr. Monday Ehigiator, Mr. John Ehigiator, my sisters, Miss Favour Ehigiator, Mary Ehigiator, Augustina Ehigiator and also my cousin, Uwabor Osariemen., Ehosa Uwabor, Divine Uwabor. Mr. & Mrs. Iweka and my uncle Mr. F.M Uwabor. Thanks for all your prayers and encouragement, love you all.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Every human being employs language mainly for the purpose of communicating ideas or information. Language permeates our being and as such, the study of language is a fundamental notion in the study of human behavior.

However, language can be studied from different angles. Such angles include those of sounds, words, sentences or meaning as well as use of language.

This study however focuses on the study of the phonological pattern of the Igbanke language. Phonology therefore, deals with distinctive or functional sounds of a language. It is concerned with study of the organization patterning of distinctive speech sounds of a particular language. We therefore present a study of the sounds system, tone system and syllable structure of the language. In addition, we shall also identify some basic phonological processes and their rules in the language.

This chapter is of five basic section. The first focuses on the general background of the study, as it provides an insight into our study, thereby standing as the bedrock, upon which the study is based, and two focuses o the review of Relevant literatures and chapter three focuses on the Oretical Framework, which is

apply to Investigations, that are based on particular theories and four, which have to do with the Analysis and discussions of data collection.

And lastly, chapters file which involve findings and conclusion.

1.1. THE IGBANKE LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE

Igbanke language is spoken in Orhionwon local Government Area in Edo State and has a population estimated to be 100,000 people (according to 1992 census (gure) which make it the most populated village in Orhionwon Local Government Area.

According to Uwabor (1970:6), Igbanke people look into their beginning from outside Edo and Eweka's Era. The Igbanke people enjoyed absolute independence because they were not under any people. The names Igbanke arose from a combination of the names of two villages (Igbantor and Ake). The government of Igbanke is presided over by the Eze, Enogie, Okhiolors, Odiowere, Dikens, Okhialis and Ndichies. Each of these heads has its Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction could be stratified into three: the family level, the clan or hamlets and the villages. At the family level the Okhiolor (he is usually the oldest man in the family) presides at the village quarters, the Okhilor is the head of each clan. While the Eze rules over the entire village. Six villages constitute Igbanke: they are

OPmuluah Village, Akeolije Village, Igbontor Village, Ottah Village, Idumuodin Village, all of which have different histories of migration.

Igbanke people are known as Ndi – Igbanke but later become Onye Igbanke, their dominant occupation is agriculture, the wet and dry seasons makes this possible. One claim that entire citizen of Igbanke had their descent from Benin – At the 18th century community representation or leaders I Igbanke were appointed by the Oba of Benin succession to the kingship is hereditary and a son cannot be an Enogie in the life time of his father. Igbanke as a community is blessed with natural resources, its glory derives from its early contact with the British who bro0ught formal education to Igbanke and introduced the pegans religion. Igbanke people are warriors and great people: they are peace loving people and have lived peacefully with their neighbor.

According to Williamson (1989b) Igbanke belongs to the Igboid group of language. This group belongs to the KWA SUBGROUP OF THE BENUE CONGO the NIGER CONGO language family which is part of the Niger Congo language family

Below is a diagram of the Niger – Congo language phylum.

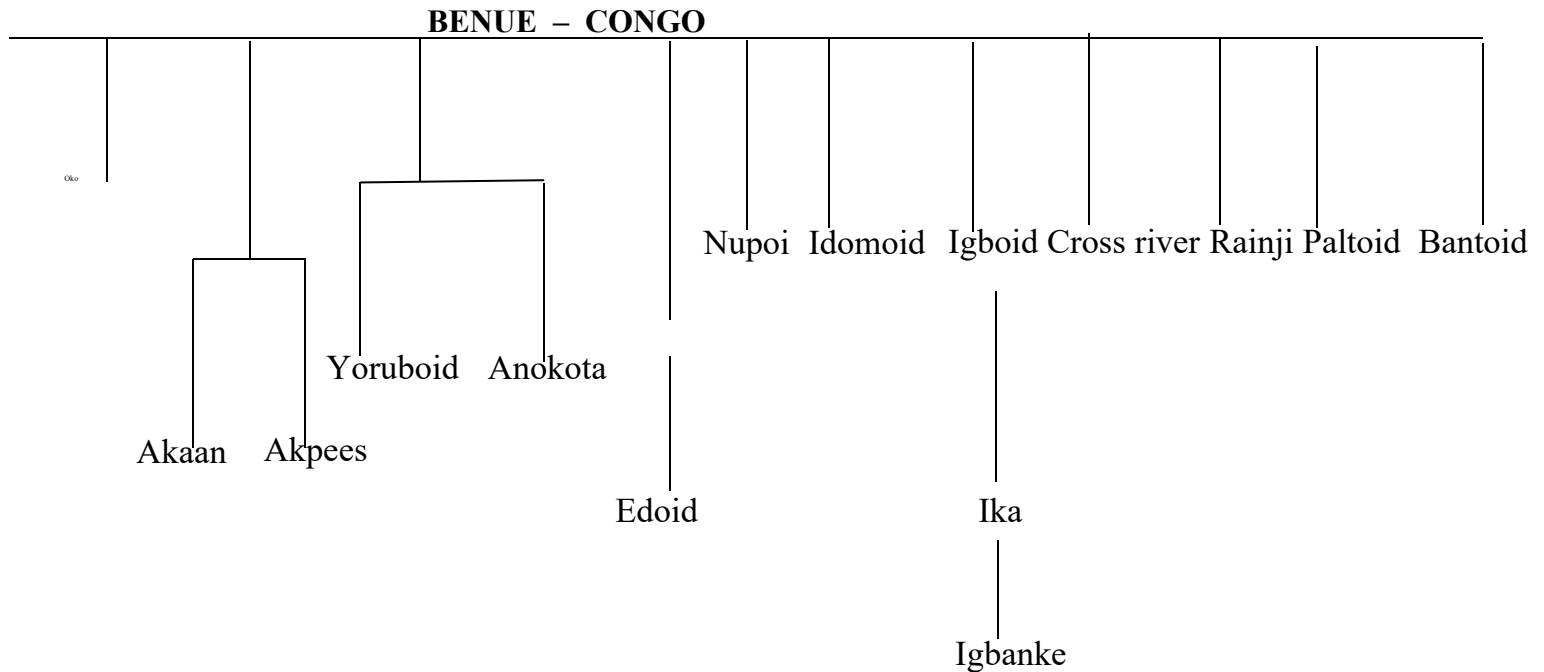


Fig I Williamson (1989b) classification of Benue – Congo language families.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

The research design of our study is therefore the framework/plan for the study which is used in collecting and analyzing a set of data. In this work, the research design adopted is the description survey design which is explanatory in nature. This is simply due to the fact that our focus in this study is to examine some aspect of phonology in Igbanke language. Thus in achieving this, merely solely on the interview method. Data was gathered from competent native speaker of the language range fall within 30-65 years.

Apart from the primary source, we still collected our data from secondary sources which were gotten from relevant literature including books, formal articles etc. the materials collected from the secondary sources also provided us with useful information on which this work is based.

Our analysis was earned with the aid of a standard and the Autosegmental models of analysis. That was proposed by Chomsky and Halle (1968). The reason for our choice in apply this approach to our study is to be to render accurate account of the focus of our work. With the aid of our approach, we were able to describe the processes and rules of Igbanke, while the autosegmental model is top accurately account for the processes in the language.

1.3 PURPOSE OF STUDY

The basic purpose of this study is to examine and identify the:

- i. The tonal pattern of the language?
- ii. The vowel and consonant features of the language
- iii. The phonological rules and processes in Igbanke.

1.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Language is unique and must be preserved and maintained in order to keep it functional over a period of time it therefore, becomes imperative for every

level of language study to be treated with interest and also these significance of study will be itemize into 3 basic members.

1. Phonological study, we serve as a foundation level of every language study and should be considered as very important. This therefore justifies the need for this present study as it adds to the already existing document in the language.
2. Learners of the language can also employ this study as a reference materials to assist them in any area of the language
3. This study implicitly identifies the basic concepts that stand to distinguish Igbanke from other closely related languages.
4. In the Delta regions of Nigeria, Igbanke been a variety of Ika, has official language status. There is used for government notices. In the State of Edo and Delta State in the Niger Delta Religion. Igbanke is the main language of trade and commerce. Igbanke is used in mass media and communication (radio and television) in the southern Delta Region of Nigeria as well.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

In reviewing our materials selected for this study, we will categorize them into four sub-segments being the conceptual review, which focuses on the unions concepts, which will be employed in this research effort. And also the previous studies, which review, what the researcher did, how they did it and how it was done. Thirdly, the concern of the present study, which have to do with, how the present researcher fit into the scheme of things.

2.1. CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

This section reviews the various concepts which will be employed in these research effort. Concept are usually the words and terminologies employed in the course of writing this work and these involve the phonological processes and the Autosegmeted which will be described within the autosegmented frame work .

2.1.2 PHONOLOGY

Okolo (1999:103) “Phonology is the scientific study of speech sound and speech patterns in a language”. Every language of the sound pattern we men: (a) the set of sounds that occurs in a given language (b) the permissible arrangement

of these sound in words, and lastly (c) the process of adding deleting or changing sounds.

Nordguist (2005) “say that “ phonology is a branch of linguistics concerned with reference to their distribution and patterning”.

2.1.2 PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES

Omozuwa (2010:133) stated that “it is a process through which such assimilation occurs in known as a phonological process” he went further to state the different types of phonological process such as nasal assimilation, vowel harmony, glide formation, vowel elision, vowel/consonant deletion, tonal assimilation, dissimilation, e.t.c. as are attested in Edo and some other languages in varying deguess.

Oyebade (2008:62) also said “Phonological processes are sounds modification, motivated by the need to maintained euphony in language or to rectify violation of well formedness constraint in the production of untrances “ to add these when morphemes are combined to form words, the segments of neighbouring morphemes becomes juxtaped and sometimes undergo change, changed also occur in environments other than those in which two morphemes come together all such changes will be called phonological processes.

Schemes (1973:62) went further to say “ if we can state the exact conditions under which a phonological process takes place, we have in effect given a rule”.

In addition to this brilliant submission, it is the rules converting underlying representations to derived ones which explicitly characterized the processes of a language.

2.1.3 VOWEL ELISION

Omozuwa (2010:135) stated that, vowel elision is “when two words are used sequentially in an utterance, therefore, two vowels meet across word boundary. In such cases, the last vowel of the first word, i.e. the vowel before the boundary is elided except it is a high vowel”

While, Yul-Ifode (1999:161) added that vowel is Elision is a phonological process involving the Omission, deletion on total loss of a sound segment”.

et al (2002) also stated that “Vowel Elision on deletion is a phonological process in which an unstressed/invented e/ [schwa] vowel is deleted during pronunciation”.

2.1.4 GLIDE FORMATION

Omozuwa (2010:146) said “Glide formation is a process whereby a high vowel is desyllebify to [J], and [U] [O] to [W]

Roderick F [1995] went further to say “there are four basic pattern dualities exist, with language specific variations, determined by whether or not: (1) glide formation applied to both front and round first vowels or round first vowel only; (2) glide formation applies to both first vowels or high first vowel only; (3) glide formation may apply, when first and second vowel agree in roundness and / or frontness; and (4) coalescence occurs in addition to glide formation

2.1.5 NASALISATION

Omozuwa (1999:133) state that Nasalization like other phonological processes such as vowel/consonant deletion, vowel assimilation glide formation, and tonal assimilation is a common phenomenon in Edo. He went further to say Nasalization “it involves the spread of the nasal feature of an inherent nasal segment on a following or preceding oral segment.

Wikipedia (2015) also added that “Nasalization is production of a sound while the vacuum is lowered, so that some air escapes through the nose during the production of the sound by the mouth”. Can be said to be a case of progressive.

Gaelic (2012) further added that “ this is sometimes as effect of assimilation, where vowels and other sound become nasal sounds”. More controversially, it is a marginal initial consonant mutation. Robins (1981) said “All types of vowel sound

may be uttered with Nasalization, that is with the soft palate lowered and with our air passing through the nasal cavity and nostrils as well as through mouth”.

2.1.6 AUTOSEGMENTAL PHONOLOGY

Omozuwa (1999:195) define autosegmental phonology “as a non-linear approach to phonology which allows units in phonological processes such as tonal assimilation, nasal assimilation, vowel and consonant deletion, nasalization, glide formation and vowel harmony to be independent of and extend beyond individual consonants and vowel”.

Pulley blank (1983:37), said that “Autosegmental tiers can only link slots in the skeletal tier can only -----“ and that association lines may not cross (within the same tier)”.

Halle and vergnard (1982:69)”----- forever remain in phonetic limbo condemned never to see the bright light of phonetic reality”. He went further to say “this take care of all cases of deleted segments.

2.2 PREVIOUS STUDIES

This section reveals the various works done by scholars on Igbanke language.

EKWABOR (1993), worked on non-verbal Communication using clothing, beads, and native chalk. In the aspect of clothing, he used different colours to state the specific significance among the Igbanke people. He stated that

red cloth signifies danger and it is worn by oracles and priests. Black cloth signifies sorrow, unhappiness and sadness. It is used to mourn the dead. White cloth connotes joy, happiness and purity. It is used when worshipping certain deities and performing purification rites. The use of beads signifies beauty and it can be used to celebrate the survival of a baby into the house of a king. In his final work, he stated that the role of object communication was actually specific and it is useful for us to recognize cultural differences because it will help us respond appropriately to them.

On the issue of phonemes of the Igbanke language, Omorodion (1994) stated that the Igbanke language has thirty-seven sounds, twenty-eight consonants of which we have four nasal sounds and nine vowels of which are non-nasal. Also on the issue of Orthography, Uwobor (1970) asserted that orthography should be presented as it was stated in 1.2. the Orthography has not been standardized but it has been put into documentation. However, works can be reviewed on this orthography by linguistics.

Owie (2005), wrote on the history and culture of Igbanke. He asserted that Igbanke is a language spoken in Orhiomown local government area in Edo State and has a population estimated to be 10,000 people (according to 1992 census figure). The name Igbanke arose from a combination of two villages: Igbantor and Ake. Ibanke

people are known as Onye-Igbanke their dominant occupation is mainly agriculture. Six villages constitute Igbanke, they are: Omoluah, Ottah, Aheoliye, Igbantor, Idumodin village and Obiogba village. The government of Igbanke is presided over by the Eze, Diven, Enogie, Odiowere, Ohilors, Ndiche and Okhialis. Each of the heads has its jurisdiction and the jurisdiction could be stratified into three family level, the clan and the villages, Igbanke is blessed with Mineral resources and its glory derives from its early contest with the Bimis who brought formal Education to Igbanke and introduce the pagan religion. Igbanke people are warriors and great people.

2.3 THE CONCERN OF THE PRESENT STUDY

This section examines some basic phonological processes in the Igbanke language. In this section, we will consider the various phonological processes present in the language which include: vowel elision, glide formation and Nasalization.

Phonological [processes are simply changes observed during the production of a particular sound segment, when it co-occurs with another segments. The changes could either be on the segmental (i.e. the sound itself) or suprasegmental (i.e other features besides the sounds) patterns, will be observed.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.0 INTRODUCTION

In this study, we shall adopt the generative phonological model and also the Autosegmental model. The aim of our choice is to be able to accurately account for the phonological processes in Igbanke.

3.1 THEORETICAL REVIEW

In this study, we employed the standard and the Autosegmental models of Analysis. The standard is adopted to enable us described the processes and rules in Igbanke while the Autosegmental model is to accurately account for the processes in the language. These frameworks shall be reviewed in the following subsection.

3.1.2 THE STANDARD THEORY

The Standard theory arose under generative phonology. It was proposed by Chomky and Halle (1968) in “The sound pattern of English (SPE). It is indeed a phonological theory which not be ignored as it serves as the foundation upon which all further phonological theories draw their inspirations form. It is basically

concerned with the study of the phonetic properties of segments. In spite of this, they propose that:

“each item in lexical be in which the columns stand for the successive units and the rows are labeled by the names of the individual phonetic features”.

(Chomsky) and Halle 1968:296).

This theory however adopts lexical representations and phonological rules that are simple and very concise. It adopts the two – dimensional matrix in analyzing phonological phenomena across languages. This is based on the fact that in this framework, phonological features are binary in feature like other classificatory features in the lexical and are used to indicate whether or not an item belonging to a particular category. This does not equally state that the phonetic features must also be binary in nature (Ibid 297).

The standard theory recognized two levels of phonological representations: the systematic phonetic and systematic phonetic levels of representation. Within this model, phonological rules link the surface syntactic structure onto phonetic representation. All morphological operations are carried out before any phonological rules can apply.

Implicit in this model is that all suprasegmental units are treated as part of the sound segment they co-occur with these suprasegments were never seen as autonomous units.

However, this model failed because it could not capture the intricate relations between the morphological structures of a word and the way phonological rules apply to it. It attempted to encode morphological and phonological relations in boundaries. Boundaries were treated as sequential element in the phonological string.

This theory also failed to account for some phonological features such as the stability of tones. As a result, the autosegmental model was borne and adopted as better way of representing and accounting for phonological phenomena across languages.

3.1.3 THE AUTOSEGMENTAL MODEL

The Autosegmental model of phonological analysis was proposed by Goldsmith (1976) in his Ph. D. Dissertation title “Autosegmental phonological”. It was proposed to offer solutions to issues that were not properly handled in the standard theory. In other words, it was developed to account for a better representation of suprasegments (especially with regard to contour tones) that were

not adequately accounted for in the standard generative phonologically model. Autosegmental phonology however provides a phonological model in which vowels, consonants, tones, nasality, etc are represented on separate tiers and the relationship between the various tiers are mapped by association lines (Goldsmith 1976). Halle and Vergnaud (1980, 1982), Pulleyblank (1983), Omozuwa (1996). The Autosegmental model is therefore a theory of how the various components of the articulatory apparatus (the tongue, lips, the larynx, velum etc) are coordinated.

The working hypothesis of Autosegmental analysis is that a large part of phonological generalization can be interpreted as a reorganization of the autosegments in a representation. It departs from the presentation of segments as metrics of features in order to show segment as connected groups of individual features. Phonological representation is presented on several distinct tiers such as the tonal tier, nasal tier, consonant tier, etc, and the relationship between tiers is indicated with the use of associational lines. This model of phonological analysis was guided by what Goldsmith (1976). called the wellformedness conditions which were regarded as a universal principle of association governing the relationship between adjacent tiers which state that:

All Vowels are associated with at least one tone

All tones are associated with at least one vowel

Association lines do not cross one another.

Also the obligatory contour principle is yet another principle that applies within identical units are not associated independently with two successive positions on the skeletal tier. This however prevents repeated adjacent occurrences of the same vocalic melody.

3.1.4 REASONS FOR AUTOSEGMENTAL PHONOLOGY

Goldsmith (1976:2) identifies some cogent reasons for adopting the Autosegmental model over the standard theory, one of such reasons he identifies is the problem of representing contour tones. This phenomenon was employed to assert an Autosegmental solution in the existence of contour valued features such as rising or falling tones on vowels e.t.c.

Goldsmith (1976) argues that contour tones are a result of the merging of two level tones as presented in the standard theory.

The second reason is on the issue of tonal stability. By this, we mean the state of a tone on a vowel which has been deleted due to some phonological rules. The tone therefore on such vowel is unaffected, rather it shifts location and gets

re-associated with another tone bearing element. This is exemplified with the following examples from Yoruba.

1a) /ádá # álé/ → [ádè mí] ‘my cutlass’
‘cutlass’ ‘me’

(1b) /ábé # álé/ → [ábé lé] ‘underneath’
‘Under’ ‘ground’

(1c) /ágá # è mí/ → [ágá mí] ‘my chair’
‘chair’ ‘me’

The examples above show the stability of the high tone inspite of the deletion of the segment that bore it. The fact that we delete the vowel and leave the tone shows that they were never an indivisible entity in the underlying representation. This is simply based on the fact that tones are seen as features of sounds and not as separate entities that can not be treated without the vowels with which they co-occur this notion of the floating tone has been taken care of by notion of stability mentioned above (ef Omozuwa 1992,1993).

Thirdly, there is the issue of tone melody. Goldsmith used Mande language as an example, where there is the evidence of high, low, rising, falling or rising ____ falling tones. Hulst and Smith (1982) lend further support to Goldsmith by showing how the Autosegmental model can solve the problem of the

representation of tone. They explain how phonological representation consisting of several tiers with each consisting of a linear arrangement of segments can be proposed to the one tier representation of the standard theory. To them, segments in different tiers are linked to each other by association lines that indicate how they are to be co articulated.

Hulst and Smith (1982) lend support to Goldsmith by showing how the Autosegmental model can solve the problem of the representation of a tone. They explain how phonological representation consisting of several tiers with each consisting of a linear arrangement of segments can be proposed to the one tier representation of the standard theory. To them, segments in different tiers are linked to each other by association lines that indicate how they are to be Coarticulated.

They went, further in showing the working power of the Autosegmental model (AM) by extending it to non – tonal phenomena such as vowel harmony, nasal harmony, length etc.

Omozuwa (1989) provides data in Edo Language to lend further support to the Am in which vowels and consonants are represented as separate tier. He based his assumption on the suggestion of McCarthy (1981) that, “the consonantal and vocalic patterns are to be considered as autosegmental levels and that CV skeletal tier be given the theoretical status of the basic autosegmental tier.

He also argues following Halle and Vergnaud (1982:68-9) that “ Consonant deletion” in reduplicative formatives in Edo involve copying the whole word melody from left to right or vice versa and that segments that are left over (I.e not associated in rapid speech) do not receive any phonetic limbo condemned never to see the bright light of phonetic reality. In this work, V- Tier, C- tier and tonal tier are linked to the skeletal tier with the aid of association lines.

Omozuwa (1996) argues on the basis of the stability of tones and nasality after vowel elision that tone and nasality in Edo language are better treated as autonomous but co-articulated entities. He asserts that:

The autosegmental theory provides phonological model in which vowels, consonant, tones, nasality etc are represented on separate tiers and the relation between the various tiers are mapped by association lines”. Omozuwa 1996: 196).

He identifies for Edo, five independent tiers namely a V-tier, C- tier, tonal tier, nasal tier, and the major tier – the CV skeletal to which other tiers are linked.

It is therefore worthy of note know that in the autosegmental framework, there is the evidence of the CV Skeletal tier. This is present in major works on multi linear representations as those of Halle and Vergnaud (1980), McCarthy (1989, 1996) e..t.c. in these work, there is the proposition that the CV tier serves as the skeletal tier from which every other tier radiates. This tier displays the

independent abilities of the other tiers such as the V-tier, the Cutier Via association lines which most not cross within the same tier.

All cases of assimilation are represented by broken lines. This gives a better representation of the phonological processes where various processes (such as vowel elison, nasalization, tonal assimilation etc) can be treated at the same time and explicit showing how these phonological processes take place.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter being the major focus of our study presents and analyses the data for this research. Our data shall be analyzed basically with the theory of Autosegmental phonology as proposed by Goldsmith (1976).

4.1 VOWEL ELISION IN IGBANKE

Vowel Elision is a phonological process that occurs, when two vowel comes together across word boundary. One is usually elided favour of the other vowel. Elision occurs only across word boundary and it evident only under rapid speech. Although glides are formed across word boundaries, vowel elision is by far, the most frequent process that occurs across word boundaries. It sometimes after /i/ and /u / as well as vowels. However, /i/ and / u/ are prone to gliding them elision.

The first vowel is usually elided in favour of the second one in Igbanke. The tones are also affected by this process, since each vowel of Igbanke beaus a tone, one of the tones is elided. Consider the following examples.

(a) /kwé + éká/ - [kwéká]

Bring hand wash hand

/élú + ígwé/ - [éligwé]

Up king heaven

3c) /sú + ékwá/ - /sékwá]

Wash cloth draw it

(4d) /òlɔ + èkhúkwò/ - [òlèkhúkwò]

House book school

(5e) /égú + gú/ - [gúgú/

A play play dig it

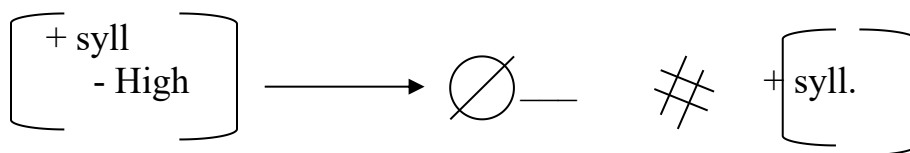
(6f) /òlò + ògún/ - [òlògun]

House Medicine Hospital

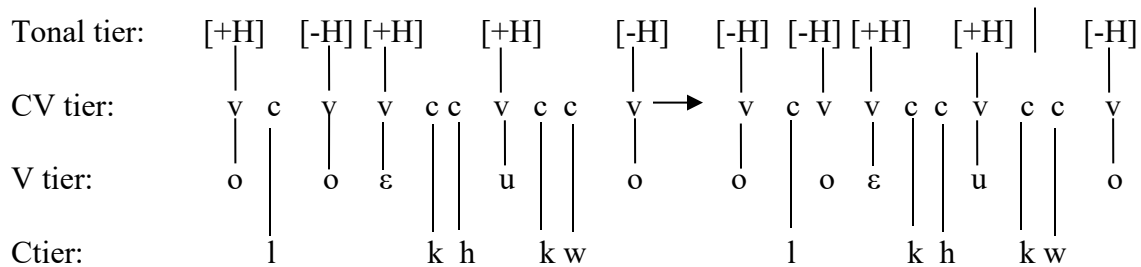
(7g) /òlò + òkhúkhú - [òlòkhúkhú]

House Fowl Poultry

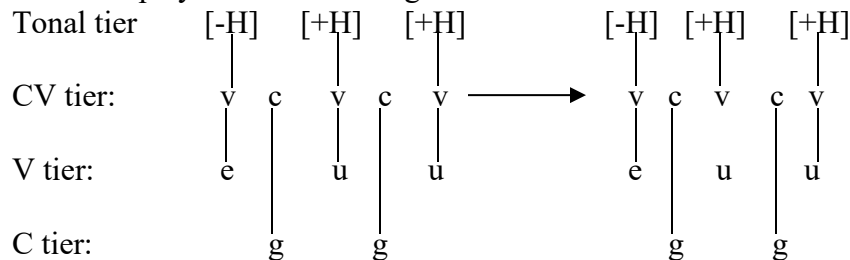
As revealed in the above example, it is v2 across word boundary that remains, while v1 is elided. Note that v1 can be elided in the language if it is not a high vowel such as /i/ and /u/. a rule to capture this process is:



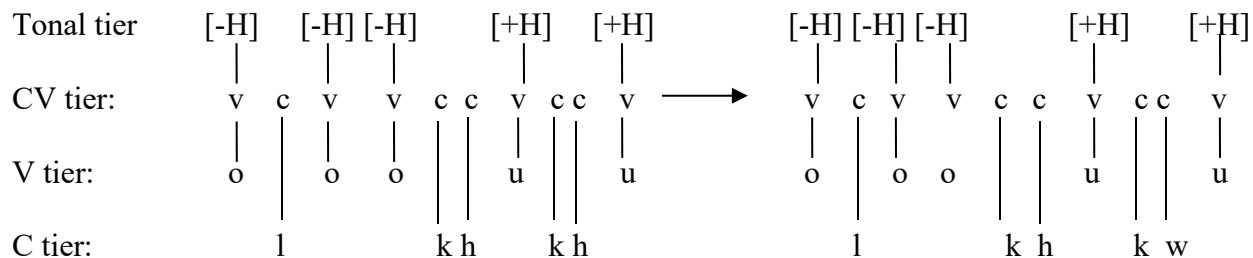
/òlò # ékhúkùwò/ → [òlékhúkùwò]
 House book school



/égú # gù / → /gùgù/
 A play hit dig it



/òlò # òkhúkù/ → [òlòkhúkù]
 House fowl poultry



In the autosegmental representation given above in Igbanke language, the surface phonetic output is not mapped unto the CV skeletal tier since, it is an elided segment.

4.2 GLIDE FORMATION IN IGBANKE

Glide formation is a common phonetic phenomenon in Igbanke language. This is the process whereby a high vowel is desyllabified to form a corresponding glide. Thus, [i]/ [e] desyllabify to [j], and [u] / [o] to [w] Omozuwa 2010:146.

This phonological process occurs lexically and across word boundary. Glide formation is actually the process in which a high vowel loses syllabicity, when it occurs at v1 position (where it was supposed to be elided) across word boundary. This further explains with the following examples.

4.2.1 GLIDE FORMATION WITHIN WORDS

- 2a. /bia/ _____ [bjɑ/ _____ 'come'
- 2b. /pia/ _____ [pjɑ] _____ 'Smooth'
- 2c. /bie/ _____ [bjɛ] _____ 'press against'
- 2d. /obuke/ _____ [obuke] _____ 'plenty'
- 2e. /chuwa/ _____ [chuwa] _____ 'pursue'
- 2f. /gua/ _____ [gua] _____ 'tell'

In Igbanke, glide formation occurs with two high vowels /i/ and /u/, when either of these two vowels occur before another vowel, they change into glide [j] and [w] respectively. This is usually done to aid smooth and rapid speech.

Glides are usually formed with words themselves, but can occur across word boundaries. Another examples.

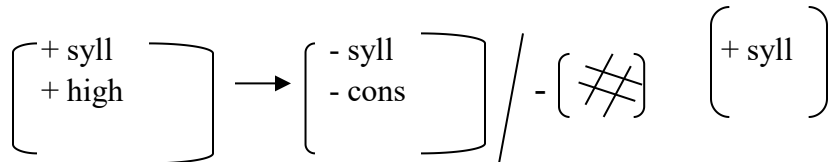
4.2.2 GLIDE FORMATION ACCORSS WORD BOUNDARY

(2h) /bú # ché/ → [bjché]
 Carry wait to put

(2i) /chú # pú/ → [chjú]
 Drive go send out

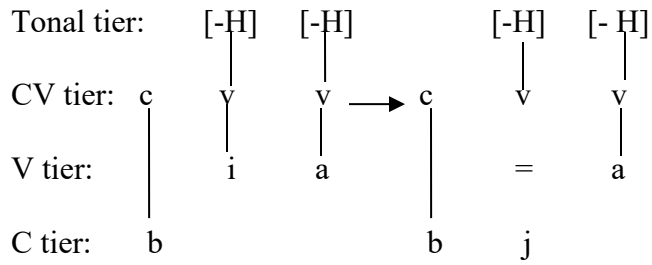
(2j) /bú # sòmé/ → [bjsòmɛ]
 Carry follow accompany

Notice that the high vowels are reduced /I u/ are nearer elided, rather they are reduced into semi vowels. The rule therefore for glide formation will be:

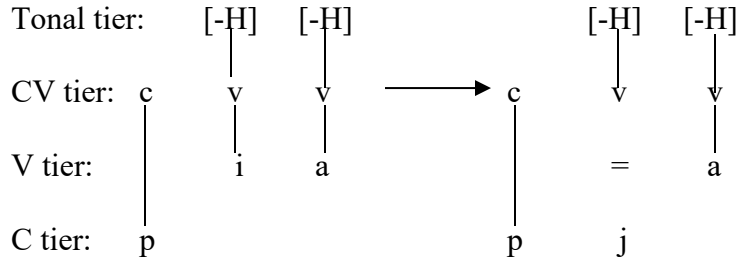


4.2.3 AUTOSEGMENTAL ANALYSIS OF GLIDE FORMATION.

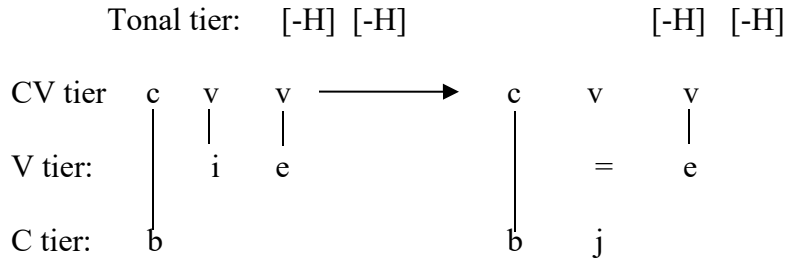
2L /bía/ → [bja] ‘come’

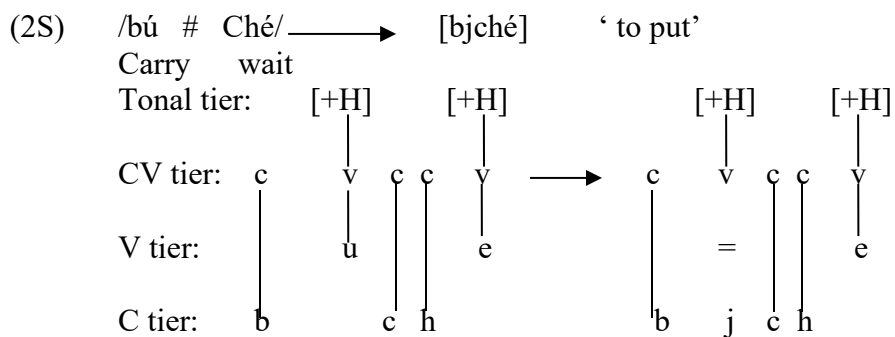
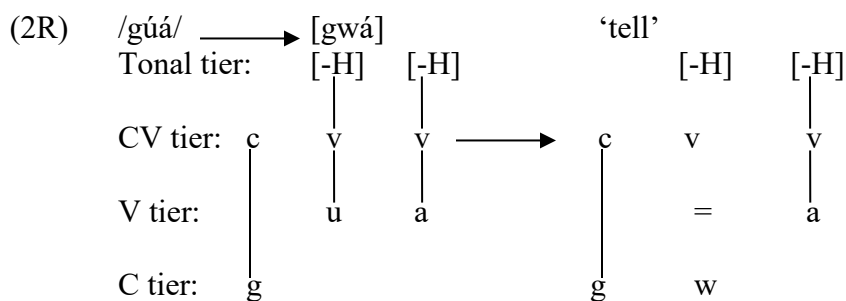
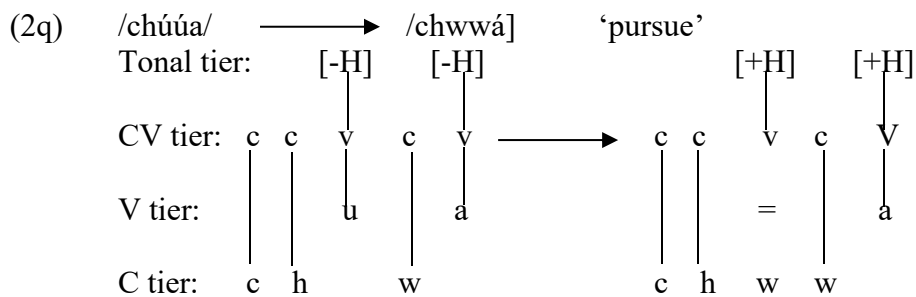
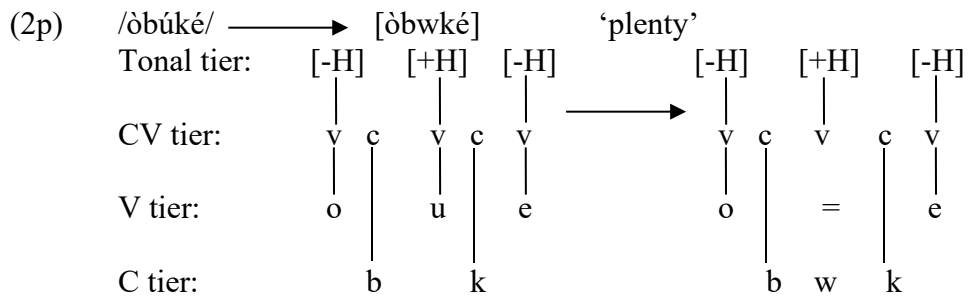


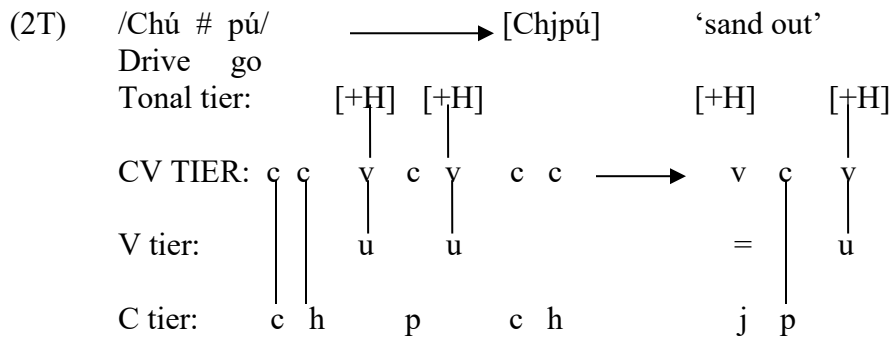
2m) /pía/ → [pjá] ‘smooth’



(3N) /bíe/ → [bjé]







In the autosegmental representation given above in Igbanke language, the surface phonetic output is not mapped unto the CV skeletal tier since, it is an elided segment.

As observed in our analysis above, there is no Elision of any segment rather there is a total lass change of the sound segment soled. This is represented with diacritic = placed on the association line, linking the sound to the CV Skeletal.

2.4 NASALIZATION

Nasalization is yet another phonological process evident in Igbanke language. Nasal Sounds are characterized by a relic opening during their production (Yul Ifode 1999:73). However, an oral sound may become nasalized if it occurs in the environment of a nasal sound segment.

Nasalized vowel have [̃] above appropriate letter e.g [ã̃] for nasalized vowel of Igbanke as in mã̃ [mã̃] 'measure'.

There is a basic distinction between vowels and nasalized vowel. Nasal vowel have intrinsic nasal quality, that is they share phonetic status. Nasalized

vowel on the other hand, have no phonetic status, they have intrinsic nasal quality.

Example to explain is presented below:

(3a) /onu/ _____ [onu] _____ ‘mouth’

(3b) /okun/ _____ [oku] _____ ‘leg’

(3c) /ndim/ _____ [ndim] _____ ‘father’

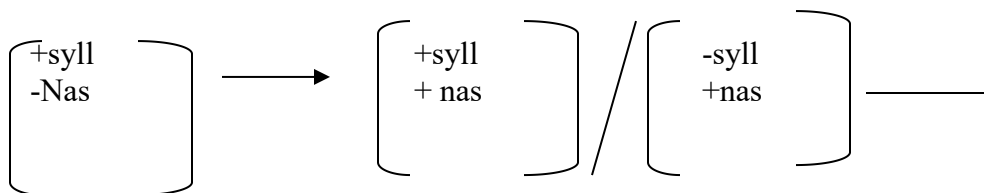
(3d) /nwan/ _____ [ɲwa] _____ ‘child’

(3e) /efime/ _____ [ɛfimeɛ/ _____ ‘pregnancy’

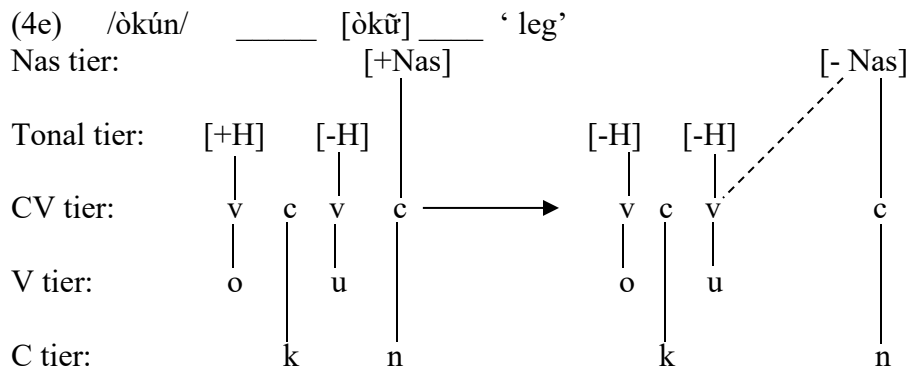
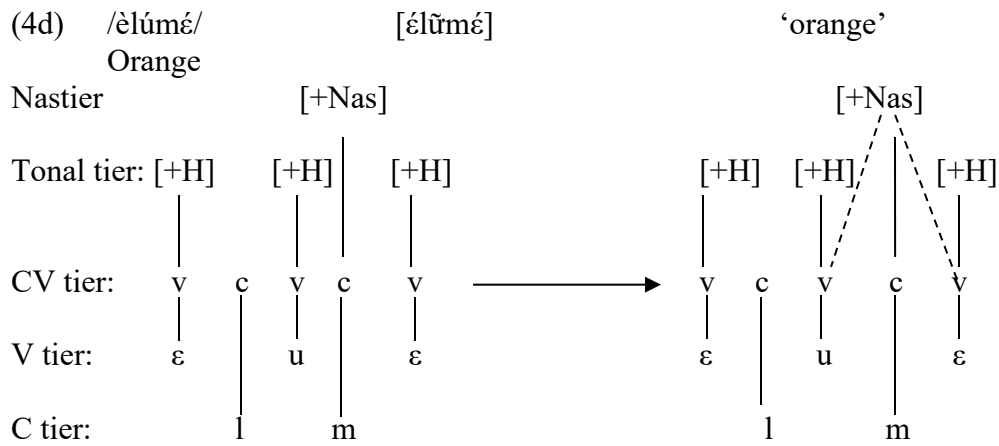
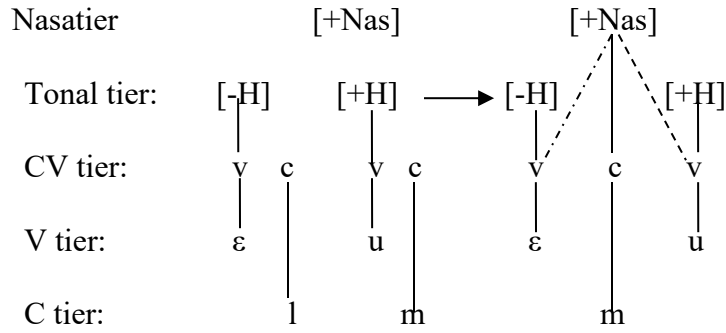
(3f) /geme/ _____ [gɛmɛ/ _____ ‘go’

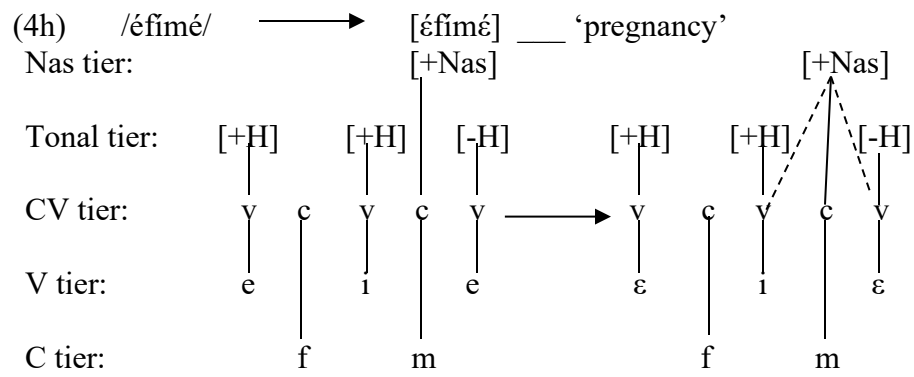
From the above example, it can be observed that nasalization occurs, when an oral vowel follows a nasal segment. Vowels that occurs after nasal consonants assimilate the nasal features of the proceeding consonants and become nasalized. This means that oral vowels are nasal vowel, do not contrate after nasal consonants this can be said to be a case of progressive.

The rule to account for this process therefore is:



4c /è mú/ → [émũ] _____ ‘laugh’
 Laugh





CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, FINDING AND CONCLUSION

5.1 SUMMARY

This project work was an aspects of the phonology of Igbanke language. A language spoken in the Niger Delta Area of Delta State and also in Orhiomwon Local Government Area in Edo State. In this work, we ,made attempt to examine the phonological processes in the language, which are: Vowel Elison, Glide Formation and Nasalization.

In chapter one, the background of the study, the introductory part was looked at the history of Igbanke language was also introduced showing the class of Igbanke, their estimated number of speakers, etc we also presented the aim and methodology of the society.

In chapter two, the extensive review of related literature were carried out under these basic categories: the conceptual Review, Previous Studies and the Concern of the present study. The Conceptual Review examined al the concepts which were employed in the work works Linguist and Scholars have done on the language under study and thirdly, the theoretical review state the theory or approach which was employed in the work and the theory or approach which was employed in the work and the theory employed was propounded by Goldsmith J.

(1975). The motivation of this framework helped to adequately account for some phonological processes present in the language that is, Vowel Elision, Glide Formation and Nasalization. And lastly, in chapter four the Analysis and Discussion made through the examples given in chapter three with the use of autosegmental framework.

5.1 FINDINGS

This study revealed some important issues that were relevant to linguistic studies. During the course of this study, we found out that there are many phonological processes present in the language.

We were able to examine the phonological processes in the language which are: Vowel Elision, which was revealed in the above examples given in 4.1, that v2 across word boundary get remains, while v1 is elided in the language. Also the Glide Formation occurs with two high vowel /i/ and / u/, when either of the two vowels occurs before another vowels, they change into glide [j] and [w] in the language. Also Nasalization occurs in the language, when an oral vowel follows a nasal segment. Vowels that occurs after the nasal consonants assimilate the nasal features of the [preceding consonants and become nasalized. Over and above all, in accounting for this processes, we employed the autosegmental model

which is a multi-linear model, in which the various sounds and some features are arranged on separate tiers. but their co-ordination is revealed by their connection to the cv skeletal with the aid of associational lines.

5.3 CONCLUSION

So far this work focused on some aspects of the phonology of the language. It made attempts to examine and describe the sounds of the language. In addition, it also identified and described the phonological processes of the language. Accurate account was made of the framework which is a multilinear model proposed by Goldsmith (1976)

In conclusion, we wish to suggest that a lot still needs to be done on the language. Most work done in Igbanke are not explicit enough and are with no linguistic evidence to back up their facts. We were able to examine only three basic phonological processes in the language. We are suggesting that scholars should be encouraged to work more on this area in order to be able to document the language which will aid in the presentation of the language.

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