
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF HEADS DIRECTIONALITY IN ENGLISH AND RIGWE LANGUAGE PHRASE STRUCTURES

AMALE, FELIX AISHE
University of Ibadan
Email: amalefelix@gmail.com

Abstract

In order to have a full grasp of English language by non-native speakers, many attempts have been made and among these is the learning of the structure of its phrase in comparison to other languages. So, the phrase structure cannot be ignored in learning the appropriateness of English language by second language learners and this is what this study is set to do. The study adopted the X-bar sub-theory of Chomsky's Principles and Parameters Theory as theoretical framework. The Rigwe data for this study were primarily derived from two sources: the first was the recording of expressions made by people in social and informal gatherings (festivals, local pubs, churches and markets) and the secondary source was from Rigwe New Testament Bible and How to Read and Write in Rigwe Language. Likewise, some relevant English structures were borrowed from the English syntax materials. The following are the findings: NPs function as subject, object and complement in English and Rigwe language; both languages have specifiers. The heads of NPs of both languages could be nouns or a pronoun and both languages' head of NPs could be qualified by adjectives. However, There are differences whereby English takes its determiners and adjectives pre-nominally whereas Rigwe takes its post-nominally; Rigwe pronouns functioning as heads do not indicate gender or neuter; Rigwe has double subject, but the second subject is a resumptive pronoun; where common nouns serve as heads in Rigwe they do not take

determiners whereas in English, common nouns occur with determiners. Also, Rigwe NPs do not have complex NP structure. The specifiers of the adjective phrase of both languages are adverbs of degree. The head of Adjective Phrase in English comes last in English whereas in Rigwe it comes first with some exception. English has several kinds of adverbs of degree unlike Rigwe. The preposition a in Rigwe could be used as on, in, at, by and depends on context. Finally, the head of a verb phrase in English can have more one specifiers but in Rigwe one specifier is allowed. That is, not more than one auxiliary verb is expected to precede the lexical verb in Rigwe whereas in English more than two auxiliary verbs can precede a lexical verb. English and Rigwe show similarities and differences in their heads directionality. Hence, teachers of English in Rigwe speaking communities should emphasize on the areas of differences which would constitute learning difficulties Rigwe learners of English may encounter and how these problem areas can be tackled.

Keywords: Heads, Directionality, English, Rigwe and Phrase

Introduction

Language remains the most vital endowment humans could boast of. It is the means by which communication is sent. Wardhaugh (2006) defines language as, 'what members of a particular society speak. From this definition, we can see that the members of a community must communicate. That is why Wardhaugh says that language is what members of a particular society speak.

The Rigwe language is one of the minority languages spoken in Bassa and Riyom Local Government Areas of Plateau State and Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State in Nigeria (Amale, 2018). According to Ronku (2015) as cited in Amale (2018,p.5), Rigwe Language has 183,460 speakers and this

excludes those who live outside the Rigwe towns and villages. According to Simons and Charles (2008, p.1) Rigwe belongs to the Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo and Plateau West Central Nigeria.

After the learning and teaching of the letters of the alphabets and word structure of a particular language respectively, the next level to be considered is the phrase structure of that particular language being considered. Contrastive linguistics also studies the areas of divergence and convergence in two languages under study. It looks at how the differences in the phrase structure in one of the languages under study could inhibit the learning of the phrase structure of the other language under study as well. Chomsky (1980) as cited in Okolo (2008) and Lamidi (2011) assert that head of each phrase is endocentric. That is, every phrase has a head in which other words surround. This means that all the words in a phrase converge on a particular word in that phrase. That word which other words surround is said to be the most important word in the phrase and it is known as the head. All phrases in human languages have heads but the direction of the heads differs. There are some languages where the heads of their phrases appear at the beginning, while others' are at the end of their phrases, (Lamidi, 2011). The head can occur as the first word in a structure (in which case we say the structure is head first) or as the last word in a structure (in this case the structure is head last). A language is either head-first or head-last (Lamidi, 2011). The two attributes cannot be exhibited by a language. That means a language is either a head-first language or a head-last language.

It is against this background that this research study compares head directionality in English and Rigwe phrases; looking at their areas of convergence and divergence; how these areas of divergences would constitute learning difficulties of Rigwe

speakers and learners of English and how to proffer solutions to the problems observed in the course of the study.

Research Questions

The following research questions would be answered during the course of this research study:

- i. What are the areas of convergence in English and Rigwe phrase structures?
- ii. What are the areas of divergence in English and Rigwe phrase structures?
- iii. What are the learning difficulties Rigwe speakers/learners of English would encounter as a result of the areas of divergence between their L and L?
- iv. What are the possible solutions to these learning difficulties observed?

Literature Review

There are studies on Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese and so on, and on the side of Africa, there are studies on languages in Nigeria like Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa, Tiv, and others which have received attention when it comes to considering their phrase structures. The following are the examples of works that have looked at heads of phrases in various languages and that of the English language's Gbaaikyo (2014), Ibrahim (2010), Ozoigwe (2011), Lamidi (2003).

Gbaaikyo (2014) attempted a contrastive study of English and Tiv sentence structure; their similarities and differences; likely problems Tiv speakers of English would encounter and how to proffer solutions to such learning difficulties. The study made use of the Standard Theory as its theoretical model and the analysis is done through qualitative method. The

findings of the study shows that the major difficulties Tiv learners of English have are in the subject and object elements formation. While noun phrases occupying subject and object positions in English take articles and other determiners pre-nominally, Tiv in nearly all cases take them post-nominally or does not have them at all. The study also reveals that Tiv does not have gender dichotomy in both subject and object positions. However, the study did not look at other phrases like AdvP, AdjP, PP and VP.

Ibrahim (2010) carried out a contrastive analysis of the noun phrases in English and Gyong. The areas of divergences observed in the research study include: pluralisation, articles, demonstrative, genitives, concord and qualifiers. Their structures or positions in both languages studied are not the same. In English, articles, demonstratives and qualifiers come before the noun which is the head of the NP while the reverse is the case in Gyong. The major problem in Ibrahim's work is the use of theory that account for the structural differences that occur in English and Gyong. And this inability to make use of theory has made the work not to be scholarly enough. Another problem encountered with this work is method of data collection. The researcher used questionnaire to get data from secondary school students who speak Gong; this cannot give accurate data on Gyong. At least speakers of the Gyong language who are experienced should have been used in a research like this.

Ozoigwe (2011) carried out a contrastive analysis of the determiner phrases of English and Igbo. The paper adopted a contrastive approach as it compared and contrasted the determiner phrases of English and Igbo. The study reveals that the Igbo language has a head initial structure where the determiners are positioned after the head. The study is related to the current study as the study considers word order in the

NP. However, Ozoigwe's study is limited to determiner phrases as it did not discuss adjectival, verb, prepositional and adverbial phrases.

Lamidi (2003) studied head parameters in English-Yoruba code-switching. The study looked at lexical and functional head in sentences that are code-switched. It looked at the primacy of heads in these sentences. It is observed that heads are distinctive and they have scopal authority over other heads down the clause. However, it is limited to the study as it did not look at noun, adjectival, adverbial, prepositional and verb phrase in isolation and this is what this research study is set to do. The theory used in this work is not clearly stated. This can affect

It is on this note that this work is set to compare the directionality of heads in English and Rigwe phrase structure through the use of X^1 theory and with the aim of looking at the areas of convergence and divergence; likely problems to be encountered by Rigwe learners of English and how these problems observed could be tackled.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this research study is the X-bar sub-theory of the Principles and Parameters Theory by Norm Chomsky (1981).

X^1 Theory

According to Carnie (2010, p.92), "X-bar approach started off as a series of statements that restrict the form of phrase structure rules, but eventually developed into an independent system which allows us to capture generalizations not available with simple PSRs. Carnie further explains that the X-bar theory serves both as an extension to phrase structure grammars and places a number of restrictions on the form that Phrase Structure Rules (PSRs) can take. Also, Carnie (2010,

p.113) asserts that, the requirement that a phrase bears the same category as its head is known as "endocentricity". Using the variable X to stand for any category, this is the simple requirement that a phrase (XP) be of the same category as some semantically prominent word (the head) in it. The X here is the "X" in "X-bar Theory".

According to Lamidi (2003, p.70), the X-bar Theory deals with the notion of the head and its relationship with other formatives in the same phrase. Carnie (2001, p.105) says that, "the first presentation of X-bar theory appeared in Chomsky (1970)". Lamidi (2008, p.151) affirms by saying that the lexicalist hypothesis initiated the formulation of the X-bar theory.

Lamidi (2008, p.151) says that the development of X-bar Theory is as the result of the inadequacies of the Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG) because the PSG permits too many rules. Lamidi (2008, p.153) further gives another problem of PSG that led to the emergence of X-bar Theory, the keyword in a phrase and the word can be pre or post-modified, whereas in the X-bar theory, the head is very important. Furthermore, X-bar Theory accounts for constituents lesser than a phrase and constituent more than a phrase that the phrase structure could not account for which the PSG could not account for (Lamidi, 2008).

The X-bar Schema

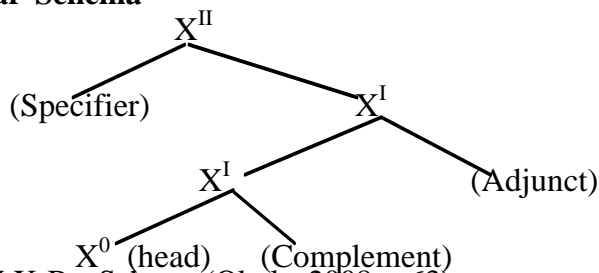


Figure IV. X-Bar Schema (Okolo, 2008, p.63).

This schema can be explained as follows: X can be taken as variables representing N, V, A, P, etc. which are lexical heads of their own phrase. A very important principle of the X-bar theory is *uniformity* or *endocentricity* (Okolo, 2008, p.63). All the satellites converge on the head; hence, each phrase has a head from which it derives a name. Thus, the head of a noun phrase is an N; verb phrase, a V; etc. (Okolo, 2008)

The head is obligatory and is X^0 . A lexical category can be post-modified by a complement, and the complement is the *sister* of X^0 while an *adjunct* is adjoined to X^1 . The maximal projection is separated from the intermediate projection by the specifier which is adjoined to the maximal projection. In X-bar theory, levels of projections are labelled in terms of number of bars. In other words, the first level of projection has a single bar and the next a double bar. The double bar level (X^{11}) is the maximal projection (phrasal projection) which dominates X^1 and X^1 immediately dominates X^0 (Okolo, 2008).

Lamidi (2011, p.17) explains the features of the X-bar theory below:

- I. Heads are endocentric. Each non-head word contributes to the head syntactically and semantically. The non-heads specify or contribute to the meaning of the head.
- ii. The head is obligatory. No language expression that would be recognized as phrase without the head, that is, it is the most important word in the phrase structure and also contribute to the meaning of the head.
- iii. The head is a lexical entry that contains categorical, thematic and subcategorisation features which determine the type of the phrase.
- iv. Heads can be functional or lexical: the functional

items are known as functors and examples of functional heads are articles, prepositions and tense and negative markers while the lexical heads are, lexical verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs

Chomsky (1986, p.4) points out that the specifiers are optional whereas the choice of complements is determined by the Projection Principle. The latter is a principle that says that representations at each syntactic level are projected from the lexicon.

In conclusion, X-bar Theory talks about the primacy of the head. This is why it is taken to be suitable for the study. It would help this research work to bring out the areas of convergence and divergences in the phrase structure of the languages (English and Rigwe) under study.

Methodology

The Rigwe Language data for this study were primarily derived from two sources. The first was the recording of expressions made by people in social and informal gatherings (festivals, local pubs, churches and markets) where Rigwe is predominantly used as a means of interaction in Kwall and Miango districts of Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State. The secondary source was from Rigwe New Testament Bible and also from a book titled, "How to Read and Write Rigwe" by Gya (2006) which served as a useful guide for correct transcription of the data and also for placing tone marks.

Likewise, some relevant English structures were borrowed from the English syntax materials such as: An Introduction to English Grammar (Greenbaum, S. and Nelson, G. 2002); An Introduction to the Grammar of English (Gelderen, E.V. 2010) and An Introduction to English Syntax (Miller, J. 2002).

Sentences were selected from the recorded expressions and

subjected to a native speaker's intuitive judgment for a correct transcription and translation to English by two Rigwe speaking respondents. For the analysis, these sentences were syntactically parsed using tree diagrams. Thereafter, the phrases were carefully juxtaposed in both English and Rigwe showing the positions heads of NPs, AdjPs, AdvPs, PPs and VPs, after which the necessary contrastive statements were given accordingly. This is to show the areas of differences and similarities in the island constraints in English and Rigwe.

Data Analysis

To answer the research questions earlier raised, the noun, adjectival, adverbial, prepositional and verb phrases would be analysed in this segment of this study.

Phrase

Phrases are projections of head words. It is through the projection of a head word that a type of a phrase is identified. The phrases that would be discussed in this sub-unit include noun phrase, adjective phrase, adverbial phrase, prepositional phrase and verb phrase.

Noun Phrase

Lamidi (2008, p.68) defines NP as, “a group of words with a noun as the keyword”. He further explains that a pronoun or a noun stands for an NP. This is to say that the components of an NP can be a pronoun or noun; it can be modified by an AdjP and can also have specifiers. Gelderen (2010, p.38) agrees with the definition given by Lamidi by explaining that the N is the head of NP. The NP usually has the PP as its complement. Furthermore, the determiners or specifiers of NPs can be articles, possessive adjectives, demonstrative pronouns, quantifiers and numerals. So, the most important element in an NP is the noun which is the head of the phrase. All other elements either contribute syntactically or semantically to the

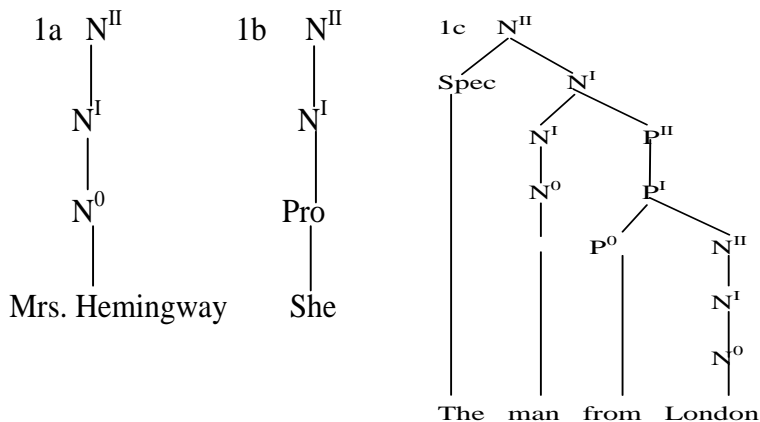
meaning of the phrase.

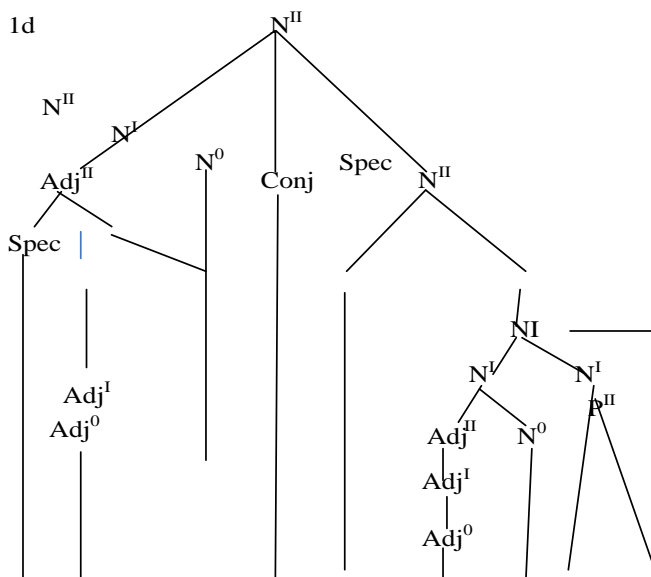
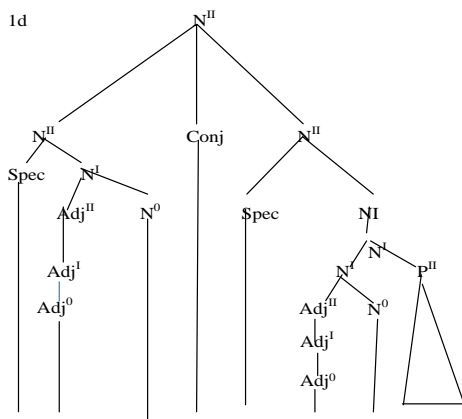
The English NP Structure

The NP is headed by either a noun or a pronoun. It has the PP as its complement. NPs can function as subject of a sentence; object of verb and as complement of a sentence. However, it should be noted that despite *complement* is a notation in the Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), this work is restricted to transformational generative grammar point of view on complement. Examples of English noun phrases are given below:

- 1a. Mrs. Hemingway wants to see the president
- 1b. She teaches English at Cambridge
- 1c. The man from London seems friendly
- 1d. The Boy's book is on the table.
- 1e. The beautiful girl and the handsome boy in the garden are dancing.

The tree diagram representation of NPs in *1a, 1b, 1c, 1d* and *1e* can be seen below:





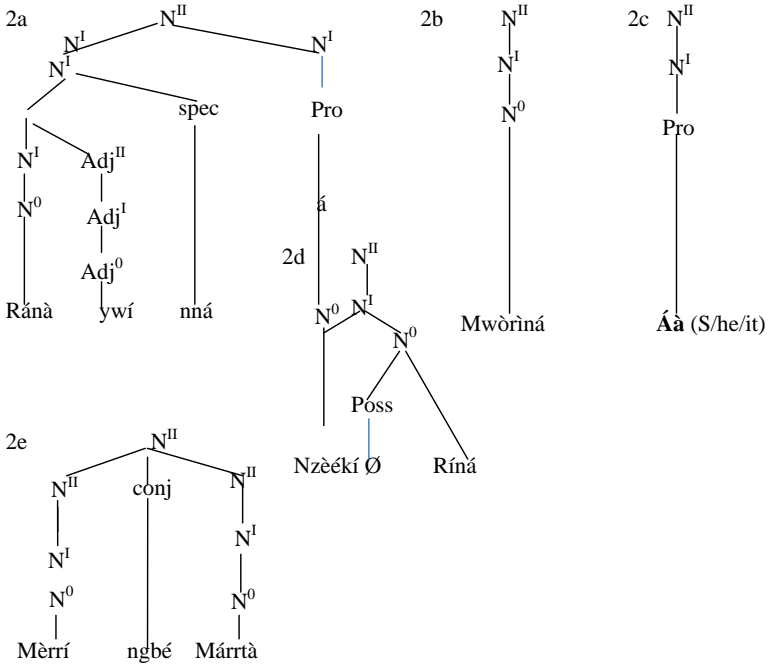
The beautiful girl and the handsome boy in the garden

In the examples given above, especially the tree diagrams of *1a, 1b, 1c, 1d,* and *1e* above, the head of the NPs are nouns. In (1a), the head of the NP is a proper noun, *Mrs. Hemingway*; the head of the NP in (1b) is a pronoun, *she*; the head of the NP in *1c* is a common noun, *man* and it has a PP as its complement; the head of the NP in (*1d*) *book* which is a possessive noun and (1e) has two heads (*girl* and *boy*) as it is a complex NP structure. Two NPs joined by a coordinating conjunction. As observed in English NPs discussed above, the determiner and the adjective qualifying nouns come pre-nominally.

NP Structure in Rigwe

The Rigwe NP is headed by a noun or a pronoun.

- 2a. Ránà ywí nná a ri rí nggwè
 Girls black the they will see king
 'The dark girls will see the king'
- 2b. Mwòríná pìè kidu
 Mworina catch+Past rabbit
 'Mworina caught a rabbit'
- 2c. Áà gàrá ìcy?? á z?t? ngbààtsiè.
 S/he keep+Past thatch on top rock
 'S/he kept some thatch on a rock.'
- 2d. Nzèékí Ríná hu á mínc?
 Donkey Rina die+past at morning
 'Rina's donkey died in the morning'.
- 2e. Mèrri ngbé Márrtà nyí ré-mbé
 Mary and Martha are sisters
 'Mary and Martha are sisters'



The heads of the NP above are c

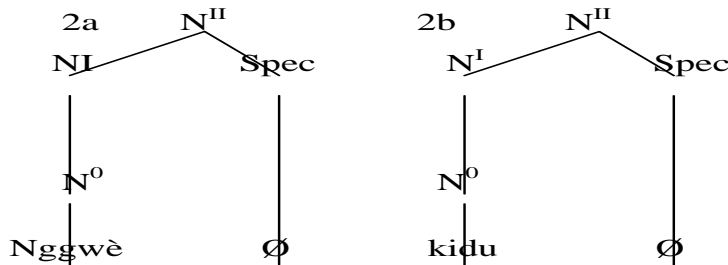
The heads of the NP above are captured in the N⁰. That is, the head of 2a is *Ránà* while the *á* is a resumptive pronoun referring to *Ránà* which is a common noun. The head of the NP in structure 2b is *Mworina* which is a proper noun; the head in 2c *Áà* is a pronoun and it should be noted that it could be used as she, he or it. Possessive markers are not overtly realised in Rigwe. Although Rigwe uses noun-noun to show possession, it is through the tone of the speaker that possession is indicated and also the *ni* which is equivalent to the English preposition *of* is used to indicate possession. For example:

- 3a. Zàmfarà fóng wrà ní R k?
 Zamfara take+Past belt of Ruku
 Zamfara took Rukus' belt.

The *ní* in the sentence above shows that *wrà* (belt) belongs to R k?. However, it should be noted that the difference between the use of *noun-noun* in Rigwe to show possession and *ní* is that the *ní* is used when we have similar items. That means *Zàmfarà* could also have a belt or there could be two belts belonging to different persons, so the *ní* is used to indicate specifically whose belt has been taken. The *ní* is also used for emphasis.

NPs are modified by their specifiers and adjectives post-nominally. This can be seen in 2a. Rigwe has compound NPs but getting a complex NPs in Rigwe would end in introducing the *that complementizer*, however, this is not part of the scope of this research study. The NPs in the object of sentence 2a and 2b do not have determiners. Rigwe common nouns do not use determiners.

The tree diagrams below are the tree diagram representation of the objects of 2a and 2b



Another worthy area to be noted is the use of resumptive pronoun in Rigwe. This can be seen in 2a in which the subject *girls* and the pronoun *they* functioning as the heads of same NP. The pronoun *á* refers to the *girls* in the NP

Contrastive Statement

The specifier node is a sister node to the N^I in both languages.

NP can function as subject, object and complement in English and Rigwe languages. The heads of both languages could be a noun or a pronoun. The difference between the NPs of the languages under study is that English takes its determiners and adjectives pre-nominally whereas Rigwe takes its determiners and adjectives post-nominally; Rigwe pronouns functioning as heads do not indicate gender, the same *áà* is used for *she, he* and *it*; Rigwe has double subject, but the second subject is a resumptive pronoun referring to the head in the NP; common nouns in Rigwe do not take determiners whereas in English, common nouns occur with determiners. Also, Rigwe NPs do not allow complex structure without the introduction of *that complementizer*. So, complex NPs in Rigwe are not realised. Finally, it can be concluded that the major difference between English and Rigwe languages in the arrangement of NP is that, English is said to be a head first language and Rigwe is said to be head last language (Radford, 2009).

Adjective phrases

Adjective phrases qualify nouns in a structure. Adjective phrases function as adjective do in sentences. That is they tell us about nouns. This can be buttressed through the explanation of Gelderen (2010, p.38) who asserts that the adjectival phrases are built on adjectives and they create the properties of noun in sentences. That is, adjectival phrases discuss nouns in sentences. Lamidi (2008, p.74) opines that adjective phrases usually occur before nouns (as attributes) and after the verbs (as predicative). This is to say that adjective phrases can function as part of an NP or as complement. The specifiers in adjective phrases are usually adverbs of degree.

Adjectival Phrases in English

The modifiers of the head in Adjective phrase come before or after the head.

4a. Her red dress is so beautiful

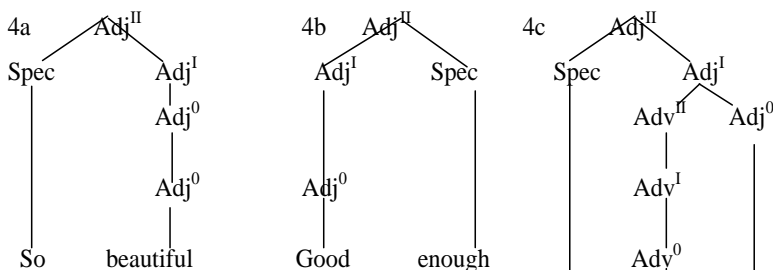
4b. The machine he supplied is not good enough to meet up with the company's test

4c. His ideas are rather totally useless

4d. The tall boy is very naughty

4e. Jerome is quite incredibly simple

The tree diagram representations of examples 4a- 4c



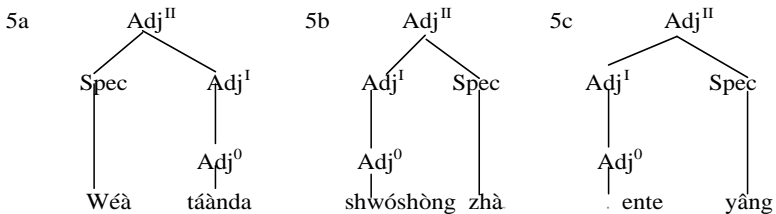
The heads of the adjective phrases above are being pre-modified by adverbs of degree which serve as their specifiers. The head of 4a is *beautiful*; the head of 4b is *good* and the head of structure 4c is *useless*. With the exception of 4b, all adjectives are pre-modified by their specifier. In 4b the adverb *enough* which serves as the specifier of the adjective *good*, comes after.

Adjective Phrases in Rigwe

The head of an adjective phrase in Rigwe is an adjective. Adjectives in Rigwe are post-modified by adverbs of degree

5a. Rínn? nnà shí wéà táànda
 Meat the be+Pres very tough
 'The meat is very tough'

- 5b. Riiyi nnè ncwí nyi shwóshòng zhà???
- Eyes man that be+pres red very
- 'That man's eyes are very red'
- 5c. K?zà nné mbé shè nyí t?nt? yang
- Tin that they found be+pres original so
- 'The tin they found is so original'
- 5d. T gó ng shí ky?ky?ng zhanzhaa
- Shirt his be+Pres white dazzling
- 'His shirt is dazzling white'
- 5e. Tagó ywìywíng ng shi tahwê góndóó
- Shirt black his be+pres under bed
- 'His black shirt is under the bed'



From the tree diagram 5a, the head of the adjective phrase comes after the specifier in Rigwe while in tree diagrams 5b and 5c above, the heads of the adjective phrases come first then followed by the specifier. It should be noted that adverbs of degree serve as specifier of the heads in Rigwe adjective phrase.

Contrastive Statement

English and Rigwe have an adjective as the head of the AdjP. The specifiers of the adjective phrase of both languages are adverbs of degree. The difference between the Adjective phrases in English and Rigwe is that the head of the phrase comes last in English whereas in Rigwe it comes first with the exception of 5a where the specifier comes first

Adverbial Phrase

The adverb phrase has the adverb as its head word. The head can be modified by another adverb. The adverb of degree modifies the main adverb in adverbial phrase.

This is formalized thus:

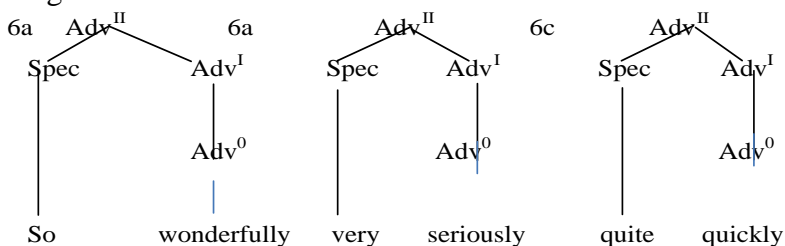
Rule: AdvP (Adv)Adv

The rule above shows that an AdvP has the Adv as the compulsory element

Adverbial Phrase in English

- 6a. So wonderfully
- 6b. Very seriously
- 6c. Quite quickly
- 6d. Slowly

The Adverbial phrases can be represented in the following tree diagrams

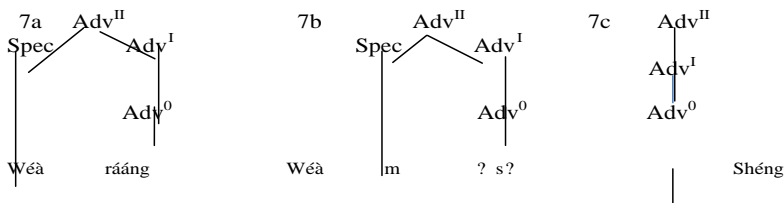


In the trees above, the adverbs of degree serve as specifiers of the heads in the adverbial phrases.

Adverbial Phrase in Rigwe

- 7a. Wèà rááng
Very calmly
- 7b. Wèà m?s?
So silently

7c. Shéng
Slowly



In the representation of the phrases above, we observed that *wéà* serves as adverb of degree modifying the adverbs *rǎng* in (7a) and *m?s?* (7b) which are the heads of the adverbial phrase, while *sheng* does not have a specifier. Rigwe has only one adverb of degree *wéà* used to modify other adverbs in AdvP.

Contrastive Statement

The adverbial phrases given in English and Rigwe indicate that Rigwe and English adverbial phrase structure share similarities in the sense that both languages have adverb as the head of the adverbial phrase and the heads are pre-modified by adverbs of degree. The only difference between the two languages on the adverbial phrase is that English has several kinds of adverbs of degree unlike Rigwe which has a limited number of adverbs of degree.

Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase is a phrase that is headed by a preposition. The prepositional phrases function as adverbs. They indicate place, time and position of a noun in a sentence.

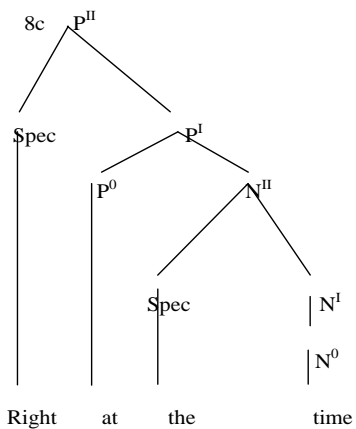
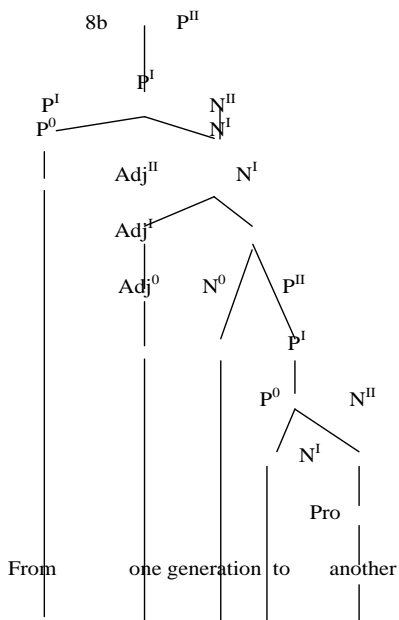
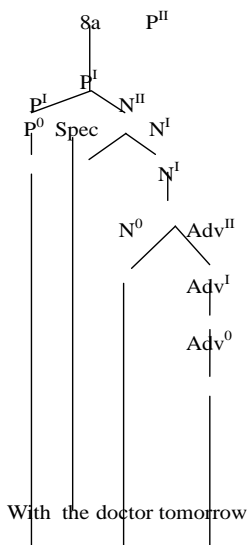
The NP is always seen as the complement of the PP.

Prepositional Phrase in English

The heads of prepositional phrase in English is a preposition.

- 8a. Mr. Mike would be coming with the doctor tomorrow.
- 8b. Culture is passed from one generation to another
- 8c. The meeting started right at the time
- 8d. We do have communion on the third Saturdays of every month.
- 8e. Queensley looks great in the pretty dress

Looking at the above, the heads of the prepositional phrases are prepositions. Only three (3) tree diagrams would be represented to avoid superfluous analysis.

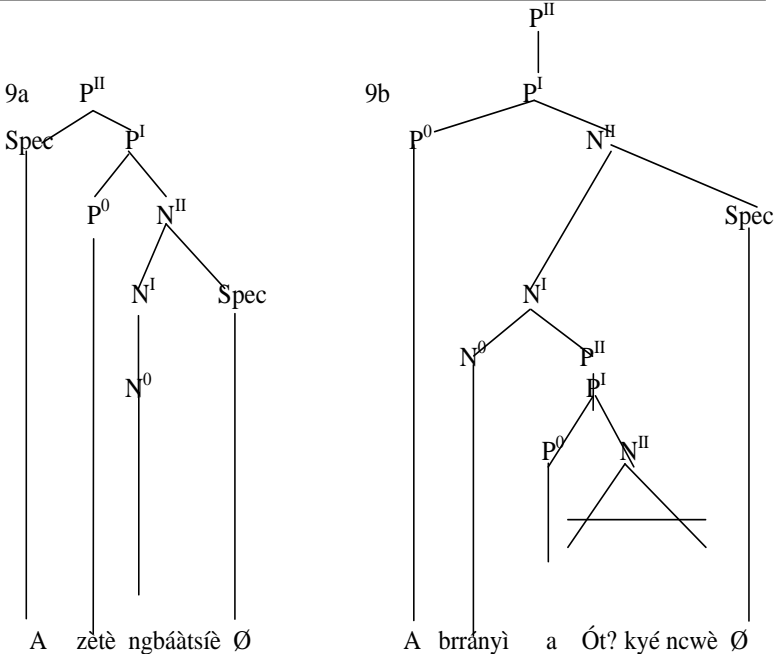


The samples of *8a* and *8b* presented in the tree above shows that the NP is the complement of the prepositional phrase. This is because the NPs in the structures above appear at the left of the PP. In *8c* the preposition *right* as the specifier of the preposition *at* which is the head of the prepositional phrase.

Prepositional Phrase in Rigwe

The head of a prepositional phrase in Rigwe is a preposition. The prepositional phrases in Rigwe indicate place, position and time. That is, they function as adverbs in sentences.

- 9a. Àá sá énjìé a zètè ngbáàtsìè
 3sg keep+past calabash on top stone
 'S/he kept a calabash on a stone'
- 9b. Mbrr Tàh rí shwó rócw? a brrányì a
 Ót kyé ncwè.
 Women Tahu will+Fut dance+pres at temple
 on Friday
 'Women of Tahu Clan will dance at the temple on Friday'.
- 9c. Gyè bé nné d? ng?
 Gye come+past with mother his
 'Gye came with his mother'.
- 9d. Èwéná nnà shí jénjéu we c?ucwung
 Girl that is+aspect intelligent since from beginning
 'That girl has been intelligent since from the beginning'
- 9e. Pita wìé a yarrí krrède
 Pita write+Past in inside book
 'Peter wrote inside a book'



The head of prepositional phrase in Rigwe is a preposition and when there are two prepositions in the Rigwe PP, the first preposition becomes the spec of the second preposition. This can be seen in *9a* where preposition *a* serves as the specifier of the preposition *zètè*. That is, making the second preposition the head of the phrase. Furthermore, the NP is seen from the above tree representations of *9a* and *9b* as the complement of the PP. and also, from the analyses above on prepositional phrase, where the *a* occurs, it becomes the specifier of the head, however, it should be noted that the *a* can stand as a head of a prepositional phrase. Example is *9b*.

Contrastive Statement

The word order pattern of English and Rigwe is similar in the prepositional phrase. Both languages can have two prepositions whereby the first preposition serves as a specifier to the second preposition while the second preposition serves

as the head of the PP. the differences between the two languages' PPs is that in Rigwe the preposition *a* could be used as *on, in, at, by*. These prepositions in Rigwe can only be identified based on the context they are used whereas English has different preposition that can be used at different contexts. Another difference observed on Rigwe is redundancy. This can be seen in *9e* where *a*, which means *in* and *yarrí* which means *inside* are used at the same time whereas in English it would be taken as redundant.

Verb Phrase

As with the other phrases discussed in the preceding sub-units, the VP is a phrasal category that has a V as its head.

Rule: VP \longrightarrow V (AdvP)(NP)(PP)(AP)

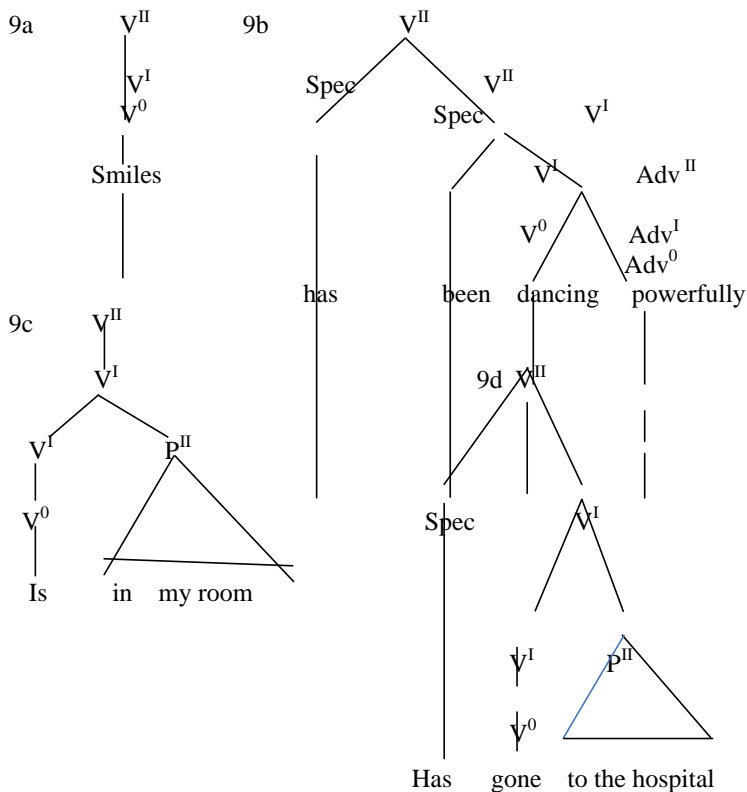
From the rule above, we observe that the VP has the V as the compulsory element while the complement can be an AdvP, NP, PP and AP which are optional.

Verb Phrase in English

The head of the verb phrase in English is the main verb. In situation where an auxiliary verb occurs, the auxiliary verb serves as the specifier of the main verb (lexical)

- 10a. John smiles (V)
- 10b. John has been dancing powerfully (V+AdvP)
- 10c. The bouquet is in my room. (V+PP)
- 10d. Kimberly is beautiful. (V+AP)
- 10e. He gave me a cup (V+NP)

Tree diagram representations of the verb phrases in English



From the tree diagram representations of 10a-e above, the head of the verb phrase is a verb. The first verb which is usually the auxiliary verb is taken to be the spec of the head. This can be seen in 9b and 9d, *has* and *been* in 9b serve as the spec of the verb dancing, while in 9d the auxiliary verb *has* serves as the spec of the lexical verb *gone*.

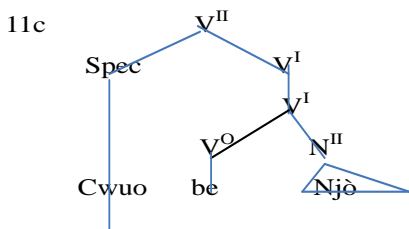
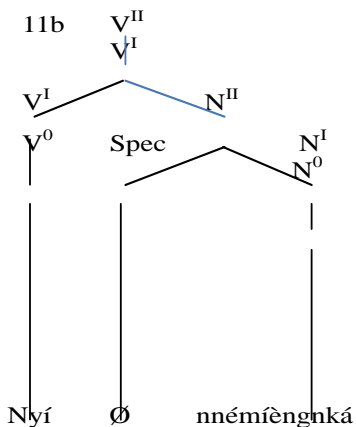
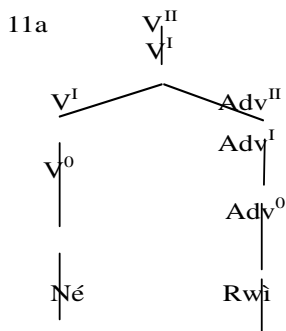
Verb Phrase in Rigwe

The head of VP in Rigwe is a verb.

11a. Mínkè né rwì
 Minke leave+past yesterday
 'Minke left yesterday'

11b. Meli nyí nnémîèngká
 Meli be+pres teacher
 'Meli is a teacher'

11c. Á cwuo be Njò
 They is come+ Prog Jos
 'They are coming to Jos'



From the examples 11a and 11b, the head of VP in Rigwe is a verb. In 11a the verb *né* is the head of the phrase and has AdvP as its complement while in 11b the verb *nyí* is the head of the phrase but has NP as its complement. In 11c, the verb *cwuo* becomes the spec of the verb *be* which is the head of the VP.

Contrastive Statement

From the examples of both English and Rigwe VPs, both languages have the verb slot and can have AdvP, PPNP and AP as their complement. The difference between English and Rigwe verb phrase is that, the head of a verb phrase in English can have more one specifier but in Rigwe only one specifier is allowed. That is, not more than one auxiliary verb is expected to precede the lexical verb in Rigwe whereas in English more than two auxiliary verbs can precede a lexical verb.

Result of the Findings

The following are the findings on the direction of heads in English and Rigwe NPs: NPs function as subject, object and complement in English and Rigwe language; both languages have specifiers which could be determiners, possessive adjectives, demonstrative pronouns, quantifiers and numerals. The heads of both languages could be a noun or a pronoun and both languages' head of NPs could be qualified by adjectives. However, There are differences whereby English takes its determiners and adjectives pre-nominally whereas Rigwe takes its determiners and adjectives post-nominally; Rigwe pronouns functioning as heads do not indicate gender, the same *áà* is used for *she*, *he* and *it*; Rigwe has double subject, but the second subject is a resumptive pronoun referring to the head in the NP; where common nouns serve as heads in Rigwe they do not take determiners whereas in English, common nouns occur with determiners. Also, Rigwe NPs do not allow complex structure without the introduction of *that complementizer*. So, complex NPs in

Rigwe are not allowed in Rigwe.

On the aspect of head of adjectival phrases in both languages understudy, English and Rigwe have an adjective as the head of the AdjP. The specifiers of the adjective phrase of both languages are adverbs of degree. The difference between the Adjective phrases in English and Rigwe is that the head of the phrase comes last in English whereas in Rigwe it comes first with some exception where it comes last in Rigwe. English and Rigwe adverbial phrase structures share similarities in the sense that both languages have adverb as the head of the adverbial phrase and the heads are pre-modified by adverbs of degree. The only difference between the two languages on the adverbial phrase is that English has several kinds of adverbs of degree unlike Rigwe which has a limited number of adverbs of degree.

Both languages can have two prepositions whereby the first preposition serves as a specifier to the second preposition while the second preposition serves as the head of the PP. The differences between the two languages' PPs is that in Rigwe the preposition *a* could be used as *on, in, at, by*. These prepositions in Rigwe can only be identified based on the context they are used whereas English has different preposition that can be used at different contexts.

Finally, on the aspect of heads of verb phrase, both languages have the verb slot and can have AdvP, PP NP and AP as their complement. The difference between English and Rigwe verb phrase is that, the head of a verb phrase in English can have more than one specifier but in Rigwe one specifier is allowed. That is, not more than one auxiliary verb is expected to precede the lexical verb in Rigwe whereas in English more than two auxiliary verbs can precede a lexical verb.

Conclusion

The paper has looked at head directionality in English and Rigwe, considering positions of heads of phrases of noun, adjective, adverb, preposition and verbs to proffer solutions to the predicted problems. The findings have shown that English is said to be a head first language and Rigwe is said to be head last language (Radford, 2009). Before teaching a Target Language (TL), the grammar of the Source Language (SL) should be properly mastered by looking at the subject, verbs, object, adjuncts and complement components very well. These aspects must be thoroughly checked because it is through their combination that we have a well-formed sentence.

Standard teaching materials that discuss the grammar of English should be consulted, especially books that dwell on determiners, verbs, complements, adjuncts and objects. This would enable the teacher to be well-prepared in order to avoid wrong transfer of knowledge to the learners. This is often seen as some teachers of English consult substandard books without looking at the implications of the materials chosen on learners of English as second or foreign language.

Curriculum designers/planners, educationists, theorists and authors in Rigwe communities and schools should plan and design curriculum and educational programmes that would make the learning of a second or foreign language easier and interesting. Further researches should be carried out on sentences based on functions and negation in English and Rigwe languages. Also, researches should be done through Error and Needs Analysis Approaches to help the up-coming Rigwe learners/speakers of English.

References

- Carnie, A. (2001). *Syntax*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers.
(2010). *Constituent structure*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Chomsky, N. (1957) *Syntactic structures*. The Hague: Mouton.
- (1981). *Lecture on government and binding*. USA. Foris Publication
- (1986a). *Barriers*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.
- (1986b). *Knowledge of language: its nature, origin and use*. New York: Praeger.
- Gelderen, E.V. (2010). *An Introduction to the grammar of English*. Amsterdam: John Benjamin Publishing Co.
- Gbaaikyo, L.M. (2014). *A Contrastive analysis of English and Tiv sentence structures*. (1093367) [M.A Project. English and Literary Studies, Arts. University of Nigeria, Nsukka].
- Greenbaum, S. & Nelson, G. (2002). *An Introduction to English grammar*. London: Longman
- Grimes, B. (2000). *Ethnologue: languages of the world*. Vol. 1. (14th ed). Texas: SIL International.
- Gya, D. (2009). *How to read and write Irigwe*. Jos: Nigeria Bible Translation Trust.
- Ibrahim, M.R. (2010). *A Contrastive analysis of the noun phrase in Gyong and English*. (1297360) [M.A thesis. English, Arts. Ahmadu Bello Univeristy, Zaria]
- James, C. (1980). *Contrastive analysis*. London: Longman.
- Lado, R. (1957). *Linguistics across cultures*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.(1964). *Language teaching*. New York: McGraw Hill.

- Lamidi, M.T. (2003). *The head parameter and grammaticality in Yoruba-English code-switching among undergraduates in selected Nigerian universities*. (988909) [Phd Thesis. English, Arts. University of Ibadan].
- M.T. (2004). *The scopal authority of heads in Yoruba-English code-switching*. *Nordic Journal of African Studies*, 13(1), 76–94.
- (2008). *Aspects of Chomskyan grammar*. Ibadan: University Press PLC.
- (2011). *Advanced syntax material*. Ibadan University of Ibadan Distance Learning Centre.
- Miller, J. (2002). *An introduction to English syntax*. **Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.**
- Okolo, B.A. (2008). *Advanced English syntax*. Lagos: National Open University.
- Rigwe New Testament Bible*. Wycliffe Bible Translators Inc.
- Ronku, A. (2015). *Rigwe Kingdom: the Story from the Beginning*. Jos: Molkai Services.
- Simons, G. F. & Charles D. F. (2008). *Ethnologue: languages of the world*, 21st edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Retrieved May 22, 2020, from <http://www.ethnologue.com>
- Uzoigwe, B.C. (2011). *A contrastive analysis of Igbo & English determiner phrases*. *Journal of Igbo Language & Linguistics (JILL)*, 3, 73-83.
- Wardhaugh, R. (1970). The contrastive analysis hypothesis. *Tesol Quarterly*, 4, 66-87.