Affixes in Idemili and Ọnịcha

[1]Amaka Yvonne Okafor and [2]Eugene Uchechukwu Ejiofor
[1]Imo State University, Owerri; [2]Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil

Abstract
This article studies the morphological variations between Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects of the Igbo language. The dialects are classified as the East Niger Group of Dialects (ENGD), Nwaozuzu (2008). The article identifies the morphological variations of affixes in Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects under perfective, past tense, present participle, present progressive and negative constructions. As the authors are indigenous speakers of Igbo, the method of participatory observation and audio recording of data from different age groups of the native speakers of the Idemili and Ọnịcha varieties were used for data collection; while descriptive analysis was applied for data analysis. From the findings, Idemili uses the affix '-na' to indicate perfective marker, while Ọnịcha uses '-go'. In indicating past tense, Idemili and Ọnịcha use the same past tense marker '-lụ' or '-li' as the case may be. Moreover, Idemili uses '-họ' to indicate negation while Ọnịcha uses '-rọ' for negation. Idemili and Ọnịcha use '-ba' to indicate present progressive construction. It is also observed that both dialects also use 'e-' and 'a-' respectively in portraying present participle. The article has established that notwithstanding that Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects belong to one group of dialects, they have some differences in their morphological processes.
Keywords: Affixes in Igbo, Igbo morphology, inflection in Igbo, derivation in Igbo

1.0 Introduction

Although historical and comparative linguistics differ considerably with respect to their goals and methods, they are often treated as a single discipline. Historical linguistics refers to the study of languages as they have evolved from the past to the present, which often includes periods of time that pre-dates the art of writing. This involves the reconstruction of dead languages. The findings of historical linguistics are relevant to comparative linguistics because it takes into account the history of languages. Comparative linguistics is concerned with the comparison of two or more languages (Anagbogu, Mbah & Eme 2001:25). They can be compared historically. When this happens, we describe the end product as comparative historical linguistics. The comparison could be typological (when the description involves a comparison between certain features of the language concerned). The features can be similar or dissimilar. Historical and comparative linguistics can be viewed phonologically, syntactically and morphologically. This study concentrates on the morphological view.

Anagbogu, Mbah & Eme (2010:140) state that "morphology is the level of grammar which studies the ways morphemes organize themselves to form words". Morphology is broadly broken down into two - inflectional and derivational. Inflectional morphology describes predictable changes a word undergoes as a result of syntax, and has no effect on the word's lexical category. For instance, the word **"goat"** is a noun in its singular form while **"goats"** is also a noun in its plural form. Therefore, the addition of the plural marker **'-s'** has no effect on the word category but a little effect on its meaning. The most common changes are the plural and possessive forms of nouns, comparative and superlative forms of adjectives, and the past tense, past participle and progressive forms of verbs. On the contrary, derivational morphology examines the ways words are formed from morphemes. Traditionally, it is believed that when a word is derived from another word, its lexical category changes. For instance, the word **slowness** (noun) is derived from the

word **slow** (adjective). However in some cases, the derived word still retains its lexical category as in **friendship** (noun) which is derived from the word **friend** (noun).

Every language has different ways of forming new words that makes it unique. One of the processes of word formation is called affixation. Affixation is a morphological process. In the view of Yule (1996:75), morphology is the study of forms. These forms are what we have as morphemes. Morphemes, which are made up of free and bound morphemes, are the smallest units of grammar. A free morpheme, like 'goat' is meaningful in isolation, while a bound morpheme like '-s' in books cannot stand alone. Affixation is thus, the process of adding affixes to stem, root, or base morphemes in order to form new words or modify the meanings of existing words. It is one of the most productive ways of word-building in languages. Babarinde (2009:58) states that "affixation comprises prefixation, suffixation, interfixation, and infixation". Anagbogu, Mbah and Eme (2001:102) include "circumfixation.".

According to Encyclopedia Americana (2004:731) "languages may be classified from a number of view points and for various purposes. The two basic classifications are typological and genetic". Genetic groups together languages which are presumed to have arisen from a common source. It reflects languages that share common ancestors. The characteristics shared by related languages are hardly by chance. "Genetically, Igbo is one of the African languages that belong to the new Benue-Congo of the Niger Congo language family. Igbo is the only major language of the Eastern Nigeria. The Igbo language is spoken in the states of Abia, Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Benue, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo and Rivers" (*www.rogerblench.info/languagedata/...*) Typologically, Igbo is a tonal language. It has three tones - the high, down step and low tones.

2.0 Review of literature

Ballard (2001:51) defines affixation as, "the process by which bound morphemes (other than roots) are added to bases, either word-initially or word finally to form new words." As affixation is a morphological process, let us briefly discuss morphology. Morphology is one of the branches of linguistics that studies the process of word formation. According to Akmajian, Demers, Farmer & Harnish (2001:12), "morphology is a subfield of linguistics that studies the internal structure of words and the relationships among words." Nida (1992:1) defines morphology as, "the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words." Morpheme, which is the unit of study in morphology, is the smallest meaningful unit of a language. Anagbogu, et al. (2001:99) identify morpheme as "the smallest indivisible form which has a specific grammatical function."

In the view of Babarinde (2009:22), "there are basically two types of morpheme. These are free morphemes and bound morphemes." He states further that: "free morphemes can stand on their own with meanings. They are independent and are otherwise known as monomorphemic words. Every free morpheme is a word." Thus, free morphemes are lexical morphemes because they have inherent or intrinsic meanings being words belonging to major lexical categories such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. There is another class of morphemes that are called functional morphemes. Examples of such morphemes are: because, on, and, etc. These words belong to minor lexical categories like pronoun, conjunction, and preposition.

A bound morpheme cannot stand alone in an utterance. For example, **in** -, **un** -, and **–ly** are bound morphemes in English. They are forms which may possess meanings and have grammatical functions. For instance, **-ly** when attached to **urgent**, changes the free morpheme from adjective to an adverb. As stated earlier, morphology deals with the formation of words. Words are formed through several ways. Affixation is one of such ways of word formation. Other ways of word formation according to Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams, (2007:106) include: "coinage, compounds, blends, acronyms, back-formation, eponym and clipping". Agbedo (2000:89) defines affixation as "a word building or

word formation process that involves the addition of phoneme or group of phonemes to a root or stem to modify, extend or change the meaning and/or function of the word". In English language for instance, the plural morpheme '**–s'** is added to **dog** and **car** to form **dogs** and **cars**. The process of attaching the plural morpheme '**–s'** to these roots is called affixation. Umera and Nwankwo (2009:50) define affixation as "the addition of prefixes and suffixes to the root or base with or without change of the word class." Their definition can be illustrated with the addition of '**dis-'** to '**advantage'** to realise '**disadvantage'** and the addition of '**–er'** to '**drive'** realise '**driver'**. From the definitions above, affixation is thus a morphological process whereby an affix is attached to a root or stem in order to form new words or change the meaning of an existing one.

Affixation goes with root, base, and stem. Babarinde (2009:22) defines a root as "the smallest morphological unit that is associated with a free morpheme. It is the very heart of the word formation – the core of any given word." The root carries the most significant aspects of semantic content and cannot be reduced into smaller constituents. Content words usually represent root morphemes in many languages. For instance, in the word: **naturalization**, the root of the word is **nature**. The **root** is defined by Osuagwu, Nwaozuzu, Dike, Nwaogu & Okoro (1997:56) as "that part of the word left after all the affixes or appendages have been removed". On the meaning of base, Umera, Okeke & Nwankwo (2009:14) state that **base** is "a form to which an affix is added. It is the smallest form of a word. Often, the base is the root. It is the very heart of a word to which additions and appendages are made". A stem is defined by Umera et al. (2009:14) as "a root to which an affix can be added". Babarinde (2009:23) sees a stem as "that part of the word to which the last morpheme in the word is structurally added. According to Agbedo (2000:89), affixes are classified in terms of "position and function." Positional classification of affixes yields ***prefix***, ***suffix***, ***interfix***, ***circumfix***, and ***infix***.

2.1 Classification of affixes

2.1.1 Prefixation

According to Anagbogu et.al (2010), prefixation is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme is attached to the front of a root or stem. The kind of affix involved in this process is called a prefix. For instance, in English, the prefix '**un-'** attaches to the front of the stem '**selfish'** to form the word '**unselfish'.** Finegan (2004:49) states that "prefixes are attached to the front of a stem". As for Ballard (2001:51), "a prefix is an affix which occurs in word-initially". These depict that a prefix occurs in front of a root or stem as we have in 'disgrace'; '**dis**' is the prefix while '**grace**' is the root or base.

2.1.2 Suffixation

Suffixation is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme is attached to the end of a root or stem. The kind of affix involved in this process is called a "suffix". For instance, in English, the past tense suffix '**–ed'** attaches to the end of the stem '**walk'** to form the past tense verb '**walked'**. Ballard (2001:51) defines suffix as "an affix which is added to word-finally." It is an affix that is added to the end of a word. Suffix can be seen in 'desirable', where '**desire**' is the root while '**able'** is the suffix.

2.1.3 Interfixation

Interfixation is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme is attached in between two roots having the same sounds and meaning. The kind of affix in this process is called an "interfix". An example of interfixation in Igbo includes 'ogo-**l-**ogo' meaning '**very tall'.** According to Anagbogu et al. (2010:144), "interfix is an affix which occurs in the middle of a word in such a way that on both sides of it, there are identical morphemes". His position can be illustrated with the following example from the Igbo language: in the word '*anụ**m**anụ*', **'m**' at the middle of the word is the interfix joining two stems with the same sounds and meaning.

2.1.4 Infixation

Infixation is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme attaches within a root or stem. The kind of affix involved in this process is called an infix. Infix is found in Tagalog, a Philippians' language. According to Anagbogu, et al.(2010:143) "infix is restricted to a few number of languages. The most frequently quoted examples are cited in Anagbogu, et al.(2010). Example (taken from the Philippines), in the word *fumikas* 'he is becoming strong', the infix –**um-** occurs between the initial consonant and the second phoneme.

2.1.5 Circumfixation

Circumfixation according to Anagbogu et.al (2010) is a morphological process whereby a bound morpheme is attached to a root or stems both initially and finally. It is one of the morphological processes in Igbo language. Circumfix occurs when one position of an affix appears at the front of a stem, and the other at the rear. According to Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams (1978:81), "circumfix are morphemes that are attached to a base morpheme both initially and finally." Anagbogu, et al. (2010:143) also see circumfix as, "that which is structured as a frame with an affix at each end". In Igbo, the circumfixal frame is A/E-mu. For instance, in the following examples: ***esimuncha*** 'the act of making soap', '**e** ... **mu**' is the circumfix, ***agbamụọsọ*** (an act of running) **gba…ọsọ** forms the circumfix of the stem 'mụ' and the prefix 'a'.

2.1.6 Extensional affixation

Extensional affixation involves attaching suffixes to bases, but this exercise does not interfere with the lexical classes of the affected morpheme. Extensional suffixes are "principally meaning modifiers since they extend the meanings of the verbs to which they are affixed. Nwachukwu (1983:74) refers to extensional as "non inflectional suffix" The term extensional suffix is borrowed from Emenanjo (1978) to denote those suffixes which have a wide scope of occurrence. Emenanjo (1978:97) goes further to say that the term 'extensional' is used in African

linguistics in referring to elements usually affixes, which function principally as meaning modifiers. Thus, the presence or absence of an extensional suffix changes the meaning of a sentence. Extensional ones do not change grammatical classes of the elements to which they are affixed. Extensional suffixes are classified according to their paradigmatic relationship. Tomori (1977:21) defines "a paradigm as the system of morphemic variations which is correlated with a parallel system of variation in environment." Examples of extensional suffixes in paradigmatic relationship in Igbo include:

1.Ọ̀ gwụla	'it is finished'
2.Ọ̀ gwụwala	'it is beginning to finish'
3.Ọ̀ gwụkpọọla	'it is completely finished'

In (1), the suffix "-la" indicates an action that has already occurred. In (2), we have two suffixes - '-wa' and '-la'. '-wa' is the extensional suffix which portrays the state of an action that is about to take place and '-la' is the suffix which indicates the state itself. The same applies in (3); the extensional suffix is '-kpọọ' while the main suffix is '-la'.

2.2 Classification of affixes in terms of function

2.2.1 Inflectional affixes

McGregor, (2009:62) sees inflectional affixes as, "Bound morphemes that give grammatical information relevant to the interpretation of a sentence." They do not give rise to new lexical items, but to different forms of a single lexical item, different forms that are appropriate for the use of the lexical item in the sentence. In the view of Finegan (2004:51), "Inflectional morphemes create variant forms of a word to conform to different roles in a sentence or in discourse". Inflectional morphemes also serve to mark semantic notion such as number, and grammatical categories such as gender and case on noun and pronoun. On verbs, they can mark such things as tense or number, while on adjectives they indicate degree. Generally, inflectional affixes

form grammatical forms such as: tense, aspect, plurality and so on. Examples, in the word **cook – cooks,** the inflectional affix '**s**' indicates third person singular marker. The same thing applies to **walk** – **walked**, the affix '**-ed**' indicates past tense marker. In **sing / singing**, the affix '**-ing**' indicates progressive marker. Moreover, in **eat**/**eaten**, the affix '**-en'** indicates past participle marker.

2.2.2 Derivational affixes

According to Agbedo (2000:87), "derivation involves the process whereby new words are formed from the existing words. It consists adding to a root or stem an affix or affixes". Derivational affixes produce new words whose meanings and distributions are somewhat erratic. Example, **stop (**verb**)** / **stoppage (**noun**)**, -**page** is the derivational affix and it brings about change in lexical category.

From the studies above, inflectional and derivational affixes are sometimes similar in nature but have different functions. Inflectional affixes do not change the word class of a word. It is a change made in form of a word to express its relation to other words in a sentence. Derivation on the other hand, changes the meaning and the base of the word sometimes. In the Igbo language, verbs play vital role. It is the only part of speech that affixation is bound. Hence, inflectional and derivational processes in the Igbo language are realized adding the appropriate affixes on the verb.

3.0 The verbal inflectional affixation in Idemili and Ọnịcha

The verbal inflectional affixation is the process of adding affixes to the verbs to express grammatical categories such as tense, aspect, mood and negation. This section examines the verbal inflectional affixation in Idemili and Ọnịcha in order to portray their morphological variation. The data analysis is based on past tense, perfective tense, present progressive tense and negation markers.

3.1 The past tense inflectional affixes in Idemili and Ọnịcha

The formation of simple past in the standard Igbo is by adding the **–rv** suffix **(r + vowel)** which is a past time marker to the verb root. According to Nwachukwu (1983:65), "majority of tense/aspect markers in both central and other dialects of Igbo are suffixes".

Idemili	**Ọnịcha**	
4. bìàlụ̀ /bɪalʊ/	bìàlụ̀ /bɪalʊ/	'came'
5. jèlụ̀ /jelʊ/	jèlụ̀ /jelʊ/	'went'
6. sìlị̀ /silɪ/	sìlị̀ /silɪ/	'cooked'
7. lahụ̀lụ̀ /lahʊlʊ/	lahụ̀lụ̀ /lahʊlʊ/	'slept'
8. nyèlụ̀ /ɲelʊ/	nyèlụ̀ /ɲelʊ/	'gave'

From the above examples, Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects use the voiced alveolar lateral /l/ and retracted tongue root **/ɤ̀/** in indicating past tense marker. The past tense markers used sometimes violate the vowel harmony rule depending on the vowel(s) that form the root of the lexical item as is seen in examples (5) and (8).

3.2 The perfective tense inflectional affixes in Idemili and Ọnịcha

The standard Igbo has the perfective inflectional verbal suffix marker **-la**. Perfective aspect expresses action that has been completed. This suffix **-la** is affixed to the verb root to express perfective aspect. However, this is not the case in Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects as seen in the following examples:

Idemili	**Ọnịcha**	
9. sụ̀ọ̀na /sʊɔna/	sụgō /sʊgo/	'has washed'
10. kụ̀ọ̀na /kʊɔna/	kụgō /kɔgo/	'has planted'

11. sìèna /siena/ sigō /sigo/ 'has cooked'
12. lìèna /liena/ ligō /ligo/ 'has eaten'
13. wụ̀ọ̀na /wʊɔna/ wụgō /wʊgo/ 'has bathed'

In perfective marker, Idemili dialect uses the alveolar nasal **/n/** and retracted tongue root [-ATR] **/a/** in indicating the perfective marker. Ọnịcha dialect uses voiced velar stop **/g/** and advanced tongue root [+ATR] **/o/** in indicating the perfective marker. The above perfective markers of the Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects of Igbo sometimes do not obey the vowel harmony rule as shown in the above examples.

3.3 Negation markers in Idemili and Ọnịcha

The negative inflectional suffix is marked with the negative suffix **-ghi** in standard Igbo and it is bound to the root of the verb. While Idemili mostly use **-họ̄** for its negation, Onicha uses **-họ̄** and **-rọ̄**. This is exemplified in (14) - (18).

Idemili	**Ọnịcha**	
14. dehọ̄ /dehɔ/	derọ̄ /derɔ/	'did not write'
15. mahọ̄ /mahɔ/	marọ̄ /marɔ/	'did not know'
16. kọhọ̄ /kɔhɔ/	kọrọ̄ /kɔrɔ/	'did not plant'
17. nụhọ̄ /nʊhɔ/	nụrọ̄ /nʊrɔ/	'did not hear'
18. gbahọ̄ /gbahɔ/	gbahọ̄ /gbahɔ/	'did not run'

Here, Idemili dialect uses the voiceless glottal fricative **/h/** and retracted tongue root **/ɔ/** in indicating negative marker. Ọnịcha uses alveolar

approximant **/r/** and retracted tongue root **/ɔ/** in indicating negative marker. From the above examples, the negative markers used in Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects sometimes violate the vowel harmony rule depending on the vowel(s) that forms the root verb of the lexical item. They also have the same tone pattern which are high and down step tone.

3.4 Present participle in Idemili and Ọnịcha

Present participles in Idemili and Ọnicha dialects are formed by a preceding vowel which can be **e-** or **a-** and the verb root. The choice of the mentioned vowels is dependent on the vowel of the verb root and it is known as vowel harmony.

Idemili		**Ọnịcha**		
19. èsi	/esi/	èsi	/esi/	‘cooking’
20. ède	/ede/	ède	/ede/	‘writing’
21. àkụ	/akʊ/	àkụ	/akʊ/	‘drumming’
22. ànyụ	/aɲʊ/ ‘potting’	ànyụ	/aɲʊ/	
23. èsu	/esu/	èsu	/esu/	‘pounding’

From the above listed examples of present participle in Idemili and Ọnicha dialects, both dialects use the prefix **a-** and **e-** in indicating present participle and it depends solely on the vowel of the verb root. They also have the same tone pattern.

3.5 Interfix in Idemili and Ọnịcha

Interfix is the insertion of a consonant in between two independent words. The following are examples of interfix in Idemili and Ọnịcha.

Idemili		**Ọnịcha**		
24. egwùlegw↓u	/egwulegwu/	egwùlegw↓u	/egwulegwu/	‘play’

25. ngòlịngò /ngɔlɪngɔ/ ngòlịngò /ngɔlɪngɔ/ ‘bend’
26. èkwulèkwu /ekwulekwu/ èkwulèkwu /ekwulekwu/ ‘talkative’
27. elimeli /elimeli/ elimeli /elimeli/ ‘food’
28. igiligi /igiligi/ igiligi /igiligi/ ‘drizzle’

Interfix is realized in the above Igbo lexical items and these lexical items are categorized into nouns as in examples 24 - 28 (except 26). Example 26 is an adjective. In examples 24, 26 and 28, alveolar lateral /l/ marks the interfix in these words. In example 25, alveolar lateral /l/ and retracted tongue root **/ɪ/** mark the interfix in the word. Finally, in example 27 bilabial nasal /m/ marks the intefix in the word.

3.6 Present progressive in Idemili and Ọnicha

Present progressive marker indicates continuing action, something going on now. It can also suggest that an action is going to happen in the future, especially with the verbs that convey the idea of a plan or of a movement from one place or condition to another. It is marked in standard Igbo with the extensional suffix “wa”.

	Idemili		**Ọnịcha**	
29.	gwụbana/go	/gwʊbana/go	gwụbago	/gwʊbago ‘almost finishing’
30.	sibena/go	/sibena/go/	sibego	/sibego/ ‘started cooking’
31.	jubena/go	/jubena/go/	jubego	/jubego/ ‘almost filled up’
32.	gabana/go	/gabana/go/	gabago	/gabago/ ‘started going’
33.	sụbana/go	/sʊbana/go/	sụbago	/sʊbago/ ‘started washing’

In the above examples, Idemili and Ọnicha use the extensional suffix **-b** and **-a** or **-e** depending on the vowel(s) of the root verb to indicate present progressive of an action that has started but yet to be completed.

4.0 Findings and conclusion

This article investigated affixes in Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects of the Igbo language using the following constructions: perfective construction, past tense construction, negative construction, present participle construction and present progressive construction of Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects of Igbo. Findings show that Idemili uses the suffix 'na' to indicate perfective marker while Ọnịcha uses the suffix 'gō'. Idemili and Ọnịcha use the same suffix 'lụ̀' or 'lì' as the case may be to indicate past tense marker. Idemili also uses 'họ̄' to indicate negative marker while Ọnịcha uses 'rọ̄' to indicate negative marker. In portraying present participle, Idemili and Ọnịcha use the prefix 'e- and a-' respectively depending on the vowel(s) of the root verb. Finally, in indicating the present progressive, Idemili and Ọnịcha use the extensional suffix 'ba'.

In conclusion, this article investigated the morphological variations between Idemili and Ọnịcha dialects, viewing them through perfective construction, negative construction, present participle, present progressive and past tense construction. It is observed that though these dialects are classified under the same group of dialects, they still have different affixes in some instances and similar affixes in some other instances.

References

Agbedo, Chris. 2000. *General Linguistics: An Introductory Reader*. Nsukka: ACE Resource Konsult.

Anagbogu, Philip, M. B. Mbah and C. A. Eme 2001. *Introduction to Linguistics*. Awka: J. F. C.

Anagbogu, Philip, M. B. Mbah and C. A. Eme 2010. *Introduction to Linguistics. 2nd.ed*. Awka: Amaka Dreams

Akmajian, Adrian, R. A. Demers, A. K. Farmer and R. M. Harnish. 2001. *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication (5th ed.).* New Delhi: Prentice Hall.

Also in *Language–Theory info/language 732 html* and *www.rogerblend.info/language data*

Babarinde, Sanmi. 2009. *Morphology: Its Basics and Application*. Nsukka: Paschal Communication.

Ballard, Kim. 2001. *The Framework of English: Introducing Language Structures.* China: Palgrave Publishers.

Emenanjo, Nolue. 1978. *Element of Modern Igbo Grammar*. Ibadan: Oxford University Press.

Encyclopaedia Americana International. 2004. *Edition Volume 16*. USA: Scholastic Library Publishing, Inc. Danbury Connecticut.

Finegan, Edward. 2004. *Language: Its Structure and Use.* (4th ed.). USA: Wadsworth.

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams. 2007. *Introduction to Language.* USA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams. 1978. *Introduction to Language.* London: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

McGregor,William. 2009. *Linguistics: An Introduction*. London: Continuum International Publishing Groups.

Nida, Eugene. 1992. *Morphology: The Descriptive Analysis of Words*. Michigan: Ann Arbor. The University of Michigan Press.

Nwachukwu, Philip. 1983. "Inflectional and Non-Inflectional Affixes" In P. Nwachukwu (ed.). *Readings on the Igbo Verb*. Onitsha: African FEP-Publishers Limited.

Nwaozuzu, G.I. 2008. *Dialects of Igbo Language*. Nsukka: University of Nigeria Press Ltd.

Osuagwu, Bertram, G. I. Nwaozuzu, G. A. Dike, V, N. Nwaogu and L. C. Okoro. 1997. *Fundamentals of Linguistics.* Owerri: Colon F. C. Concepts Limited.

Tomori, S. H. 1977. *The Morphology of Present Day English: An Introduction.* London: Heinemann Educational Books Limited.

Umera Okeke, P. Nneka and U.C. Nwankwo. 2009. *Studies in Morphology and Syntax of English.* Awka: Mount Camel Printing.

Yule, George. 1996. *The Study of Language. (2nd ed*.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

The web
www.rogerblench.info/languagedata/