



An Analysis of Ogba Derivational Affixes

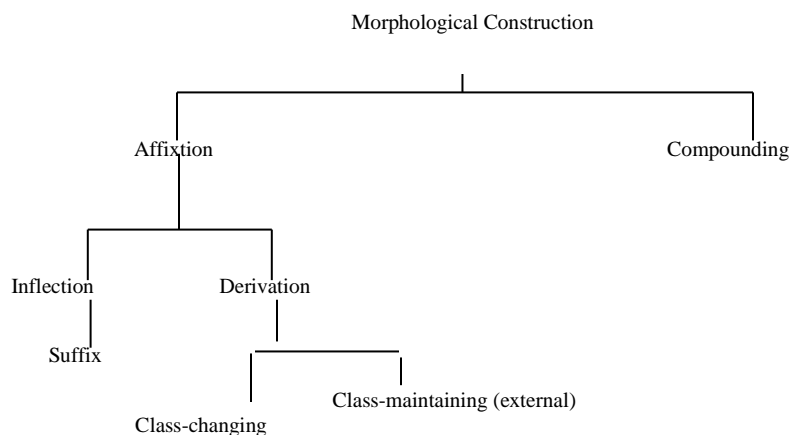
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Abstract. This study describes the analyses of derivational affixes in Ogba Language. It particularly examines the derivational operations (role) of affixes in the Language. It shows how certain grammatical ideas or notions like reduplication, prefixation and suffixation, interfixation, prefix and miscellaneous coinages and derivative tone are marked by affixes in Ogba. Some of the derivative affixes (morphemes) in the language used to arrive at this are as follow: ɛ, a, I, o, ɔ, u, m, n marking different coinages. Other linguistics processes affected by morphological operations in the language include the derivation of the noun and verb with interfix; coping the consonant of

the verb root to construct partial reduplication and tone as derivative morphemes. We believe that this research work would be significant in the development of the Ogba language, and most pertinently, increase the zeal for the preservation of the language in Rivers State and Nigeria in general.

1. Background to the Study

Morphological constructions are products of affixation and compounding. They are very important elements in human language.



Affixation is one of the two major traditional processes of word formation; the other being compounding. Affixation entails the addition of an affix to a stem to yield a complex stem, while compounding involves adding two or more stems together to form a single word.

Which studies have revealed that the two major word formation processes are affixation and compound. For instance, in the formation of the Ogba word *mgbashi* (poison), the first morphological process is compounding.

That is “*gba’ + shi = gba’shi*”
 write cook to write

To the word “*gbashi*” is added the prefix *-m* to get the derivation *mgbashi* (poison) which is a product of affixation and compounding. Also, in English language we have the form *selflessness*. That is *self + less* to yield *selfless*. If we add *ness* to *selfless*, we have *selflessness* which is also a product of compounding and affixation. There are different kinds of morphemes (affixes) regarding their distribution and function in the word. For instance, we have *state + s = states*, *be + witch + ing = bewitching*, *village + s = villages* and *walk + ed = walked* etc.

The term affixation is concerned with the concatenation (i.e. linking) of affixes. Inflection is defined as:

...an affix which performs a grammatical function without changing the parts of speech of the word to which it is attached. Inflectional affixes are not used to create new words rather they are used to show if a word is singular or plural, if the tense of the verb is past or no past, if the word expresses comparatives or superlative degree etc (Ndimele 2001:82).

Derivational affixes are those which change the lexical meaning and syntactic category or part of speech of the words to which they are attached. Unlike the inflectional system, derivation is usually a process for generating new lexemes, Ogun, (2000). Some of the derivational affixes in English are; *Prefix*: a- (verb or adjective) as in a-float, be- (noun or verb) as in be-win, de- (noun-verb) as de-frost. *Suffixes*; -er (verb – noun) as in preach-er), -al (verb – noun) as in sentiment-al, -al (adjective – noun) as in national etc.

Inflectional affixes as affixes which function to show grammatical relations with regards to number, tense, aspects, gender, case, negation etc., depending on the language involved. Some of the inflectional affixes in English are: -s (plural) as in lectures, -ed (past tense) as in worked, -ing (progressive) as in speaking, -s (verb)(3rd person singular simple present) as speaks, -en(past participle) as in eaten, -er (comparative) taller, -est (superlative) as in tallest and -'s (possessive) as in Nwokoji 's etc.

1.1 Brief History of Oqba People:

Much of the information dealing with the early history of Oqba people is contained in their oral tradition. The popular tradition states that the Oqba people migrated from Ancient Benin during the reign of Oba Ewuare the Great (1440-1473). It is on record that the reign of Oba Ewuare the Great (popularly known as Oguaro in Oqba folklore) was marked by tyranny and socio-political upheaval (Ryder 1969:11). Ewuare himself, a powerful, courageous and sagacious ruler won the accolade (praise or award) of being a reputable warrior and a despot (ruler with great power).

Under the domain of Ewuare, the Great strategic town known as Oqba was under the hardship of Akalaka. Akalaka later became a victim of Ewuare's tyrannical rule. There are various versions of the undercurrents of the feud between the Oba and his subjects Akalaka. Some hold the view that there was a clash of interest between people of the town Oqba and a member of royal family who trespassed on a portion of the farmer's farmland. This resulted in a hatred in which the member of the royal household was manhandled. This development quickly sent signals to Akalaka and

his people that they had lost favour with the monarch. To escape any assault, Akalaka decided to migrate with his subjects.

Akalaka had two sons viz: Ekpeye and Oqba. Having grown, they all got married and were blessed with children. At Ali Awhoh, an incident took place which led to a strain in the relationship between their two sons resulting in an affray (a fight or violence behaviour in a public place) and the death of Ekpeye's son. With this ugly incident, Oqba nursed the premonition that his elder brother, Ekpeye might wreck vengeance and then decide to abandon their original settlement for a new site at Obigwe, which means 'the haven of rest.'

The oral tradition of sister communities points to Benin as their ancestral homeland. For example, the Ikwerre posit that Ochichi, founder of the present-day settlement, left Benin with the Elder brother Akalaka during the reign of the reputable Ewuare the Great. Woka (1993) in Christian League Perspective (2011: 12) maintains that in their migration towards Sombreior River, Ekpeye settled at Ula Ehuda, the traditional Headquarters of Epeyeland, Ochichi crossed the Sombreiro at Ekpebu through Eligbo before finally setting at present day Elele, which is equally the traditional headquarters of Ikwerre land.

The Ekpeye also have a similar tradition. The same goes for the Ndoni Community who trace their origin to Benin. The Ndoni who later settled along the River Niger were located at the northwestern fringes of Oqbaland. They migrated from Ancient Benin in the 15th century (Ikwuasom & Chukwuemeka 1993) in Christian League Perspective (2011).

1.2 Significance of the Study

The need for this research work cannot be over emphasized. Much is not done on the Oqba morphology in general. So, a lot needs to be done in the language. Therefore, Oqba can only be developed when scholarly attention is paid to it. To achieve this, it is important to objectively investigate the structure of the language. This will contribute to the development and preservation of the language. It will serve as one of the major steps in providing more or further information on the morphological process in Oqba language and the development of the language. The researcher believes that the result of this work will contribute positively towards the standardization of the language. The research will serve as a communication link between the native speaker and non-native speaker of Oqba. It will also enhance the culture of the Oqba people and it will serve as reference material for future research in Oqba

language and also form the basis for further academic studies.

1.3 Theoretical Framework

Theories are formulated to explain, predict, and understand phenomena and in many cases, to challenge and extend existing knowledge, within the limits of the critical bounding assumptions. A theoretical framework is the structure that holds or supports a theory of a research study. This work takes a cue from *Leonard Bloomfield's* model of linguistic structuralism. This is because in describing the affixation features of the Ogba language, we have basically relied on empirical(physical) observation, which is the hallmark of Bloomfield

2. The Language And The Speakers

Ogba is in Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. Some clans or villages around Ogba are Ikwerre by the east, Ndoni by the west, Egbema by the north and Ekpeye by the south. Ogba is made up of the Egnih, Igburu, and Usomini group. The Egni group is made up of the following villages: Ede, Itu, Erema, Akabuka, Akabta, Egita, Itu, Ibewa, Obite, Obiebe, Obukaegni, Obagi Obiozimini,

Oboburu, Ogbogu, and Ohali-Elu. The Igburu group is made up of the following villages: Obigwe, Ohiauga, Ogbidi, Okposi, Osiakpu, Okansu, Ama, Ikiri, Uju, Egbeda, Elehia, and Elieta. The Usomini group is made up of the following villages: Ebogoro, Alinson Okanu, Okporukpoali, Obie, Idu-Osobele, Omoku, Krigeni, Ohali-Usomini, Obo and Idu-Obusiukwu.

Occupation of Ogba People

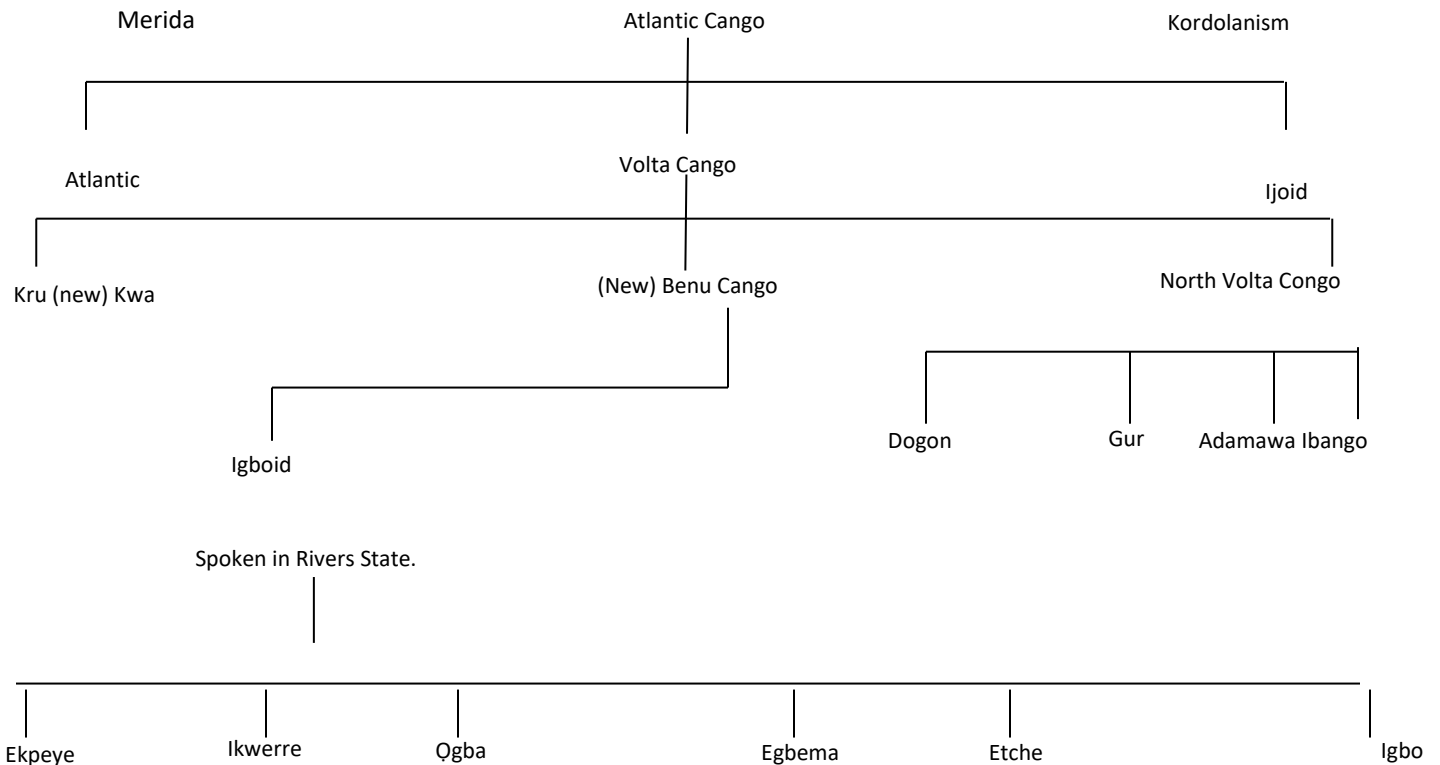
The main occupation of the people of Ogba land is farming which holds throughout the year and fishing like every other riverine area which is seasonal. They carve canoes; weave baskets, mats, etc. A few people (men) tap wine, while some others are hunters. As usual, little boys follow their fathers hunting and little girls weave baskets with their mother. The children assist their parents in farm work.

2.1 Classification of Ogba Language

The Ogba language is spoken by 39 communities of Onelga in River State. Ogba is a new Benue Congo, under Niger Congo language family. It is one of the languages of the Igboid group spoken in Rivers State. The Igboid group has been classified under new Benue – Congo group of languages, figure 1 is a family tree of how the Ogba language is found.

Williamson's (1988) new classification of Niger Congo languages.

The Niger Congo Family Tree



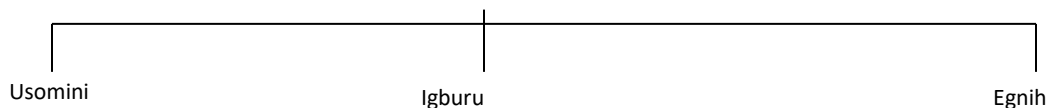


Figure 1– Classification of Qgba Language

2.2 Brief Statement On Qgba Sound System

This section reviews the sound system of Qgba with respect to its vowels and consonants. It would be erroneous to presume that the process of Qgba affixation can be satisfactorily analysed without knowing the basic phonological system. It is on this premise that the researcher deems it necessary to review the basic sound system of Qgba. However, the aim of this research work is not to undertake an elaborate study of the Qgba phonological system, but to identify the basic speech sounds which can be used to describe the dialect adequately.

2.3 Autography of Qgba Language.

Qgba can conveniently be written with the letters below:

a b ch d e eh f g gb gh ghn gw h i ih j k kp kw l m n nw ny o oh p r s t u uh v w wh y z. The alphabetical arrangement as seen above has been done to enhance easy rhyming, reading, recognition and understanding. Double letters follow single ones (e.g *gb* follows *g*).

2.4 The Qgba Vowel Sounds

Vowels are sounds produced with no obstruction of the flow of air in the oral cavity.

Ladefoged (1975:11) in Eme (1993:22) defines vowels as “sounds produced with none of the articulators coming together and consequently the passage of the airstreams is relatively unobstructed”. The Qgba language records nine (9) vowels such as [i, u, o, ə, a, ε, e, ɪ] and seven of them are nasalized vowels [õ, ù, ï, ã, ê, ĩ, õ̃].

2.5 The Qgba Consonant Sounds

Crystal (1991:74) defines consonants phonetically as “sound made by a closure or narrowing in the vowel track so that the airflow is either completely blocked or so restricted that audible friction is produced”. Consonants are classified in terms of two main articulatory components namely, the manner of articulation and the place of articulation. According to Ogum (2003:63), there are twenty eight phonetic consonants identified in Qgba language and they are listed as [ŋ^w, k^w, g^w, k, g, ʃ, dʒ, p, d, t, γ, h, h^w, ʃ, l, j, w, β, r, f, v, s, z, n, m, ŋ, ɲ, ɲ]. Only [b and p] are considered non-phonemic because their occurrences are restricted. Therefore, twenty six phonemic consonants-/ ŋ^w, k^w, g^w, k, g, ʃ, dʒ, p, d, t, γ, h, h^w, ʃ, l, j, w, β, r, f, v, s, n, m, ŋ, ɲ/ are established in Qgba. It is also observed that Qgba has four nasal consonants / n, m, ŋ, ɲ/.

2.6 Negation Markers In Qgba

Negation is the expression of refuser or denier of a state of affairs. There are various ways of marking negation in different languages but the most common negative expression is the particle “*not*”. This is consistent with what is obtainable in Qgba. In the items presented in chapter four, we have ample examples to demonstrate how negation is marked in Qgba.

3. Derivational affixes IN QGBA

This heading discusses the morpho-syntactic analysis of derivational affixes in Qgba. Derivational affixes serve to derive new words and can sometimes change the word class of the verb root to which they are attached. Qgba is a verbal language; therefore, the verb serves for the most part, as the base for deriving other words. We consider the derivational processes in Qgba under the following headings:

3.1 Prefixation

Prefixation is a morphological term which denotes the affixing of the appropriate derivational prefix to the given root. In the Ogbá language of Rivers State, prefixation can bring about the derivation of the infinitive and the participle, which are treated as nomino-verbal. We shall in what follows, discuss the derivation of the infinitive and the participle in Ogbá.

3.2 The Infinitive

The infinitive, as defined by Quirk & Greenbaum (1973:39), is a non- finite verb form that has neither tense distinction non modals. There is no concord/agreement between the subject and the verb in the infinitive constructions. It is a verbal derivative which in Ogbá, is formed by prefixing a high tone harmonizing close vowel í- / ì- to the verb root. The Ogbá infinitive has both nominal when it performs certain function of a noun; for instance, appearing in sentence positions where a noun could be substitutable. It is also verbal when it displays certain characteristics of a verb- like associating with object and adverbial modifiers. For instance, the infinitive “ìgba” in isolation cannot be assigned a definite or specific value because it can generate a lot of interpretation ranging from running to prophesying. It is only an appropriate complement that can limit the reference of the infinitive in Ogbá. Examples of Ogbá infinitives formed with expanded vowel prefix í- (high tone verb root) are given in (61) to (65)

S/N.	PREFIX	HIGH TONE VREB ROOT	INFINITIVE	GLOSS
61.	í-	rí-----eat	íri	to eat
62.	í -	kwú-----speak	íkwu	to speak
63.	í -	znú-----sleep	íznú	to sleep
64.	í -	chni-----crown	íchni	to crown
65.	í -	gbu-----cut/kill	ígbu	to cut/kill

Examples of Ogbá infinitives formed with non-expanded vowel prefix í-(high tone verb roots) are outlined in 66 -74 respectively.

S/N.	PREFIX	HIGH TONE VERB ROOT	INFINITIV	GLOSS
66.	ì	rọ-----dream	ìrọ	to dream
67.	ì	kwụ-----beat	ìkwụ	to beat
68.	ì	mụ-----born	ìmụ	to born
69.	ì	chọ-----seek	ìchọ	to seek/find
70.	ì	za-----respond	ìza	to respond

Examples of Ogbá infinitives formed with expanded vowel prefix i- (low tone verb roots) are listed in (71) to (74)

S/N.	PREFIX	LOW TONE VREB ROOT	INFINITIVE	GLOS S
71.	í-	lì – bury	íli	to bury
72.	í-	zu – jamb	ízù	to jam
73.	í-	gnò – hear	ígnò	to hear
74.	í	sno - follow	ísno	to follow

Examples of Ogbá infinitives formed with non-expanded vowel prefix i- (low tone verb roots) are stated below

S/N.	PREFIX	LOW TONE VREB ROOT	INFINITIVE	GLOSS
74.	ì-	zá – sweep	ìza	to sweep
75.	ì-	znù – train	ìznù	to train
76.	ì-	gnu – sing	ígnù	to sing
77.	ì-	chì – park	ìchì	to park
78.	ì-	pi – press squeeze	ìpi	to squeeze

From the following examples, we observe the following: (i) Infinitives formed with high tone roots in both the expanded and the non- expanded vowels have the high tone of the verb root lowered to a down step in the derived

form. (ii) Infinitive formed with low tone verb roots in both the expanded and the non-expanded vowels remain low in their derived form.

The simple infinitive in Ogbia is formed through the systematic process of prefixation of high tone vowel prefix i-/i- to the expanded and no-expanded verb roots depending on the ATR quality of the vowel of the root

3.3 Participle

The participle in Ogbia language is a verbal derivative which is always preceded by auxiliary verb –whether primary or modal auxiliary. In Ogbia language, the participle has the morpheme constituent CV radical (verb root) and a derivational harmonizing vowel prefix i-/i- according to the vowel of the verb root.

Examples of the formation of the Ogbia participle are written below:

PREFIX	VERB ROOT	PARTICIPLE
i-	-vb: jé – go	i – vb; ìje – going
i-	-vb; za – sweep	i –vb; ìza – sweeping
i-	-vb; shi – cook	i–vb; ìshi - cooking

The participle, like the infinitive, is a nominal-verbal because it has attributes, both of the noun and of the verb. It is nominally used with its complement and it is the only verbal derivative that takes inflectional affix. For instance, in Ogbia language, the participle can take the perfective suffix *-mẹ* to yield a perfective participle. See the examples in (77) to (80)

79. ì-rí-mẹ has/have eaten
 80. ó-zà-mẹ has/have swept
 81. ò-rnu-mẹ has/have worked
 82. ó-shì-mẹ has/have cooked

As regards to tones, for simple participle, the prefix is low for high tone verbs, and high for low tone verbs.

Examples (83) through (88) explains constructions with simple participles in Ogbia

83. Ada dī ì-zú ahia
 (Ada Aux *ptl* trade Market)
 Prog. Trading
 “Ada is trading/Ada is a trader”
84. Ibe ákpómáfò ì-sù ma ẹkwa
 (Ibe mod. *pt-wash perf.* Cloth)
 Aux. washing
 “Ibe may/must have washed clothes.”
85. Ngozi á--dì--wò ì-je ẹkwọ
 (Ngozi *pref aux-neg. ptl-go* book/school)
 “Ngozi will not go to school”
86. Wọ á--dì--wò ì-kwu ụgwọ
 (They *pref-aux-neg. ptl-pay* payment/money)
 “They don’t pay/ they are not paying money”
87. ì dī-wọ ì-sí írní
 (You (sing) *aux-neg. ptl-cook* food)
 “You may/must not cook the food”
88. Ọ dī--wọ ì-kwú ókwú
 (He/she *aux-neg. ptl-speak* speech)
 “He/she is not talking he/she does not talk he/she is dumb”

From the foregoing examples, we observe that every participle cited above is preceded by an auxiliary, (whether primary or modal auxiliary). The participle can co-occur with the perfective inflectional suffix -ma as in (84). We observe that when the perfective inflectional suffix -ma co-occurs only with the modal auxiliary, affirmative and negative (dì and wò), the tone change as follow:

- Low tone prefix for high tone verb roots
- High tones prefix for low tone verb roots

All the participles in the above examples are followed by their complements.

3.4 Prefixation and Total Reduplication.

Reduplication is a term in morphology which describes a process of repetition. The form of a prefix/suffix reflects certain phonological characteristics of the root. The total or full reduplication takes place when the one set of the verb root and its accompanying vowels are reduplicated. Consider the examples of total reduplication in Ogbá in (89) to (96)

S/N.	DERIVATIVE MORPHEME	VERB ROOT	DERIVED NOMINAL	GLOSS
89.	̀o	bí- living	òbibi	Act of living
90.	̀o	shí- cooking	òshíshí	Act of cooking
91.	̀o	kwú- speaking	òkwú kwú	Act of beating
92.	̀o	mì- suck	òmìmì	Act of sucking
93.	̀o	sù- wash	òsùsù	Act of washing
94.	̀o	zù- buy	òzùzù	Act of buying
95.	̀o	kwù- beak	òkwùkwù	Act of beating
96.	̀o	rí- eat	òrírí	Act of eating

The data above show that all the vowels involved in this type of derivation are close back and close front; /i/, /ì /, /u/, /ù/ (subject to ATR harmony). The derivation morpheme is consistently low toned, and it harmonizes with the vowel of the verb root. In Ogbá language, the reduplication is said to be total or full when the verb root and the derivative morpheme (vowel) are integrally reduplicated. It is a very systematic and productive process of derivation in the Ogbá Language.

3.5 Prefixation and suffixation.

Perfixation and suffixation as derivational processes in Ogbá are characterized by the affixation of both prefix and suffix to the same base to derive a new word. In Ogbá, the structural frame for derivation through prefixation and suffixation is P-VR-S, where!

P= Prefix

VR= Verb root, which loses part of its original semantic content as Verb,

S = suffix,

See the examples Derivation through Prefixation and Suffixation in (97) to (104).

S/N.	Verb root	Prefix	Suffix	Derivative	Gloss
97.	-shní- curse	à-	-rí	à-shń-rń	bad mind.
98.	-kpe -pray	e-	-re	e-kpe-re	prayer
99.	-ghe -yawn	u-	-re	ú-ghe -re	a yawn
100.	-zńi -borrow	o-	-rí	ó-zńi -rí	borrow
101.	-kwa -cough	u-	-ra	ù- kwù-ra	a cough
102.	-che - think	e-	-che	é-chì-ché	thought
103.	-jù - ask	a-	-ju	a- jù-jù	question
104.	-za - sweep	o-	-za	ò-zì-zá	sweeping

Considering the above derivatives in Ogbá, it is observed that they are nominal and they have their suffixes as = CV where C is a consonant and V is any vowel. We also notice from the above data that the suffixes are lexical verbs and they can generate meaning on their own in the language. In *example 97-101*, the suffixal consonant is consistently

'r', while the vowel of the suffix is the same as that of the verb root. In *example* 102 – 104, the suffixal consonant (i.e. consonant added at the word final) is the consonant of the verb root. In other words, the suffix of *example* 102, 103, 104 is a reduplication of the verb root.

3.6 Interfixation

Interfixation is a process of derivation whereby an affix occurs between two identical or sometimes, non-identical roots. In other words, an Interfix interrupts the sequence of two roots. In Ogbia language, the most prominent interfixes are: -m-, -t-, -n-, -li-, -ta-, for noun-base form of derivatives, while -m- and -i- are common in the verb base form of derivatives.

The Noun-Base Form of Interfixation

Examples of The Noun Base Form of Interfixation are stated in (105) to (109)

S/N.	BASE NOUN	INTERFIX	DERIVATION	GLOSS
105.	ánú –meat	-m-	ánúmànu	animal
106.	Ógó—height	-l-	ógólógó	tallness
107.	íshni –smell	-r-	íshníríshní	perceiving a smell
108.	`ngno –abuse	-r-	ignorigno	act of abusing person
109.	írńí – food	-ma-	irinimiri	to finish eating

In line with the examples above, we observe that the above noun-base form of interfixation is indeed irregular and does not require any prefix, thereby transgressing the structural pattern of the derivation given above. The pattern for the noun-base derivation is rather N-I-N, where:-

N = Noun

I = Interfix

3.7 The Verb-Base Form of Interfixation.

The verb base derivatives have the verb as their base form for deriving nominals. They follow the interfixational structural pattern of derivation shown above.

Examples of the verb-base form of interfixation are shown in (121) to (127)

S/N.	BASE (VERB)	INTERFIX	DERIVATIVE	GLOSS
110.	rí – eat	-m-	erimeri	feast
111.	shí – cook	-m-	eshimeshi	cookery
112.	kpnụ –calve	-rnụ	akpnụrnụakpnụ	sculpture
113.	tụ – decide	-m-	atụmatụ	decision
114.	gnụ – read	-m-	agnụmagnụ	studies
115.	kwú – speak	-l-	èkwúlèkwú	talkative
116.	gwù – play	-r-	égwùrègwú	a play

The examples above show that the interfixes link together two verb roots to form a nominal derivative. There is a close semantic affinity between the verb roots and the derivatives.

3.8 Prefix And Miscellaneous Deverbatives

Deverbatives are nominals which are derived directly from verbs (Ndimele 2003:64). They have morphological resemblance to the verb root from which they are derived. As nominals, deverbatives can serve as minimal subject NPs, Objects, or Complements of verbs. Miscellaneous is a borrowed term from Ndimele (2003:75) to refer to derivatives which manifest some unique peculiarities/irregularities in their morphological behavior.

3.8.1 Derivative Morpheme (Vowel Prefix e-/a)

Consider the examples of Miscellaneous Deverbatives with vowel prefix e-/a- in (117) to (121)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED NOMINAL	GLOSS
117.	dnà “fall”	é-	édná	fall
118.	kwná “cry”	é-	ékwná	cry
119.	kwá “sew”	é-	ékwá	cloth
120.	mụ “laugh”	é-	ẹmụ	laughter
121.	shí “cook”	a-	àshí	lies

It is observed that there is consistency in the morpho-phonemic behaviour of the above derivatives. For instance, all the vowels are none expanded and they harmonize with the vowel of the base. The tone of the derived norminals copy the tones of the verb root except in example (117).

3.8.2 Derivative Morpheme (Vowel Prefix i).

Examples of Miscellaneous Deverbatives with Vowel Prefix i- are given in (122) to (127)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED NORMINAL	GLOSS
122.	bu ‘carry’	í-	íbú	load
123.	bu ‘be fat’	í-	íbù	fatness
124.	kpe ‘judge’	í-	íkpe	judgement
125.	je ‘go’	í-	íjè	a walk
126.	lu ‘be bitter’	í-	ílú	bitterness
127.	shì/sì ‘smell’	í-	íshí/ísì	tench/odour

From the above data, it is observed that all the vowels of the derived norminals are expanded. Prefix maintains a high tone even where the base has a different tone system. The prefix also harmonizes with the root word to strengthen the rules of vowel harmony in Ogba.

3.8.3 Derivative Morpheme (Vowel Prefix o)

Examples of Miscellaneous Deverbative with Vowel Prefix o- are given in (128) to (131)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED NORMINAL	GLOSS
128.	bí ‘live’	ò-	òbí	habitation
129.	jí ‘be black’	ò-	ojí	blackness
130.	kwú ‘speak’	ò-	ókwú	speech/word
131.	kè ‘share’	ò-	ókè	a share

From the above examples, it is observed that all the vowels are expanded – both the base and those of the derived. The derivatives copy the tone of the base.

3.8.4 Derivative Morpheme (Vowel Prefix ọ)

Examples of Miscellaneous Deverbatives with vowel prefix ọ- are given in (132) to (139)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED NORMINAL	GLOSS
132.	hnụ ‘see’	ọ -	ọhnu’	vision
133.	dnụ ‘advise’	ọ -	ọdnụ	advice
134.	kọ ‘scratch’	ọ -	ọkọ	rashes
136.	rnụ ‘work’	ọ -	ọrnụ	a job
137.	wnụ ‘die’	ọ -	ọnwụ	death
138.	rjá ‘be sick’	ọ -	ọrjá	sickness
139.	yị ‘sex’	ọ -	ọyị	sexuality

From the above examples, it is observed that all the vowel, those of the base and of the derived nominals alike, is non-expanded. There are tones copying of the base by the derived nominal except in example (132 and 133) where the high tone of the base vowel is lowerd in the derived in example (132) and the low tone of the base vowel is lighten in example (133).

3.8.5 Derivative Morpheme (Vowel Prefix *u*)

Examples of Miscellaneous Deverbatives with Vowel Prefix *u*- are stated in (150) to (155)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED	GLOSS
150.	bá ‘be rich’	ù-	ùba	wealth
151.	kà ‘mark’	ù-	ùkà	talk /word
152.	kọ ‘be scarce’	ù-	ùkọ	scarcity
153.	sọ ‘be sweet’	ù-	ùsọ	sweetness
154.	tú ‘be rotten’	ù-	ùtú	rotiness
155.	chnà ‘be white’	ù-	ùchna	white

There is consistency in the morpho-tonemic and morpho-phonemic behaviors of the above derived nominals. The vowels of the base and those of the derivatives belong to the non-expanded group. The vowels of the derived nominals copy the tone of the vowels of the roots.

3.8.6 Derivative Morpheme (Syllabic Nasal Prefix *m*)

Examples of miscellaneous deverbatives with prefix “*m*” are outlined in (156) to (159)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED NORNINAL	GLOSS
156.	-gbá ‘write’	`m	`mgbá	wrestle
157.	-gbu ‘ache’	`m	`mgbu	aching
158.	-má ‘throw’	`m	`mmá	beauty
159.	-kpe ‘pray’	`m	`mkpe	inheritance

The few examples attested in the derivation with the syllabic nasal above show that there is neat harmony between the verb roots and the derived nominals from both the morpho-tonemic and the morpho-phonemic points of view

3.8.7 Derivative Morpheme (Syllabic Nasal Prefix *n*)

Examples of Miscellaneous Deverbatives with Prefix “*n*”are state in (160) to (164)

S/N.	VERB ROOT	PREFIX	DERIVED NORNINAL	GLOSS
160	ché ‘guard’	`n	`nché	watch
161	jí ‘be black’	`n	`njí	blacker
162	ka ‘be old’	n´	nká	old age
163	kpà ‘tight’	`n	`nkpà	scissor
164	gọ ‘cause’	`n	`ngó	cause

From the above example, a perfect harmony is observed between the base and derivative from both the morpho-tonemic and morpho-phonemic point of view.

The regular thing about the miscellaneous derivative in Ogba language is that the derivates morpheme in a prefix which is either a vowel or a syllabic nasal and each, in its own group, has its own peculiarities.

4. Tone as a Derivative Morphem In OGBA Language (Superfix/Suprafix)

A tone is a meaning-making element in some language. It is a systematic variation of the voice pitch used by language to distinguish, both lexical and grammatical meanings. Ogba is a tonal language, and all its major dialects, such as Egnj and Igburu. In Ogba, the tone carried by a word is an essential feature of its meaning. It occurs only as a final tone in a syllabic word as in the following Ogba words:

éru mushroom
 áru abomination
 égo money

In a tonal language like Ogba i.e. language was a variation in the pitch of the voice causes a change in meaning between segmental identical utterances such as Ogba, tone can be said to be superfix or suprafix. Examples in Ogba are seen in (165) to (169).

165- *ishí* → head, *ishì* → ordour, *ishì* → blindness, *ishí* → to cook
 166- *íkné* → strength, *íkè* → to share, *íké* → to tie → iké bunch
 167- òké → rat, òkè → boundary, òkè → share
 168- égwù → buttock, égwú → song, égwù → tilapia
 169- ékwná → cry, èkwnà → egg, ékwà → cloth

From each set of examples above, we can see that it is only tone (i.e. a variation in the pitch of voice) that causes the change in meaning of the above words which look alike in all respect.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

We have, with substantial amount of data, described and analyzed affixation in Ogba variety of Rivers State. In the procedure of analysis, the functional criterion of classification of affixes is applied thereby using two divisions of affixes thus; inflectional affixes and derivational affixes.

Each division of the two affixes is further organized into section for easy analysis and description. The processes of prefixation, interfixation, deverbalization and tonalization are discussed under derivational affixes. For instance, the division of informative and participle is considered under prefixation. All other derivation involving prefixation are also considered under prefixation.

Under interfixation, the derivatives are grouped according to their base formations. For example, the derivatives that have nouns as their base are discussed under noun-base form derivatives, while those that have verbs as their base are considered under verb-base form derivatives. It is discovered that the verb-base form of derivational affixes are more productive in Ogba language. The derivational functions of tone are studied in this work using the associative and determinative construction.

The entire inflectional markings are achieved with affixes. Inflection marks different levels of constructions in the language. We have identified with enough data how inflectional affix in imperative, imperfective and perfective construction are marked by various affixes in Ogba language.

We recommend that extensional affix and clitics need to be looked at by future researchers in view of its important in Ogba language. As a native speaker, I find some pertinent features in the area of extensional

affix and clitics in this language. I thereby recommend further studies in area of extensional affix and clitics to researcher in Ogba language

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