

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HAUSA WORD FORMATION

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Abstract

When learning a language, the first items we learn are the names of things. Every language identifies things by naming them. A word formation is a linguistic phenomenon, which deals with the ways in which language create new words. In Hausa, like any other languages, there are two major types of morphological analysis: derivational and inflectional. Our focus here shall be on the former. Discussion will be based on affixation, reduplication, borrowing, compounding, clipping, alternation/vowel change, as they affect Hausa language.

Keywords: Derivation, Hausa, Inflection, Morphology, Word-formation

Introduction

Simply put, morphology is defined as the study and description of how words are formed in any given language; a study and description of word formation (such as inflection, derivation, and compounding) in a language; the system of word-forming elements and processes in a language. According to Matthew (1974), morphology is relevant to any language because it implicates the rules governing the transformation patterns of the words of the language. He also maintained that the lexical morphology is the study of the morphological relations among lexemes. Akinpelu (2001) states that the lexical morphology is made up of sub-fields and each sub-field is dealing with the word formation.

Word-formation, as (Marchand, 1969: 22) opines, is “that branch of the science of language which studies the pattern on which a language forms new lexical units”. According to (Matthews, 1974: 40), “word-formation is the branch of morphology which deals with relations between a complex lexeme and simple lexeme”. For (Rubba, 2004: 15) “word-formation processes deal with the ways of creating new words in English”. It maintained that word-formation rules form “new words,” that is, lexemes.

It is pertinent, however to mention that word-formation is concerned not only with the issues of creating new words and their rules, but also the relationship that exists between the words (simple and complex), as posits by Matthews (1991). Thus, word-formation deals with the processes in which languages tend to involve themselves in forming new words. Word-formation, therefore, is a natural linguistic phenomenon that exists not only in English or Hausa, but in all the living languages of the world.

Many linguists have shown interest in classifying the different fields of word-formation. These include Marchand (1969); Adams (1973); Quirk Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvick (1973); Matthews (1974), Malmkjaer (1991) and a host of others. Marchand (1969), for instance, distinguishes two fields of word-formation, as:

1. Formation involving full linguistic signs, i.e., compounding, affixation, derivation by the zero morph.
2. Formation not involving full linguistic signs, which include expressing symbolism, i.e. blending, clipping, and word-manufacturing.

The work of Marchand has become helpful to the study of word-formation because it was able to put a distinctive line across the terrain of word-formation, such that we are able to identify a formation involving full linguistic signs and a formation not involving full linguistic signs. Yet, the work identifies only six processes of forming words, leaving a lot of others that are of equal value, if not more than those mentioned. Thus, it gives an insight to morphologists to work on the same topic. Adams (1973) adds another process mentioned by Marchand (1969), which is referred to as 'acronym'. Quirk et al (1973) is another work that discusses word-formation processes in English that divides the major process of English word-formation by which the base can be modified into affixation, conversion and compounding, as well as the minor processes which include reduplication, clipping, blending and acronyms. Quirk et al (1973) study is of good value to morphology and the current study because it is able to identify other processes not mentioned in works of Marchand (1969) and Abubakar (2000).

Formation of Hausa Words

In Hausa, there are several processes of word formation, few of which shall be discussed below.

Affixation

Affixation in Hausa is called *dafi* that is, a process whereby a morpheme is added to the root in order to create new lexeme. Affixation in Hausa involves prefixation (*dafagoshi*), infixation (*dafaciki*) and suffixation (*dafakeya*).

Prefixation (Dafa-Goshi)

This is one of the processes of affixation where a morpheme comes before the root word. Thus, when the affix precedes the root it is called prefixation.

Categories of prefix in Hausa

There are four prefixes in Hausa and they are: -
-ba, -ma, -mai, and -maras

Examples

1. **ba** (it has the idea of (“man of”):
Bahago (*ba+hagu* = left) =lefty.
Batuure (*ba+turai* = Europe) = European.
Bahaushe (*ba+Hausa* language = Hausa native).

2. (i) **ma** (‘it has the idea of agential noun or ‘doer of’)
Maharibi (*ma+harbi* = shoot) shooter
Makadii (*ma+kidi* = to drummer)
Maguji (*ma+gudu* = to run) = runner.
 (ii) **ma** (‘it has the idea of place)
Masaakaa (*ma+saaka*= weave) = textile factory.
Majeema (*ma+jeema* = tan)= place of tanning skin.
Mashaaya (*ma+sha*=drink) =beer palour.
 (iii) **ma**. (‘it has the idea of instrument’)
Maduubii (*ma+duba*=look) = mirror
Mataashi (*ma+tasa* =lay head) = pillow
Mayafii (*ma+yafa* = to cover) = blanket/veil

3. **mai**. (it has the idea of owner of);
Mai – hankali (*mai+hankali*= sense) =a sensible person
Mai – kunyaa (*mai + kunya*= shyness) =a we’ll mannered person.

4. **Maras** (it has the idea of ‘lack of’)
Maras – kunya (*maras + hunya* = shyness) = shameless person
Maras - hankali (*maras +hankali*+sense) = senseless person
Maras-lafiya (*maras+lafiya*=health) = sick person

-ma can take different forms as a prefix. Going by the examples above, **--ma** can serve to qualify as a noun of agent. When you attached **-ma** to a verbal nouns *saakaa*, it will give you *ma-saakaa*, (textile factory). The same applied to *duba*(look) *ma-dubi*= mirror. If you prefix **ma** to *kida/kidi* (drumming), you will have *ma-kidi/makada* drummer/drummers.

Suffixation (*Dafa-Keya*)

This kind of morpheme allows the root to appear first before it, thus, it comes after the root word. (Rufa’I, 1979: 39), posits that “a suffix is a derivative final element. It has semantic value, but does not stand or occur along”. He is of the opinion that suffixes are of two types: the derivative which is lexical, and the functional, which is inflectional and grammatical. A functional suffix is used for

things like tense, number or case. It is thus, not part of word formation. It is the derivational that belongs to word formation.

Suffixation in Hausa occur with the help of what Rufa's (1979) calls 'derivational suffixes' to form some Hausa words. The Hausa derivative suffixes therefore, include *-ta*, *-nta*, *-ntaka*, *-ca*, *-nci*, *-wa*, *-au*, *-yaa*, and *-eniya*. These suffixes are generally identified in deriving abstract ideas (or abstract nouns) or verbs.

Examples:

	Base	Grammatical Class	Gloss	Derived	Grammatical Class	Meaning
i)	<i>-ta</i>	<i>Gajeeree</i> Adjective <i>Kuturu</i> Noun	Short Leper	<i>Gajartaa</i> <i>Kuturtaa</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Shortness Leprosy
ii)	<i>-nta</i>	<i>Saaboo</i> Adjective <i>Muuguu</i> Adjective	New Wicked	<i>Saabuntaa</i> <i>Mauntaa</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Newness Wickedness
iii)	<i>-taka</i>	<i>Jaarimii</i> Noun <i>Samaarii</i> Noun	Braveman Youth	<i>Jaarntakaa</i> <i>Samartakaa</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Bravery Youthfulness
iv)	<i>-ntaka</i>	<i>Gwauroo</i> Noun <i>Abooki</i> Adjective	Unmarried Man friend	<i>Gwaurantakaa</i> <i>Turancii</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Being unmarried Friendship
v)	<i>-ci</i>	<i>Aadalli</i> Noun <i>Kusa</i> Adjective	Just man Near	<i>Adalcii</i> <i>Kusaacii</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Justice Nearness
vi)	<i>-nci</i>	<i>Jaamus</i> Noun <i>Tuurai</i> Noun	Germany Europe	<i>Jaamusancii</i> <i>Turancii</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	German English
vii)	<i>-avya</i>	<i>Ki</i> Verb <i>So</i> Verb	Hatred Love	<i>Kiyayyaa</i> <i>Soyayyaa</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Being hated Mutual love
viii)	=	<i>Yarda</i> Verb <i>Tuura</i> Verb	Agree Push	<i>Yaryeejeeniya</i> <i>Tureereeniya</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Agreement Pushing one another
ix)	<i>-au</i>	<i>Gaagara</i> Verb	Playfulness	<i>Gaagarau</i>	Noun (abst) Noun (abst)	Very playful

The morpheme inserted within the root is referred to as an infix.

(Fagge, 2004: 50) posits that "when a morpheme comes between elements of the root it is called an infix" According to (Rufa'i, 1979: 40) "infixation may be the inserted segment of a new element within the stem of a word or may simply be the result of the duplication of part of the stem", such as the following:

Root	Infix	Root end	Gloss
(i) <i>Bir -a</i>	<i>-ne</i>		-cities
(ii) <i>Gur -a</i>	<i>-gu</i>		-cripples
(iii) <i>Tur -a</i>	<i>-me</i>		-mortars

Most infixation cases are found when increasing the number from singular to plural. In Hausa *-a* serves as infix marker.

Compounding

Compounding according to Wurn(1998: 33), is “a process of combining two or more words to produce a single and meaningful word”. Fagge (2004), posits that compounding is the second major morphological component (affixation being the first), which uses words as raw-materials for the formation of compound words or expressing new situation in Hausa.

Many Hausa linguists have classified Hausa compound into sub types based on the combinations of elements that make up such compounds. For instance, Galadanchi, (1976) categorizes compound nouns into 3 main types, as follows:

- i. Noun-based compound: They have nouns or adjectives as their core.
Examples: *tarin-kasaa* (heap of sand), *taurin-kai* (stubbornness).
- ii. Verb-base compound: These have verbs as their core; Example: *tumaa-kasaa*(woolen shawl).
- iii. Idiophone-base compound: There are nouns that have idiophones as their core. Examples: *kyal-kyalbanza* (useless thing or good for nothing).

Furthermore, it can be observed that compounding is a process of combining two or more words to give one single meaning. For example, the two words, *azumi*(fasting) and *Jemage* (bat) in Hausa have meaning when used in isolation. But when combined together (as an independentcompounding word) as *azumin-jemage*, they give a single specialized meaning — (a useless venture).

Clipping

One of the morphological processes found in Hausa is clipping.

(Arnoff and Fudeman, 2005: 74) assert that “clipping is the creation of a new word by the truncation of an existing one”.

Hausa linguists like Baner (1991); Abdulahamid (2001). Yule (1997:66) and Sani (2001) mention that clipping is another way of word coining by shortening the base, retaining the same meaning and membership of the class.

Fagge (2004), posits that clipping in Hausa is of two types: back clipping, and front clipping. let us consider the following cases:

(a) Back-Clipping:

i. Personal Names

<u>Full form</u>	Clipping form
<i>Aishatu</i>	<i>-Shatu</i>
<i>Khadija</i>	<i>-Dija/Dije</i>
<i>Abubakar</i>	<i>-Bukar</i>
<i>Zainabu</i>	<i>-Abu</i>

ii. Names of Items

Apart from names of people as mentioned above, back clipping could be noticed in other forms, either verbs or nouns, as in:

<u>Full form</u>	<u>Clipping form</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Kuskure</i>	<i>kure</i>	-mistake

(b) Front — Clipping

<u>Full form</u>	<u>Clipping form</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Kuli-kuli</i>	<i>kuli</i>	groundnut cake
<i>Fate-fate</i>	<i>fate</i>	a musky food.

More so, one important thing to put into consideration is, even though blending and clipping may appear similar, yet clipping takes place within a single existing word, while blending takes place between two different words.

Alternation/Vowel Change

Vowel alternation or vowel change is another process of forming word in Hausa (Rufa' I, 1979: 41) defines it as “a process that takes place when the original vowel of the base is dropped or alternated with another suffix and derivation vowel”. In respect to Hausa morphology, (Fagge, 2004: 52) refers to it as vowel alternation, as “a process whereby some nouns are formed through the process of altering the root, suffix or prefix”.

It must be noted here that vowel alternation in Hausa occurs only within verb stem and the derived forms are nouns. Examples: *gaadaa*(inherit) (verb) *gaadoo* — inheritance (noun), vowel /a/ alternate with /o/; *buga* beat (verb) *buguu* being beaten (noun), vowel /a/ alternate with /u/; *zaanee* — draw (verb) *zaneedrawing*(noun), vowel /a/ alternate with /e/, etc. Consider the following examples:

/a/alternating with/i/

<u>Verb stem</u>	<u>Derived form</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Buudaa</i>	<i>buudii</i>	opening
<i>Tuukaa</i>	<i>tuukii</i>	driving

(i) /a/alternating with/u/

		<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Buga</i>	<i>buguu</i>	beating
<i>Kaamaa</i>	<i>kaamuu</i>	catching

(ii) /a/alternating with/e/

		<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Aura</i>	<i>auree</i>	marriage
<i>Jeeraa</i>	<i>jeeree</i>	arrangement

- (iii) /e/alternating with/a/ Gloss
Tseefee *tsiifaa* combing
Feeree *fiiraa* Peeling
- (iv) /o/alternating with /u/ Gloss
Sooyaasuuyaa frying
Googaa *guugaa* rubbing

One important thing noticed is that alternation, as a kind of derivation is also combined with a change in tone pattern. In Hausa specifically the tone of the first syllable (if the base is a verb) is normally high but become low after the derivation

Example:

Base	Grammatical Class	Gloss	Derived form	Grammatical Class	Gloss
<i>Saya</i>	verb	Buy	<i>Sayee</i>	n(abstract)	buying
<i>Jeefa</i>	verb	to throw	<i>Jiifaa</i>	n (abstract)	throwing
<i>Daama</i>	verb	Mix	<i>Daamu</i>	n (abstract)	mixing
<i>Dasa</i>	verb	to plant	<i>Dashe</i>	n (abstract)	planting

Tonal Modification

Total modification occurs when the whole word changes. Mathew (1991) also called it suppletion, which occurs when the whole word changes rather than having a suffix. Schene (1972), explains that suppletion is any alternation which cannot be explained by any rule. Modification also involves accent or tonal pattern, which is in close association with a process of affixation. Thus, when the shift accompanies the suffix, the suffixes always require the stress or tone in that position; in such cases, the accentual modification can be seen as a repercussion of the process of suffixation. Another type of modification is vowel modification or alternation. It takes place when the root is altered (basically the vowels) and it occurs with a change in tone pattern.

Investigation reveals that alternation, otherwise known as modification has been identified as one of the processes of word formation in Hausa. Modification occurs when changes occur in words as a result of changes in vowels or the entire form of the word when a whole word changes its form completely to form another. It is referred to as suppletion in the words of Scheme (1972). We can summarize by saying that zero modification, vowel and stress change, subtraction, suppletion and alternation are all forms of modification.

Example		
Word		Gloss
<i>maɗɗa</i>	-	woman
<i>maɗɗaɗ</i>	-	women
<i>baɗɗa</i>	-	father
<i>baɗɗaɗ</i>	-	mother
<i>baɗɗa</i>	-	shrub
<i>ka</i>	-	head
<i>ka</i>	-	exclamation
<i>mai</i>	-	oil
<i>mai</i>	-	owner of

A change in tone has changed the meaning of the word.

Reduplication

One of the processes involved in forming Hausa words is called reduplication. Reduplication means *nannagein* Hausa. While some linguists like Al-Hassan (1983), Fagge (2004), and Rufa'i (1979) referred to it as duplication.

Reduplication has to do with morphemic repetition. It is a morphological process that is used while building some of their vocabularies. It could be complete or partial, as opined by Rufa'i (1979). A partial duplication is the one in which a part of a base morpheme is reduplicated. A complete duplication is the one in which the base as a whole is duplicated. Cases where complete duplication occur could be found in idiophones, example:

Word	Gloss
<i>-kyamus-kyamus</i>	(thin)
<i>-lif-lif</i>	(blooming, as when shrubs sprouts greenly)
<i>-tsaf-tsaf</i>	(neatly)
<i>-sharaf-sharaf</i>	(drenched)

Qualification Compounds

These happen when words are reduplicated to indicate an amount or number of things. Thus, it is produced by a complete reduplication of the stem base. Consider the following examples.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Complete Reduplication Derived</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Rumbu</i>	(store)	<i>rumbu-rumbu</i>	(in storage)
<i>Jaka</i>	(bag)	<i>jaka-jaka</i>	(in bags)
<i>Dami</i>	(bundle)	<i>dami-dami</i>	(in bundles)

Numerical Compounds

Numerical compounds could be produced by complete reduplication of the base. Consider the following cases.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Complete Reduplication</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Daya</i>	(one)	<i>Daya-daya</i>	(one by one)
<i>Biyu</i>	(two)	<i>Bi-biyu</i>	(two two)
<i>Uku</i>	(three)	<i>Uku-uku</i>	(in threes)
<i>Hudu</i>	(four)	<i>Hur-hudu</i>	(four four)
<i>Biyar</i>	(five)	<i>Biyar-biyar</i>	(in fives)

Color Base Compounds

These occur when colors are produced through complete reduplication of the stem base (of colors) example:

<u>Words</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Reduplicated Form</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Baki</i>	(black)	<i>Baki-baki</i>	(blackish)
<i>Fari</i>	(white)	<i>Fari-fari</i>	(whitish)
<i>Jaa</i>	(red)	<i>Jaa-jaa</i>	(redish)

Furthermore, Al-Hassan (1982) posits that complete reduplication could show pluralization, intensification and densification. Consider the following:

Pluralisation

It is observed that reduplication pluralization occurs in Hausa when the base (singular) is reduplicated to form the plural of a simple nominal; in the case of simple nominal, the singular base form is simply repeated with no change either sequentially or tonally, but a change in the final vowel of the reduplicated word, to 'e'.

Example:

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Yaki</i>	(war)	<i>yake-yake</i>	(wars)
<i>Zagi</i>	(abuse)	<i>zage-zage</i>	(abuses)
<i>Bugu</i>	(to hit)	<i>buge-buge</i>	(to hit severally)

(ii) Intensification

Reduplication could be used in full form in Hausa to show intensification. For intensification, the base form is copied without any segmental or tonal change.

Examples

<u>Simple Form</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Intensified Form</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Yanzu</i>	(now)	<i>Yanzu-yanzu</i>	(immediately)
<i>Kusa</i>	(near)	<i>Kusa-kusa</i>	(very near)

Detensification

Complete reduplication occurs to show detensification in Hausa. In detensification, there is a segmental change, shortening the final vowel of form in

<u>Word</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Word</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Kadan</i>	(Small in quantity)	<i>kadan-kadan</i>	(very small quantity)
<i>Kasa</i>	(down)	<i>kasa-kasa</i>	(down-down)

Partial Reduplication

Partial reduplication occurs when a part of the stem base is duplicated, the part could be the initial part of the base, the medial part of the base or even the final part of the base. (Al-Hassan, 1982 24) observes that:

Partial reduplication involves the copying of only part of the word. According to him, partial reduplications in Hausa is of two types:

The first is the one in which three consecutive phonemes are in the word the second of which is a syllabic, are copied, thus, isolating the copied form represents a syllabic in Hausa- the CVC types; the second one is that which a consonant in the root is copied in the reduplication form.

(a) CVC Reduplication

In Hausa, this kind of reduplication occurs in two respects intensivization and derivation of adjectival nouns.

(i) Intensivization

Verb	Gloss	Derived Form	Gloss
<i>Saaree</i>	(to cut)	<i>sassaaree</i>	(cut several times)
<i>Gyaaraa</i>	(to repair)	<i>gyaggyaaraa</i>	(arrange several times)
<i>Keewayaa</i>	(to go round)	<i>kekkeewaayaa</i>	(to go round several times)

(ii) Derivation of adjectival form

<u>Noun</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Adjective Nouns</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Karfi</i>	(strength)	<i>Kakkarfa</i>	(verystrong)
<i>Saukii</i>	(cheap/simple)	<i>Sassauka</i>	(verycheap)

(b) Consonantal Reduplication

This type of reduplication occurs in two ways in Hausa. It is employed in forming some Hausa plural words and in the derivation of exclamatory adjectives. Based on the analysis, it is found that reduplication (complete and partial) occur in creating a lot of Hausa vocabularies.

Borrowing

Borrowing is a linguistic feature that not only Hausa exhibits in forming its new terms, but it appears universal to all living languages. In Hausa, borrowing differs on two grounds: the level of contact between the two languages concerned and the level of dependency on the donor language by the borrowing language. Thus, Hausa borrows numerous words from the two international languages it came in contact with: Arabic and English. Ahmed & Daura (1970) observe that two devices have commonly been employed while borrowing words from Arabic to Hausa.

- (i) By changing the form of the source words to reflect the structural form of Hausa Language.
Example: Littafi from kitabun (book); allo from alluh (slate); Annabi from Annabiyu (prophet) etc.
- (ii) By adopting the source word as they are in their Arabic form: Example: addu'a (Prayer), Jarida (newspaper), kur'ani (qur'an). Etc.

Due to intimate contact with similar Arabic words, the original meaning of some Hausa words has been slightly changed & adopted their Arabic counterparts, e.g.

<u>Original Hausa Words</u>	<u>Adopted Arabic words</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Ubangiji</i>	<i>Allah</i>	God
<i>Kushewa</i>	<i>Kabari</i>	Grave
<i>Tsautsayi</i>	<i>Hadari</i>	Accident

Many Hausa linguists such as Abubakar, (1972); Abraham, (1978); Warm, (1978), Zarruk, (1979); and many others, suggest some Hausa words that are borrowed from Arabic in relation to religion, administration, judiciary, scholarship, food, dress, days, accounting, culture etc., as the following:

<u>Hausa</u>	<u>Arabic</u>	<u>Gloss</u>
<i>Sallah</i>	<i>Salat</i>	Prayer
<i>Mulki</i>	<i>Mulkun</i>	Administration
<i>Hukumci</i>	<i>Hukum</i>	Judgment
<i>Maalam</i>	<i>Mu'allim</i>	Teacher
<i>Sukari</i>	<i>Sukkarun</i>	Sugar

<u>Hausa</u>	<u>English</u>
<i>Gwamnaa</i>	Governor
<i>Lauyaa</i>	Lawyer
<i>Sufeetoo</i>	Inspector

<i>Digiri</i>	Degree
<i>Banki</i>	Bank
<i>Burodi</i>	Bread

This is far from being a complete list of borrowed words but it will suffice to give the reader an insight of the extent to which Hausa is indebted.

Findings

The major findings are enumerated as follows:

Hausa language forms its words by using some processes, which are affixation, reduplication, modification, clipping and borrowing, etc. Hausa makes use of bound and free morphemes in its structure like most languages such as English. It is discovered that partial reduplication is realized at the initial, medial and final position of words. Complete reduplication is more common in Hausa and derived words could be used formally. Hausa, like other languages, borrows a lot from other languages such as English and Arabic.

Conclusion

Morphemes are the building blocks of words. Morphology is the bridge between phonology and syntax. Part of the knowledge of languages we speak includes knowledge of morphology. It is at this level of language study that we notice that words consist of systematic internal structures that are meaningful and also contribute to the overall meaning of the structures where they occur. Every language has some internal mechanism for creating new words and those who speak the language naturally master such mechanisms.

In this paper, we have examined the aspect of linguistics that is concerned with the study of internal structure of words. The different structural classifications of words have been outlined and some of the ways of creating new words in Hausa Language, have also been identified and discussed.

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