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Aspects of Hybrid Compound in Hausa: A Minimalist Approach

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Abstract: This study examined the minimalist hybrid compound approach in Hausa Language. Therefore, the work argues that, in accordance to Chomsky (1985) the minimalist program is concerned with: the ‘Principles of Economy’ of derivation and syntactic structures, the process that are used in producing them also has to be economical, the interface levels of derivation and grammatical sentences through phonetic form (PF) and logical (LF), and other non-syntactic processes such as speech production and perception, and the semantic processing of drawing inferences, memorizing meaning of sentences, words, phrases etc. The study also found that these minimalist features are also found in Hausa process of hybridization as found in everyday speech perception and production. Similarly, the study identifies four features to do with the minimalist hybrid in the language (Hausa) which include: internal level derivation structure (D-structure) hybrid, phonetic form (PF) hybrid, semantic processing (i.e. interface of meaning) and structural representation of head element. It also revealed that Hausa minimalist hybrid compound have features of conceptualization, tone and modification of elements. Also, the study reveals that all minimalist hybrids employ genitive linker as found in the work of Abdullahi (2019) on “Hybrid Compound in Hausa”. The work also revealed that all the minimalist nativized items use deletion and insertion of either consonant or vowel sound, and that the minimalist program plays vital role in Hausa hybrid compound in general, which without the formation of hybrid in Hausa may not be possible due to lack of conformity.

Introduction

Hybrid compounding or what is commonly called “hybrid compound” has significance in the study of language and thus, it attracts the attention of specialist and analysts of language and discourse, therefore, it becomes one of the common feature of linguistic behaviour in many multilingual societies in the practice of combining words to build complex word O’Grady (2011:131). However, this study has build its analysis on



the minimalist program, which believes that not only language structures must be as economical as possible, but the process that is used to produce them must also be economical. As such, there has to be interface between logical form (LF) and phonetic form (PF) and as well their interaction with other non-syntactic process which are semantic processing and speech production and perception (Chomsky, 1993). Therefore, the research studied hybrid compound in Hausa language employing the analysis of minimalist structure of such hybrid compound interactive communication compounding and its minimal process inherent in the hybrid. Minimalist and hybrid compound were traditionally considered and analyzed as language phenomena of speech, used largely for communication purposes. Similarly, morphologists not only view them as means of word formation but also ways of conceptualization of non-compositional meaning. For example, compounding identified as “- - - - a morphologically complex unit made up of two words/stems which act as a single word, whose meaning is mostly non-compositional Bauer, (1978). On the other hand compound is also identified as “- - - - a combination of two or more words which form a morphological unit, and also a two or more words functioning as a single word or unit” Marchand, (1955).

For the purpose of this research, this study adopted the Theory of Natural Morphology Theory (NMT) which was developed by Dressler (1985), and later fully exemplified and explained by Carolina Bialek (2007). The concept of NMT can be seen as an organized structure of natural behavior that can serve to represent the reality from certain perspective and it is also a bedrock that include not only people's encyclopedic knowledge of particular domain but also the cultural aspects that are part of it. The theory further distinguishes two distinct areas of biuniqueness and iconicity principles for its construct proposition. The researcher adopted the theory because it covers the areas identifies for the purpose of the study, and as well provides the building block on which the other theories of minimalist program linguistic theory by Chomsky (1993) and X-bar theory of Al-Shorafat (1998). Various technical terms were also used for the purpose of this study. Those technical terms include; communication, interaction, process, structure, compounding, mapping. Based on the above explanation, it appears that word formation as far as morphology is concerned has relationship with compound and morphological criteria. Words when put together should either be two or at most three as in for example driving license (verb plus verb), bank accountant (noun plus noun). With this therefore, it is clear that compound is a unit or word that has relationship with non-compositional



meaning, syntactic structure, and as well as some phonological elements in its formation. A lot has been written on Hausa compound by different authors, scholars, researchers and others notably among them is the work of Galadanci (1972), Fagge (1991), Ahmad (1994), Abubakar (2000) etc.

Hybrid compound is an innovative lexical process brought about by linguistic and cultural contact (Kachru, 1983:153). As a result Kachru considers the phenomenon as also a creative process born out of contact situations and acknowledges the significant influence it has on the development of language, and as well a mixed construction which portrays the language of the masses. It is also described as one which is composed of elements from two or more different languages. Therefore, a hybrid compound comprises of two or more elements and at least one element will be from a native language (Senaratne, 2016). Kachru (1983) acknowledges hybridization as an innovative lexical process brought about by linguistic and English contact. He considers this a creative process born out of contact situation and acknowledges the significant influence it has on the development of languages. Hybrid compound as one of the linguistic feature can occur in almost all domains and are most frequent and are most frequent in the domain of religion, politics, culture etc. Senaratne, (2016:108). This study will explain hybrid compound minimalist in Hausa at School of Preliminary Studies, Sule Lamido University Kafin Hausa. Going by what is in the Nigerian education policy, English language has become the medium of instruction and as well in all Nigerian institutions, and as a result of some reasons, native languages were used along with English between speakers in institutions of learning.

Background to the Study

Many linguists have been conducting studies on compound as one of the morphological process so as to improve linguistic knowledge and the field of morphology thus, the approach of hybrid compound was put forward by some of them. The first work on hybrid compound was carried out in the 1950's by E. Haugen, from that period researchers in morphological process and productivity have focus in it with scholars like Kachru (1985), Muysken (2000), McArthur (2006), Senaratne (2009.) Similarly, in the 1990's and 2000 the interest is more linguistic focus on language utterance of the structure, where it also become an area of discussion on bilingual and multilingual speech community. McArthur, (2006) defines the term as “words



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made up from two different languages.” Syal and Jindal (2011:54) also define hybrid compounds as those kind of Indian English which is made out of a combination of English and Hindi, e.g police wallah, (police station), bramin hood (childhood). Hybrid compound is in social situations and contexts, which include; school, premises, and classroom interaction, conversation between members of a family, age group and religious sermon. Hausa speakers often found themselves using hybrid compounds in a single word or speech to express an idea of intention. Linguistic borrowing is evident between “unequal” languages such as for instance English-French or Arabic-Hausa (Salim, 1981).

Language(s) cannot be productive alone as such,, languages have to be in contact with one another. Against this background, in Nigeria, English plays many roles ranging from education, politics, economic and social purposes. The nature of the country’s society with ethnic diversity shows that, the issue of national language question amongst the ethno linguistic regions of the country becomes a different matter. Resolution was then made to adopt English language to meet the national communicative needs as a result of its neutrality in the country. The adaption of the English as language for wider communication dates back to 1862 when Lagos was formally established as a colony by the British.

Several works have been conducted on compound notably the work of Ahmad (1994), on Aspect of Hausa Compound, Abdullahi (2019) on Hybrid Compound in Hausa, there is need for a study particularly on Hybrid Compound Minimalist in Hausa language. Nigerian people and communities interact with English consciously as a second language. The usage of the language (English) as the only medium of instruction in all courses at the level of higher learning as proclaimed in the education policy in the country also calls for a high proficiency attainment in it, and if that is so, why do speakers use hybrid compound in both school premises and classrooms, with all the legal backing accorded to the language as language of instruction right from nursery in some instances up to tertiary levels. Both teachers and students use hybrid compound in classes and school premises. The tendency therefore, brings about lack of control and an advanced proficiency in the language and as well inadequacies on the part of the students. The set back will obviously cause implication on the learner’s communicative and educational development.



The aim of this research is to study minimalist hybrid compound In Hausa with the following objective as to:

- i. Identify the domains of minimalist hybrid compound in Hausa.
- ii. Identify how the structural feature appear in minimalist hybrid compound.
- iii. Find out whether there is any difference between minimalist hybrid and hybrid compounds in Hausa language.
- iv. Find out the productivity of hybrid compound minimalist in Hausa.
- v. Find out whether minimalist hybrid compound is compositional or non-compositional.

In order to carry out fruitful analysis of minimalist hybrid compounds in Hausa, this study raises to address the following questions:

- i. What are the domains of minimalist hybrid in Hausa?
- ii. How do the structural feature of minimalist appear in Hausa hybrid compound?
- iii. Is there equally any structural feature difference(s) between minimal hybrid compound and hybrid compound in Hausa?
- iv. Is Hausa minimalist hybrid compound productive in the language? v. Does hybrid minimalist compound has any structural change in its formation?
- v. Is hybrid minimalist compound compositional or non-compositional?

The significance of this research is to extend the area of hybrid compound in Hausa as a morphological process in one of the Chadic languages (Hausa) in particular, languages at large and to the body of knowledge in general, and as well to researchers who may have keen interest in the field.

This study is aimed at investigating the Hausa minimalist hybrid compound interface via morphological process, and as well the reason why do speakers hybridized in their interaction and communication and do they actually use minimalist in their hybridization. There are three areas to be covered, one is the community members of Fanisau quarters in Kafin Hausa, the second is school of preliminary studies and the third is School of General and Entrepreneur Studies, all in Sule Lamido University, Kafin Hausa. The institutions



and the community will serve as the research area going by the nature of many teachers, natives and students background as they share the same mother tongue (L1) and culture.

A lot of researches have been conducted in relation to this study, below are some of them:

Senaratne (2017) states that hybridization is a common occurrence in language contact, and it is an extremely productive morphological process used in bilingual advertisement in Sri Lanka. Thus, in 2016 she adopted in her study a detailed analysis of what Kachru discussed in 1983. She discusses hybrid compound from local languages in India. She identifies Kachru's contextual classification and variety of semantic areas in which hybrid occur. Accordingly, the hybrid items are classified into agriculture, administration, art/music, building, concept, education, politics etc. Where he acknowledged hybridization as an innovative lexical process brought about by the linguistic and cultural contact with English and identifies the significance influence it has on the development of languages.

Furthermore, Senaratne (2016) conducted a study in which 20 speakers were chosen from Colombo on the basis of their self assessment of informal language use and only who chose Sinhala as their L1 were selected and conversation were recorded to justify the assumption of mixed constructions used in advertisement, where she identifies that hybrid words are as a result of mixing, it is apparent that single word or extended linguistic units that are mixed in bilingual data are socially significant.

Rahman (2012) investigated compounds in Urdu language, where the research classified the language compounds very systematically. He discovered copulated compounds as systematic coordinate members when absent are formed in different ways that is, when two words having different meaning separately are compounded, they may be noun = noun, verb = verb or adjective = adjectives in Urdu.

In another development, Rahman, (2013) also propounded that compounding in Urdu is an important aspect of morphological operation to produce new words in languages. He revealed that, these compounds are formed by adding tadbhava component with perso-Arabic and English words e.g rat-din (day and night), noun plus noun, hasana-khalna (laughing and playing) verb plus verb, bhuki-pyasi (hungry and thirsty) adjective plus adjective.



Chomsky (1995) propounds minimalist program modification and developed into basic assumption with the “principles of economy” of derivation and presentation of syntactic structures. Accordingly, the underlying assumption is that language structures must be as economical as possible. Thus, the principle of economy demands that not only language structures must be economical, but the processes that are used in producing them must also be economical. Therefore, it could be said that the defining characteristic of the MP is that, only the minimal number of structure and process should be used for language phenomena.

Cook and Newson (1996) reveal that under minimalist framework, Chomsky question whether all levels of lexicon, derivation structure (D-structure), movement and sentence structure (S-structure) that are under phonetic form (PF) and lexicon form (LF) are really necessary. Thus, he (Chomsky) therefore, argued that since language is a mapping between ‘sound’ and ‘meaning’ the only absolute necessary representations are the interfaces of the meaning and sound components of the linguistic system.

Ahmad (1994) points out that Galadanci (1972) could be said to be the first scholar to describe Hausa compounding in details. He gives preference to the identification of category compound nouns based on primary parameter of headedness and divides the Hausa compound into nominal compound and adverbials with sub-classes as well. He also reveals that Hausa compounds have a variety of morpho- syntactic structure based on the number of words that participated in the compounding process and many compounds are two word structure, others three or four, having the feature of degree of non-compositional meaning, relative productivity, lexical integrity, and phonological elements.

Kachru (1983), recognizes hybrid compound formation as a characteristic feature of language contact situations in Sinhala English based on Muysken’s (2000) term on hybrid analysis as an indicative of congruent lexicalization patterns in mixed discourse found in bilinguals and multilingual settings. He found out that, Sri-Lankan bilingual make use of mixing strategy to create new word and to nativize foreign element into Sinhala, hence the formation of hybrids both noun and verbs which are characteristic features of mixed code.

All the researches reviewed above are found to be relevant to this study directly or indirectly. Despite the fact that, the present study entirely focus on breaching a gap on compounding in a different pace i.e hybrid



minimalist compounding in Hausa that also serve as a means of the language development via word formation process.

This study adopts qualitative research method. Qualitative research term is a methodology that employs natural data. Descriptive and holistic means. The method of the data will not rely in surface information, rather it will be sensitive and flexible whereby it will match the social context in which it is produced along with emphasis on the holistic forms of analysis and explanations. The aim of this methodology is to find out what is actually happening in a particular phenomenon or interaction. It will also collect authentic qualitative data within the domains of natural setting, as its objectives by looking at the perspective of individual speakers in the process of investigating the natural occurrence.

This research adopts the Natural Morphology Theory (NMT) proposed by Dressler. This theory concerns the relationship between morphemes within a word and their meanings. Thus it analyzes the relationship between expression and meaning. It also employs Minimalist Program Theory (MPT) propounded by Chomsky (1993), and X-bar Theory of Al-Shorafat (1998), as well as the full explanation and example of NMT by Carolina Bailey (2007).

In this part of the study of hybrid compound in Hausa minimalist, lexical items are analyzed in an effort to identify aspects to do with minimalist program in compounding as one of the morphological process in linguistics via two interface which are Logical Form and Phonetic Form (LF and PF), which comprises of phonetic component and semantic component, internal representation of basic lexical information and grammar component of lexicon and computational system.

As the case may be, Hausa speakers used hybrid compounding minimalist to the large extent in minimizing the burden of learning of natural language acquisition in a native like manner I e English lexicon learning). The following are samples of hybrid compounds minimalist representation data in Hausa, collected at school of preliminary studies Kafin Hausa:



Logical Form Minimalist Hybrid Compound in Hausa

Hybrid	Literal Meaning	Gloss/meaning
(a) kareen- mootaa	(*dog of motor)	- conductor
(b) xan-taasii	(*son of taxi)	- chauffeur
(c) laayin-doogoo	(*line of tall)	- railway

The above elements of minimalist hybrid compound lexical form, represent internal level of basic lexical information using D-Structure (derivation structure) where in (1a) the lexical *Karen* (dog) plus *mootaa* (motor) is what form through internal level the word or lexical 'conductor' in an economical form, whereas in (1b) *dan* (son) plus *taasii* (taxi) produce a minimalist hybrid lexical 'chauffeur', while in (1c) *laayin* (line) plus *doogoo* (tall) accounts for the production of new lexical 'railway'. Therefore, the above minimal number structures become a defining characteristic that brings about the natural tendency of new language interaction and communication as well as production of new lexical in a conceptualized manner.

Phonetic Form Minimalist Hybrid Compound

- 2 (a) yar-fim (*daughter of film) actress
(b) xan-tireeda (*son of trade) retailer (c) man-feetur (*oil of petrol) petroleum

From the above hybrid compound minimalist lexical the phonetic representation is thus; in (1a) the part of the internal lexical that is affected phonologically is the English word 'film', which turn into nativize sound like representation by deletion of 'l' consonant sound in calligraphy with shortening of the sound as 'fim' through mapping of the English pronunciation with that of Hausa, while in (1b) it is also the English native like lexical that is affected having two different modification of sound i.e insertion of 'i' vowel sound to the 't' consonant sound thus we have 'ti' (cv) sound and 'ee' (vv) sound to the 'r' consonant and the insertion of 'a' sound to the final 'd' consonant sound thus produced the lexic 'tireeda' (trade/trading) which has a wide currency among the speakers (Hausa), and considered as Hausa lexicon, whereas in (1c) the English word (line) is also native like by insertion of the vowel 'aa' in cluster with 'l' consonant, and insertion of



'y' consonant and vowel 'i' and as well deletion of the vowel 'I' attached to the 'l' consonant in the English lexical and 'e' vowel in cluster to 'n' in the lexical 'line, thus produced new mapping of Hausa native minimal lexical of 'laayin'.

Similarly, going by the above description and analysis, it appears that minimal phonetic representation is employed in the hybrid compounding process of native like English lexical through mapping of two words one from guest language and another from dominant language (i.e. native), where in most cases insertion of vowel in clusters in the English item to suit and conform to the native sound like system as in 'laayin-doo'goo', which mean 'railway' that serve as a lexicon.

Meaning and Sound in Minimal Hybrid Compound.

3 (a) gidan-zuu	(*house of zoo)	zoo
(b) lemon-faataa	(*lemon of skin)	orange
(c) xan-kamashoo	(*son of commission)	tout

From the above minimal formation of the hybrid in Hausa language, the necessary representation of the interface of meaning and sound components of the linguistic system brings about the whole hybrids a semantic processing as in (3a) *gidan-zuu* (house of zoo) have sound representation attached to each of the two elements combined together which produced the word 'zoo' with a comparative meaning, and have sound representation of high and low (HL) tone as in *gi+da-n* sounds that produced '*gidan*' (house of) and *z+uu* (a native like item) 'zoo', with a comparative conceptual minimal hybrid elements of the sounds become *gidan-zuu* (house of zoo) which mean 'zoo'. That is how it appears in (3b and c) with the sound *lee+mo+n* = orange having CVVCCV sounds representation and *zuu* = zoo CVV and the two components produced a conceptual mapping meaning of 'zoo', hence linguistic system from semantic perspective by drawing inferences from the hybrid phrase.

Structural Features of Minimalist Hybrid Compound.

4 (a) xan-sumoogal	(*son of smuggle)
(b) wayar-hannuu	(*wire of hand)



(c) watan-oogas (*month of August)

In the above representation of lexical minimalist in (4a) the structure has noun as the head element of noun plus linker plus noun in which, the right hand element is the head in the hybrid as 'xan' (son) and *sumoogal* (smuggle) into a phrase '*xan -sumoogal*' (son of smuggle) to a minimal conceptual lexical of "smuggler" a noun. That is how it appears in (4b and c), where (b) has *wayar* (wire) plus *hannuu* (hand) combined and produced a minimal lexical "handset" and (c) *watan* (month) plus *oogas* (August) combined also and produced a conceptual minimal lexical 'property'. The process presented above is done through 'merge' which is to do lexical item combination into phrase marker through what is term as "Spell Out" of numeration, phonetic form, and logical form.

Conclusion

This study examined the minimalist hybrid compound approach in Hausa

Language. Therefore, the work argue that, in accordance to Chomsky (1985) that minimalist program is concerned with: the 'Principles of Economy' of derivation and syntactic structures, the process that are used in producing them also has to be economical, the interface levels of derivation and grammatical sentences through phonetic form (PF) and logical (LF), and other non-syntactic processes such as speech production and perception, and the semantic processing of drawing inferences, memorizing meaning of sentences, words, phrases etc. The study also found that these minimalist features are also found in Hausa process of hybridization as found in everyday speech perception and production.

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possible due to lack of conformity to what constitute a compound into a single unit, and finally it reveals that minimalist economic program is another means. .

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