

Lexical Nominalization in Ewe: A morphosyntactic view

Abstract

This paper studies action nominalization in Ewe, according to Comrie and Thompson's (2007) categorization: action/state nominalization, agentive nominalization, instrumental nominalization, manner nominalization, locative nominalization, and objective nominalization. It investigates how these nominalization types manifest in the language. It was found out that the above-mentioned nouns derive, mainly, through the processes of reduplication and suffixation. Again, a single form can qualify for more than one category of nominal, as in the case of the suffix -je for deriving process/action and locative nominals. Agentive nominals can be derived by a zero agentive marker or by an overt agentive marker, -la. The paper introduces time nominals, which denote the time for 'verbing' or the time that an action or activity takes place. Time nominals can mark an event, season, or duration. Finally, the paper argues that a single verb phrase permed with different suffixes can derive almost all the range of nominals in Comrie and Thompson's (2007) framework.

Key words: nominalization, agentive marker, locative, instrument, objective

1.0 Introduction

Some few studies that cover lexical nominalization in Ewe include Duthie (1996), Ameka (1991), Ofori (2002), inter alia. The above-mentioned studies focused on subjects such as the strategies for forming lexical nominal compounds (Ofori 2002), the properties of nominalization in Ewe (Ameka 1991), and some dialectal differences in nominalized forms (Agbedor, 1996). However, to the best of my knowledge, there has not been any study which systematically focuses on the formation of nominals of different kinds (e.g., locative, agentive, manner, location, etc.), from a single base or stem. Against this background, the paper seeks to find an answer to the questions: Which are the various ways by which we can form a range of lexical nominals from a single root or stem? More specifically, the paper has the objective of showing that the types of nominalizations (e.g., locative, instrument, agentive, manner, etc.) all of which may not be available in a single language, are possible in Ewe. The formation of these nominals gives rise to the concept of polysemy, so the senses of the nominals can be delimited in context. The current paper therefore attempts the formation of various categories of nominals (time, instrument, manner, location, etc.) in the

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Commented [MOU6]: The author/s need to check Ofori 1988 on nominalization in Ewe. Also, others such as Gotah & Lee 2002, 2022, Amekah 2010, Dorgbetor 2016, Amekah & Dakubu 2008, Buell 2012, 2021, among others have done studies on nominalization in Ewe.

Commented [MOU7]: How many questions have been answered in this paper?

Commented [MOU8]: What does lexical nominal mean?

Commented [MOU9]: What does this mean? Are they too many for one language to exhibit them?

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framework of Comrie and Thompson (2007). The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a brief literature review; Section 3 gives a brief background of the Ewe language; Section 4 introduces lexical nominalization; Section 5 provides a brief comment about nominalization in Ewe; Section 6 identifies some key methods of forming nominals in Ewe; Section 7 explains how almost all the types of Comrie and Thompson's (2007) nominals are supported by the morphology of Ewe; section 8 summarizes the main arguments; and section 9 provides a conclusion of the paper.

2. 0 Literature Review

Ofori (2002) is perhaps one of the recent works that has dedicated much space to the subject of nominalization in Ewe. The paper identifies reduplication, compounding, permutation, affixation, and an interplay of some of the processes as the strategies that are available for nominalization in Ewe. Ofori's (2002) paper was, therefore, a general exploration of the processes of nominal formation from nouns and other grammatical units. However, this present paper, even though it discusses the strategies and processes for nominalization in Ewe, focuses on nominalization using the framework of Comrie and Thompson (2007), which covers, among others, action/state nominalization, agentive nominalization, instrumental nominalization, manner nominalization, objective nominalization, and time nominalization. Comrie and Thompson (2007) was a typological study which explored how the above-named categories are formed in various languages. Thus, a category of these nominals manifests in one language but not in another. This paper aims to show that, in Ewe, almost all of Comrie and Thompson's (2007) nominals can be formed from a single stem or base.

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3. 0 The Ewe language and some of its typological features

According to Duthie (1996:1), Ewe is a Niger-Congo Kwa language spoken in Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Badagry in Nigeria. The term Ewe is a cover term for a cluster of dialects which actually belong to the broader term GBE, which is each dialect's word for voice or language. Ewe, properly, refers to a group of sub-dialects spoken in the south-eastern part of the Volta Region of Ghana across to part of southern Togo as far as the Togo-Benin border (Ameka 1991). In Ghana, the language is spoken mainly in the Volta Region, which is located in the

southern part of the country. In Ewe, tone is contrastive; that is, the language can distinguish the meaning of two forms by tone. The data for the research were collected from the Regional Capital of the Volta Region, Ho, and its neighboring towns, which form parts of what is often referred to as Ewedomegbe or 'Inland' or 'western interior' dialects (Ansre, 1961; Capo, 1991).

Commented [MOU13]: Is there a tone which is not contrastive? Perhaps you wanted to say pitch is contrastive since it is the contrastive use of pitch is what results in tone.

4.0 Lexical Nominalization

Nominalization, according to Comrie and Thompson (2007), is 'turning something into a noun' (p. 334). Mathews explains nominalization as 'the process by which either a noun or a syntactic unit functioning as a noun phrase is derived from any other kind of unit' (2005:244). Comrie and Thompson's definition may be non-specific as 'something' is not well defined; perhaps in more specific terms, the grammatical categories that can be turned into nouns may include verbs, adjectives, and other nouns (see Mathews, 2005). Payne's definition of lexical nominalization being the product of manipulation of a verb may be English-specific; 'the relationship between the verb and its nominal can be formulated by $V \rightarrow N$ Action designed by V ' (Payne, 1997: 244). Languages around the world have different strategies to form nouns from other grammatical units (Comrie & Thompson, 2007). Payne (1997: 224) notes that English can form a noun from a verb by the use of a 'zero' operator, by which no affixes are added to the verb-form to derive the noun, but the difference between the noun and the verb can only be determined by the position the form occupies in a sentence.

Commented [MOU14]: Can you provide the full definition first before you comment on it? You can also look at one of more classical definitions by Koptjevskaja-Tamm (1993).

(1) a. I walk to school.

b. Let's go for a walk (Payne 1997:244).

Example (1a) above presents 'walk' as a verb, licensing a subject that precedes it and a complement that follows it. In (1b), 'walk' functions as a noun because it is the name of an activity; secondly, it occupies a position, which qualifies it as a noun. That is, syntactically, it is an object of the preposition 'for.' According to the grammar of English, a noun can be preceded by an article, which in this case is *a(n)*. Appah (2005:133) notes that tone is

lexically contrastive in Akan. So different sets of tonal patterns on the same morphological form can change a verb to a noun, as shown in example (2) below.

- (2) i. **nàntsèw** ‘walk’ (V)
 ii. **nántséw** ‘walking’ (N)

As in English, Ewe has forms that function as verbs and also as nouns. It is the position the word occupies in a sentence that determines its grammatical function as a verb or a noun.

The form *kú*, in Ewe, is denoted as a verb in (3) and a noun in (4).

- (3) **qèví-a kú**
 child-DEF die
 ‘The child died.’ (‘*kú*’ function as a verb)
- (4) **kú wù qèví-a**
 death kill child-DEF
 ‘Death killed the child.’ (*kú* function as a noun).

In the following section, I show instances where the nominals are formed not only by adding suffixes to verbs but by a complex structural construction.

5.0 Action Nominalization in Ewe

Action nominalization is very productive in Ewe. Notable among these action-nominalization strategies are reduplication and suffixation. This paper discusses the various types of nominalizations according to Comrie and Thompson’s (2007) categorization, namely, action/state nouns, agentive nouns, instrumental nouns, manner nouns, locative nouns, and objective nouns, etc. The strategies that are employed in the derivation of the action nominal in each case will be explained as the various forms of nominalizations are discussed. In the discussion, every number introduces an example of an action or stative verb, and an arrow points to its noun form. The numbers bearing a, b, c, etc., show how the examples given are used in syntactic constructions to show that they are verbs and examples of nouns that are formed from these verbs.

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Commented [MOU16]: There is more you say about nominalization in general here.

Commented [MOU17]: Are you discussing categories or forms of nominalization?

The noun denotes the fact, the act, the quality, or the occurrence of that verb or adjective. In the entire paper, it is illustrated syntactically that the derived nouns possess the characteristics of a common prototypical noun. Through their distribution, they occupy subject and object positions in sentences. In addition, they appear as possessed items in inalienable possessive construction, and they can be focused. The following section discusses some nominal formation processes.

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Commented [MOU20]: mind the use of the terms nouns and nominals.

Commented [MOU21]: Why not subsection? Which section begins the actual discussion? Is section meant to be a review of existing literature?

6.0 Some strategies for forming nominals in Ewe

The following section discusses some nominal formation processes in Ewe.

6.1 Reduplication

In the analysis below, item 5 shows how a verb is reduplicated to form a nominal, item 5a shows the syntactic distribution of the root word as a verb, and item 5b shows how the reduplicated material can occupy the position of a noun.

Commented [MOU22]: Change item to example

(5) dzó (depart) → dzòdzó (departure)

(5a) É dzó
3SG leave
'He/she left'

(5b) É- fé dzòdzó tsɔ̃
3SG-POSS departure quick
'His/her departure was quick'

6.2 Serial verbs

Serial verbs can also undergo a morphological process to form a noun. The first verb is reduplicated, and the second is suffixed to the reduplicated form of the first. There is no alternation of the positions of the verbs, nor is there any permutation. In the example below, (6) shows how a verb phrase is turned into a nominal, 6a shows the syntactic slot of the verb phrase, and 6b shows how what was formed from the verb functions as a nominal in a syntactic construction.

Commented [MOU23]: Mention this specific process

(5) zò vá (walk come) → zòzòva (coming by walking) (Ofori 2002: 176)

(6a) zò vá kábá
walk come quickly
'Come quickly'

(6b) zòzòvá nyé dǔ
walk RED is task
'Coming by walking is a task'

6.3 Compounding

Nouns, which denote the name of something, can be formed from compounding of verbs. Two action serial verbs are compounded into a single action nominal where the action nouns depict actions that are associated with the verb roots. In this case, there is no permutation or re-ordering of the verbs, but two verbs that syntactically follow each other, morphologically, are compounded or put together to form a single noun by the verbs maintaining their positions, as it is the serial verb construction with no space between them. There are tonal changes in the compound. For example, in (7), a series of low-high tones yields low, low-high tones in the compound. 7a shows the nominal in context. These tonal changes sometimes depend on the dialect of the speaker.

(7) dà flé ((cook (and) buy)) → dàflě (cooked meal for sale)

(7a) É flé-a dàflě
3SG buy-DEF cook-sell
'He/she buys food prepared for sale'

6.4 A verb plus an object

Similar to the 'action verb-action verb' compounding to form a nominal, we can also have an action verb plus its object, which are juxtaposed into a single action nominal, denoting a noun that is associated with the verb. Item (8) shows how the nominal is formed, and (8a) shows its syntactic function as a nominal.

Commented [MOU24]: Does it mean dialects realise this differently, and the meaning remains the same? Can you provide examples of other realisations?

- (8) dzè àhà (buy drink) → dzàhà (buyer of drink) [dzèàhà→dzàhà]
following the deletion of /e/ in favour
of /a/ at the word boundary.

- (8a) dzàhà mé nó-a tsí o (Ofori 2002:179)
Buyer-of-drink NEG drink-HAB. water NEG
'(A) buyer of drink does not drink water' (an Ewe proverb)

6.5 A verb plus its inherent argument

Another way of forming action nominalization is the use of a verb phrase as a base or stem, where a verb and its internal argument/object reverse their order to object plus verb, with the verb part being reduplicated. The object, in this case, is an obligatory element without which the verb does not have any syntagmatic relevance. Item 10 shows the formation of the nominal; 10a and 10b show the verb and its inherent argument, and the nominal is formed from the verb, respectively.

- (10) dà tú → túdàdà
throw gun firing/act of firing a gun

- (10a) Kofi dà tú
Kofi throw gun
'Kofi fired a gun'

- (10b) É- fè túdàdà dī
3SG POSS shooting sound
'His/firing of a gun sounded.'

Commented [MOU25]: Which form or tone indicates the PAST?

Commented [MOU26]: How is the past tense marked?

Another category of action verbs and their internal arguments undergoes re-ordering or permutation, but the verb is not reduplicated, so that in forming the noun, the two verbs alternate their positions. Item 11 shows how the nominal is formed from a verb and its direct object; 11a and 11b show the verbal slots of the verb and the nominal, respectively.

- (11) nyá nú → núnyá
'know thing' 'knowledge/wisdom'

- (11a) É nyá nú
3SG know thing
'He/she is intelligent/wise'

- (11b) Núnyá lè é-sí
 wisdom is PRO hand
 'He/she is wise.' (He/she has wisdom)

6.6 Nominalization formed from a verb and a double object

It is possible to form a verb phrase that takes an object. The verb phrase itself is made up of a verb and its internal argument, all forming a unit that functions as a verb. Thus, when the verb phrase takes an object, it means the root verb has two objects following it. The two verbs alternate their positions, the one on the right after the reversal reduplicates, and the second object is suffixed to the re-ordered, reduplicated form. A noun can be formed from this verb-plus-two-objects, as shown in (12) below. These forms of nominalization name things or actions.

Commented [MOU27]: How does a verb and internal argument still function as a verb?

- (12) dà tú xèví → túdàdàxèví
 throw gun bird gun throw RED bird
 'Bird-shooting'

- (12a) É dà tú xèví
 3SG throw gun bird
 'He/she shot a bird'

- (12b) É- nyá túdàdàxèví
 3SG know gun throw RED bird
 'He/she is good at bird-shooting'/

6.7 Stative verbs and stative nouns in Ewe

Ewe uses stative verbs to express adjectives; therefore, some forms (adjectivals) that describe nouns behave syntactically as verbs. The syntactic slot for verbs is illustrated in 13a and 13b, and from this, it is clear that the descriptives in 13c and 13d, *loŋo* 'be big', and *kɔ* 'be tall', respectively, are verbs. To form stative nouns from the stative verbs in 13c and 13d, the verbs should be reduplicated or triplicated. Consider the examples in 13e and 13f.

- (13) a. É yá (to show the syntactic distribution of a verb)
 3SG come
 'He/she came'

- b. É dzó (to show the syntactic distribution of a verb)
 3SG leave
 'He/she left'

- c. É lòlò (a stative verb has the same distribution as an action verb as 3SG be big in 13a and 13b)
‘He/she is big’
- d. É kɔ́ (a stative verb has the same distribution as an action verb 3SG be tall in 13a and 13b)
‘He/she is tall’
- e. É fé lòlòlò nyó (stative verb triplicates to form a stative noun)
3SG POSS big RED good
‘His/her/its size is satisfactory’ (lit. His/her/its ‘bigness’ is good.)
- f. É fé kɔ́kɔ́ nyó (stative verb duplicates to form a stative noun)
3SG POSS tall RED good
‘His/her/its height (is) satisfactory/good’ (lit. His/her/its ‘tallness’ is good.)

The stative noun *lòlòlò* sometimes has a variant *lòlòmè* or *lòlòlòmè* and *kɔ́kɔ́* sometimes appears as *kɔ́kɔ́mè*. The suffix *-mé* denotes dimension.

6.8 Agentive Nominalization

Agentive nominalization means an action verb turned into a noun, which denotes the ‘one who performs an action’ (Comrie & Thompson 2007:338). In this case, the noun has an agent relationship with the verb. These action nouns are formed from action verbs in English by adding *-er* as a suffix to an action verb to form the agent (doer) of that action. However, the process is constrained in a way, as not every word that ends in *-er* qualifies as a noun. For instance, ‘taller’ in (22) is not a noun, even though it ends in *-er*.

(14) tall → taller*

In Modern Hebrew, the participial form of a verb can be a form of agentive nominalization.

(15) Šamar → šomer

(he) guarded (he) guards/is guarding/a guard (Comrie and Thompson 2007:338).

Commented [MOU28]: Are you postulating that *-er* has only one function? How about superlative *-er*?

In Zulu, (Kunene 1974), an agentive noun can be formed by prefixing to the verb root a prefix that occurs on all nouns in the human class, *um(u)-* and replacing the verbal suffix – *a* by –*i* as illustrated in (16) below:

- (16) *-cula* → *um-cul-i*
 sing singer (Comrie & Thompson 2007:338)

Commented [MOU29]: This is not clear. Do you mean a verb root is PREFIXED to an existing PREFIX on nouns? The example provided does not support the explanation above.

6.8.1 Agentive nominalization Ewe

Agentive nouns can be formed in Ewe by suffixing the particle *lá* to an action verb or an action verb phrase. Action verbs such as *qù* ‘eat’, *yì* ‘go’, *kpɔ* ‘see’, can take *lá* but not without an obligatory direct object, without which the construction will be ungrammatical in Ewe. Consider the following examples:

- (17) a. *qù* (eat) → *qùlá* (eater)*
 b. *yì* (go) → *yìlá* (goer)*
 c. *kpɔ*(see) → *kpɔlá* (seer)*

These forms do not give a specific meaning because the verb must have an object for the agentive noun to be well-formed. For example, 17a above will attract the question, which is equivalent to ‘what eater?’ 17b, ‘where goer?’ and 17c, ‘what seer?’ This is to suggest that it is required that it be a verb and its internal argument undergo nominalization to make the product semantically relevant to Ewe. The verb and its internally/inherent argument reverse their positions, and the particle *lá* is suffixed to the reversed form to form a noun, as illustrated in (18) below.

- (18) a. *qù nú* → *núqùlá*
 eat thing thing eat agent
 ‘eat’ ‘eater’
 b. *yì àgblè* → *àgblèyìlá*
 go farm farm go agent
 ‘go to farm’ ‘farm goer’
 c. *kpɔ nú* → *núkpɔlá*
 see thing thing see agent
 ‘see’ ‘seer’

There are, however, some action verbs + lá that are straightforwardly meaningful. For instance,

- d. xɔ' + lá (get/save + agent) → xɔ'lá (redeemer)
 e. kplɔ' + lá (lead + agent) → kplɔ'lá (leader)

Commented [MOU30]: The tone is supposed to be LH

Agentive nouns can be derived from motion verbs: yì 'go,' sí 'run away,' and dzó 'depart,' etc., by reduplication, and the agentive nominalization particle lá is suffixed to the reduplicated form. Example (28) exemplifies the phenomenon.

Commented [MOU31]: Check number.

- (19) a. yì/dè (go) → yìyílá/dèdèlá (goer)
 b. sí (run away) → sisílá (fugitive /a runaway)
 c. dzó (depart) → dzódzólá (person who departs/leaves)

6.8.2 Agentive nominalization without a morphological marker

However, there is one agentive nominal, 'fiàfiɬɔ' 'thief', but not 'fifilá'*. The verb *fi* means *tp* steal, but to denote the activity of stealing, the verb takes its own form as its inherent argument, *fi fi*.

Commented [MOU32]: to

So, the statement, é fi fi
 3sg steal steal
 He/she stole (something)

The person who steals is called *fi-à-fi*. See analysis below.

- (20) fi fi → fi-à-fi
 steal steal steal-LINK-steal
 'steal' 'thief' (the person who steals)

Sometimes, a possessor marker, -ɬɔ, is suffixed to the form to emerge as *fi-à-fi-ɬɔ'* which implies 'someone who steals to keep or illegally takes possession of someone's else's property.'

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6.9 Instrumental nominalization

A morphological process formed from action verb, a noun meaning 'an instrument for performing an act(ion) or an instrument for 'verbing.' In Ewe, instrumental nominalization

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is formed by suffixing the particle *-nú* ‘thing’ to a verb and its internal argument, which will reverse their positions before the nominalizer is added.

- (21) a. **ɖà nú** → **núɖànú**
 cook thing → thing cook thing
 ‘cook’ → ‘cooking utensil’/ ‘instrument for cooking’
- b. **ʃò àmè** → **àmèʃònú**
 beat person → person beat thing
 ‘to beat a person’ → ‘an instrument for beating (a) person’

This method of forming instrumental nominalization with *-nú* is productive, but it does not specify a particular instrument that is used for any specific activity. For example, in (21a) above, *núɖànú* is a cover term for all cooking utensils: pot, ladle, saucepan, and spoon, etc. To make reference to a specific instrumental noun, the suffix *-nú* must be replaced by the specific item that one wants to refer to. The structure will be formulated as the reversed positions of a verb and its internal argument, followed by a specific instrument: *xy = yx + (specific instrument)*. The following, therefore, will be more specific instrumental nouns:

- (22) a. **ɖà nu** → **nu-ɖa-ze**
 cook thing → thing-cooking-pot
 ‘cook’ → ‘cooking pot’
- b. **ʃò àmè** → **àmè-ʃò-àtí/àmèʃòtí** [after the deletion of /a/]
 beat person → person-beat-stick
 ‘beat (a) person’ → ‘cane’ (stick for beating (a) person)

6.10 Manner normalization

It is a noun formation process where nouns that are formed mean ‘way of verbing.’ In Ewe, the reduplicated form of an action verb describes a process or *manner nominal*. Sometimes, the form that denotes action nominal (23) can function as manner nominal. The reduplicated form, which qualifies as manner nominal, sometimes takes the locative marker *-mè*. The following constructions show how a form qualifies as manner nominal.

Commented [MOU35]: which ‘method’? we haven’t seen you explain any method throughout the manuscript.

Commented [MOU36]: What does this mean?

Commented [MOU37]: You need to explain the equation well. What does x, y stand for? Why not the derivational symbol instead of the equation one?

Commented [MOU38]: Do you mean nominal derived from adverb of manner?

Commented [MOU39]: What are the criteria for the ‘qualification’?

- (23) i. É fé núdù-fe mé nyá kpɔ'na' o (manner)
 3SG POSS eating place NEG M see HAB NEG
 'His (manner of) eating is not beautiful'

Commented [MOU40]: You haven't show how without o the sentence will be ungrammatical

- ii. É fé hàdzidzi mè nyá sè ná o (way of singing)
 3SG POSS singing NEG M hear HAB NEG
 'His/her (manner of) singing is not pleasant to hear'

6.11 Locative Nominalization

This nominalization is creating a noun that means 'a place where a 'verb' happens.' Ewe uses the particle *-fe* as a suffix to a verb and its argument, reversing their positions, and the locative particle is suffixed to the reversed structure. The examples below illustrate this phenomenon.

- (24) a. dó dzò → dzòdófé
 set fire fire set LOC
 'Set fire' 'kitchen' (fire-setting place)

- b. dā nú → núdāfé
 'cook thing' 'thing cook place'
 'cook' 'Kitchen'

Locative action nouns can be formed from an action verb or a series of action verbs to which the particle *-fe* is suffixed. In the case of the serial verbs, their position is not re-ordered.

Commented [MOU41]: How do you form existing noun?

- (25) zɔ (walk) → zɔfé (walking place/footprint)

- (26) É fé zɔfé nyè sì
 3SG POSS walk place is LOC
 'This is (his walking place)/where he walked'

- (27) zɔ tó (walk pass/through) → zɔtófé (route)

- (28) É fé zɔtófé enyè sì
 3SG POSS walk-pass-place is LOC
 'This is his/her route'

The particle *-fe* can denote an action nominal or process nominal. So (36a) and (36b) demonstrate this phenomenon.

Commented [MOU42]: Check

- (29) É yì núqǎfé
3SG go thing cook place
'He/she is gone to cook'

6.12 Objective Nominalization

In Ewe, it is possible to form a nominal designating the result, or the typical cognate object of an action. It creates a noun from a verb, where the noun means the object that results from an action. The word form for process or action nominalization can be the same for object or objective nominalization. Consider the following cases:

- (30) flè àmè (buy person) → àmèfèflè (process/action)

a. àmèfèflè nyé dɔ̃
buying person is work
'(The process of) buying a person is a (daunting) task.'

b. É nyé àmèfèflè (object/objective)
3SG is person buy RED
'He/she is slave' (He/she is a bought person)

- (31) qà nú (cook thing) → núqǎqà (process/action)

a. núqǎqà nyé dɔ̃
thing-cook-RED is (a) daunting task
'Cooking is a task'

b. tsɔ núqǎqà -lá vɛ́ (objective)
take thing cooked-DEF bring
'Bring the cooked food'

Sometimes, the definite article *-la* which is reduced to *-a* is suffixed to the objective nominal: àmèfèflèa (the person that is bought), núqǎqàa (the thing that has been cooked).

6.13 Time nominalization

Ewe can derive action nouns from action verbs, where the nominal means 'the time of verbing.' The time nouns can specify a period, or a singular occurrence, or a season. This derivation process also involves a re-ordering of the verb and its internal argument to which the suffix is added. The derivation suffixes include *-yí*, *-gbè*, *ɲɔ̃li*, *woe*

- (32a). dzɔ nú → núdzɔyí
contribute thing thing contribute time
'offer' (verb) 'offertory time'

Commented [MOU43]: How can now mean object? I suppose you're talking about function.

Commented [MOU44]: What does this mean?

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Commented [MOU46]: ???

- (b) **dè àgb̀lè** → **àgb̀lèdè̀yí/àgb̀lèdè̀ṅg̀lì/ àgb̀lèdè̀woe**
 go farm farm make time
 ‘make a farm’ ‘farming season’
- (c) **nò àhà** → **àhà̀nòg̀be**
 drink drink drink drink day
 ‘take (a) drink’ ‘drinking day’

7.0 Productivity of verb phrases and nominalization in Ewe

In the foregoing discussion, firstly, it is obvious that a single nominalizer particle can form the bases for the derivation of more than one nominal, by which the same nominal can refer to, for example, a process or locative noun. This phenomenon exists because nominalization is highly polysemous (see, for example, Lieber, 2018:1). Secondly, a single verb and its internal argument, reversed, can form the basis for the derivation of different and various nominals. For example, the verb phrase, *dà nú* (cook (thing)), which when re-ordered as *núqà* can form the base or stem for the formation of a range of nominals in the structure *núqà* + suffix. Consider the following examples below:

- i. *núqàqà* (the process of doing cooking/cooking) [process]
- ii. *núqàqà* (the act of cooking) [action]
- iii. *núqàlá* (the person who does cooking, cook) [agent]
- iv. *núqàfé* (the place where cooking takes place, kitchen) [location]
- v. *núqàfé* (the act of cooking) [action/process]
- vi. *núqànú* (thing for cooking, cooking utensil) [instrument]
- vii. *núqàqà* (that which has been cooked) [object/product]
- viii. *núqàyí* (the time for cooking) [time nominal]

It can, however, be observed that reason nominals seem not be available in the language. Thus, the pattern of *núqà* + suffix to yield reason nominal is not supported by any morpho-grammatical structure of the language. The form, *tã*, is used in expressing reason, but it can function as post-nominal. Consider,

- (33) **núqàqà tã wò va**
 cooking reason 3sg come
 He/she comes because of cooking/The reason for his/her coming is cook.

Commented [MOU47]: What does this mean? Are you saying a particle can constitute a base?

Commented [MOU48]: What is morpho-grammatical structure?

8.0 Summary

The paper **investigates** action nominalization in Ewe. The strategies involved in nominalization in Ewe are largely morphological and syntactic. Morphologically, the process includes reduplication, permutation, and affixation. Syntactically, for the most part, the process involves re-ordering the positions of serial verbs. The ‘nounness’ of the nominals so derived is tested: they can function as an argument of a verb (as subjects and objects of verbs), and they can be focused. The paper has established the following: first, in Ewe, adjectives can function as verbs, and their **noun** forms are derived by reduplication or triplication; second, agentive nominalization can be formed by the suffixes lá or a zero agentive marker; third, instrumental nominalization can be formed by –nú but that is general and a specific item needs to be suffixed to the verb stem to form a specific instrumental nominal; fourth, time nouns can be formed by the suffixes -yi, -gbe, ɲoli, or woe; fifthly, in some cases, one nominal form can function as a member of another category, and it is through syntactic constructions that the type is determined. Finally, it is demonstrated that a single verb phrase can form the basis for the formation of a range of nominals.

Commented [MOU49]: Don't used present tense here as discussing data.

Commented [MOU50]: Nominal?

Commented [MOU51]: Full stop

Commented [MOU52]: Full stop

Commented [MOU53]: Full stop

Commented [MOU54]: Delete

9.0 Conclusion

From the forgoing discussion, it can be concluded that the classification of nominalization according to Comrie and Thompson (2007), can be supported by the morphology of Ewe, and the method by which Ewe forms these nominals is unique to the language.

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