



The Structural Analysis of Adverbial of Manner in Ibibio

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the structural analysis of adverbials of manner in Ibibio. In view of the fact that adverb or adverbial phrase of manner is an expression that supplies more information which qualifies the verb and answers the question 'how' and 'in what way' the action of the said verb is executed. It is pertinent to note that Ibibio is a growing language, spoken in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. The data used in this research were sourced from the Library, communication and interaction with the indigenous speakers of the speech form characterized as the Central Ibibio and recordings of special Ibibio programmes on radio and television, such programmes include Ntia-Ntia asakka, Akpan Mma Udobot and mbAk mfin. The data so collected were carefully categorized based on my intuition as a native speaker of the speech form in focus. These were then classified and analyzed under the Eclectic Model consisting of a descriptive theory and the extended standard theory. The structural components of the analysis reveal that adverbials of manner are highly productive and can be systematically grouped based on their meanings, the sound associated with the word to a comparison process with appropriate scenarios. It is germane to point out that at the phrasal level the combination of adverbials of manner with either adjective or noun does not lead to any semantic ambiguity. Besides, like in some other African Languages, there are no adverbial affixes in Ibibio, as their inherent functions are subsumed by ideophones or reduplication. The existence of ideophones and onomatopoeic words in the lexicon indubitably confirms the claim that Ibibio is a creative and has the potential of rapid and consistent growth if empowered.

Keywords:

Structural Analysis, Adverbial of Manner and Ibibio.

1.0 Introduction

In every human language, adverbials are adjudged to perform both syntactic as well as semantic roles of modifying verbal constituents in a sentence. Even though there are many types of adverbials in Ibibio, this paper will focus on adverbials of manner. The choice of

this unit of adverbials is informed because of its intrinsic characteristic in the development of Ibibio which is still in its embryonic stage. Adverbs or adverbials of manner constitute a very important morphological, syntactic/semantic category that explicates the WH-word or how an action is executed or shall be

performed. Since Ibibio is an agglutinating language, adverbials of manner are normally construed as a morphological and syntactic function that specifies the manner or circumstances of either a covert or overt meaning of a verbal constituent in any phrasal or clausal expression.

1.1 Ibibio Language and Its Linguistic Classification

The name Ibibio is not only a mark of identify for one of the largest ethnic group in

Nigeria but also a language spoken by this ethnic group (Essien, 1990). According to Connel (1994) classification, Ibibio is recognized as a member of the lower-cross group of expanded Niger Congo family of languages. This classification is confirmed by Essien (1990) who asserts that Ibibio belongs to the Benue- Congo sub-family which in turn belongs to the Niger- Congo phylum of African Languages.

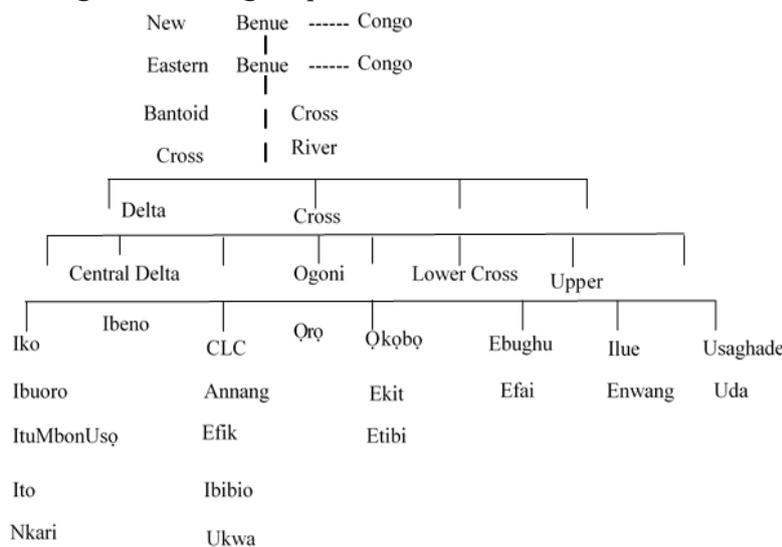


Fig. 1.1 This classification of the lower-cross languages is adapted from Connel (1994)

Aims/Objective

The aim of this paper is to discuss the structural analysis of adverbials of manner in Ibibio. Specific objectives include among others:

1. To categories adverbials of manner based on their different structures.
2. To show the difference or otherwise in meanings of the adverbials of manner depending on their order of occurrence in any construction.

Scope

This paper is restricted to the adverbials of manner in Ibibio. The analysis is limited to the speech form referred to as central Ibibio. Spoken in Uyo and its environs in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. The analysis is based on an eclectic approval.

Literature Review

Adverbial is usually construed as a grammatical classification of a class of words and linguists appear to converge on their conception of its notion. Quirk et al (1972) refers to adverbial as a module of grammar that is extremely complex because of its great heterogeneity. Lech and Startvik (1975) classify adverbials as a unique group of words that can denote either definite and indefinite frequency of an event. Bartsch (1976) on the other hand advocates that in a natural language, the function of an adverbial is to determine the truth conditions of the construction in which it occurs. Huddleston (1989) in his traditional approach conjectured adverbials as a set of words that modifies a verb, adjective or an adverb. Crystal (2007;113) adduced that many syntactic roles have been identified of which verb modification has been naturally highlighted as central. Furthermore, in the research

Maienborn and Schafer (2010;2) regards adverbial as a specific syntactic function within a sentence that contrast with other syntactic functions such as subject, objects and predicate. They further assert that adverbial element differs considerably from the other element of a clause structure. In his contribution, Ndimele (1996) proffered the homogeneity in form and position of adverbials as a single lexical item or a group of words which function as an adverb. This notion was partially endorsed by Tomori (2005) who views adverbials in term of the intensifiers plus the head word. Murthy and Larence (2007) agree with this view. Remarkably, Fisher (2007) extends the concept of adverbials to include prepositional phrases of time and place as well as lexicalized prepositional phrases or clauses. Radford (2004) in his exposé avers that adverbs can independently be merged with prepositional phrase complement (like of me) to create and adverbial expression (like independently of me). Essien (2008) posits that adverbs in Ibibio modify verbs and describe the manner, time or place in which an event or action occurs. In Connel (1994) classification, Ibibio is recognized as a member of the Lower-Cross group of expanded Niger-Congo family of languages. This classification is confirmed by Essien (1990) who assert that Ibibio belongs to the Benue-Congo sub-family which in turn belongs to the Niger-Congo phylum of African Languages.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework used in this paper is an eclectic model. This consists of a descriptive theory and the syntactic component theory embedded in extended standard theory as proposed by Chomsky (1965). This eclectic approach is preferred because the descriptive analysis has the propensity to adequately describe the native speakers comprehension of the structures of adverbials of manner even though they have no pre-knowledge of any rule of grammar while the syntactic component theory is concerned with the relevant rules of grammar in the analysis and also serves as a check to justify the adequacy of the descriptive analysis.

Data Collection/Analysis Technique

The data used in this paper were sourced from the library and communication via direct interaction with the indigenous speakers of the speech form characterized as central Ibibio programmes on radio and television, such as Ntia - ntia asakka, Akpan Mma Udobot and MbAk mfin were also considered. The data so gathered were categorized into six identified classes together with their inherent variants based on my intuition as a competent native speaker and the input of some elders who are usually adjudged to be the custodian of the language. An eclectic model was then used to analyses the data.

Data Analysis

Adverbials of Manner in Ibibio

Different languages have different but not necessarily exclusive, technique of expressing adverbial of manner. The notion adverbials of manner in Ibibio avers to ways and how certain activities are either performed or executed. In this paper, adverbials of manner shall be analyzed under six major modules; vis-à-vis lexical reduplicative, idiophonic, phrasal, clausal and technique of comparison processes.

Lexical Process

Structurally, lexical items in Ibibio have the propensity of expressing adverbials of manner in any syntactic expression. For examples

- 1a ófòn (well)
 b sọp (hastily)
 ánuòmmó (glaringly) look

The following sentences illustrate the ease of using lexical words as adverbials in Ibibio.

- 2a. Ídiòngó á Nàm Ófòn (post verbal)

S 3rdpsing Do Well
 Ídiòngó does well.

- b. Ófòn náñã Ídiòngó Á Nàm
 (pre verbal)
 well as N 3rd do
 It is well as Ídiòngó does it.

- c. ámàófòn nana Ídiòngó à kénàm (pre verbal)

- pst well as Ídiòngó 3rdpst do
it was good/well as Ídiòngó did it.
- d á mànàm ófòn ké mbúbà (post
verbal)
3rd pst do well in competition
He/She did well in the competition.
- e ányè àmà nàm útọm ammo ófòn
He/She3rdppst do work his/her well
- 3a sọp tẹm dìkàn íkọñ ñọ isen owo
Hastily cook dry vegetable for visitors
Quickly cook vegetable soup for visitor.
- b n ké tẹm édìkàn íkọñ usọp-usọp ñọ
isenowo
1stp pst cook dry vegetable in a haste
for visitor
I hastily cooked the vegetable soup for
the visitors.
- 4a Nse ánuommo ányìn ásẹ
Úduàk.
Nse glare eye 3pst see
Úduàk
Nse glare at Uduak.
- b nkenuommo anyin nse anye ke
ufokabasis
1stp pst glare eye 1st see him in church
I glared at him in the Church.
The sentences labelled 2(a-e), 3(a-b)
and 4 (a-b) illustrate the functions of adverbial

of manner by telling us how the different activities were performed. It is insightful to observe that all the underlined adverbs of manner modify the main verbs in the sentences. It is equally important to note that *ofon* (well) in 2 (a-e) can conveniently appear either at the initial or medial or final positions in the construction without creating any semantic ambiguity. Besides, in 2(a), the adverbial of manner *ofon* (well) is post-verbal while in 2(b), it is pre-verbal. Semantically, in Ibibio both *sọp* and *usọp-usọp* (quickly) have the same meaning despite the fact that *sọp* is an verb that modifies another verb. Even though the adverb *auòmmó* (glare) is a variant of *se* (look), unlike *se*, it tells us exactly how Nse looked at Úduàk in an unfriendly manner. Decidedly, as confirmed in 4(b), *nuòmmó* is a more effective and experiensive adverb of manner than *se* (look). Generally, as exemplified in examples (2-4) the adverbs of manner *ofon*, *sọp* and *nuòmmó*, modify or change the sentences to tell us how well or quickly or glaringly the activities occurred. Consequently, they can conveniently serve as adverbials of manner. Furthermore, these sentences can be represented diagrammatically as shown below:

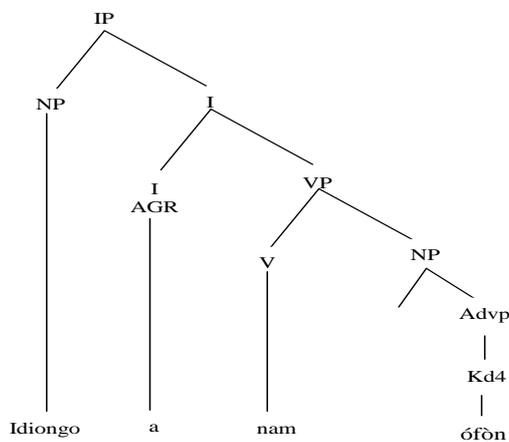


Fig. 1.2

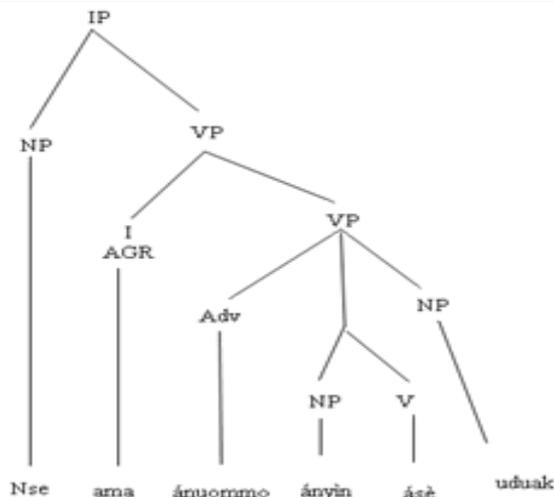


Fig. 1.3

Idiophone Category

This is a class of words typically associated with African and Asian languages that evoke certain ideas or impression in consonant with sounds. Often obtained through duplication. In view of the fact that Ibibio is adjudged to be a tonal language, adverbials of manner are easily generated through this process. For examples, kpûûm, kpøk, kprim, wââ and sââm., when used in sentences, justify how these idiophones perform the roles of adverbials of manner in Ibibio;

- 5a Ífèèn áyòp ákèdùò **kpûûm**
Bunch palm fruit 3rdppast heavy sound
The bunch of palm fruit fell heavily.
- b Éyò ékìm **kpøk**

Sunlight dark sudden imagery
Darkness envelopes the area suddenly and totally.

- c Ídèm mì an-nam kprim
body my do shocking reaction
I felt a certain electric sensation in my body
- 6a annam kprim kprim ke idem
3rd p do lightning in body
I feel a lightning sensation in my body
- 6b Ékpò á tuàwââ-wââ
Masquerade 3rd p cry frighten sound
The Masquerade crys frightenly
- 6c Ndítò áñwà etamma sââm sââm
Children cat 3rdpl jump stressless
Kiten jump stresslessly at ease

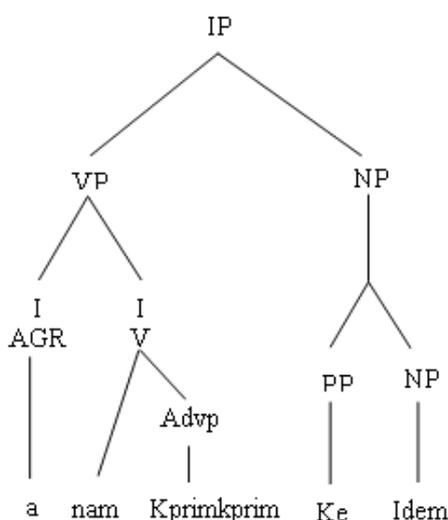


Fig 1.4:

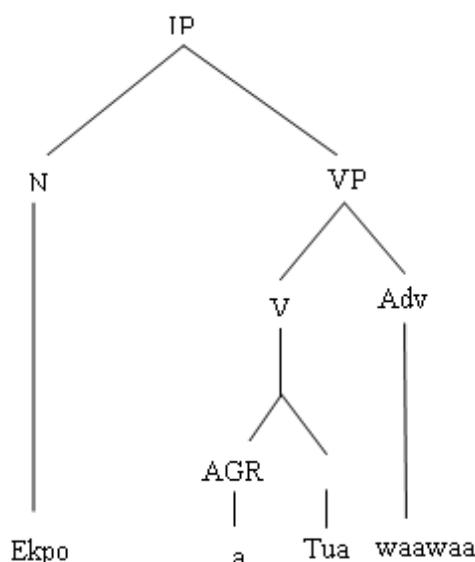


Fig 1.5:

It is interesting to note that these Ibibio idiophones, kpûûm, kpøk, kprim, wââ and sââm clearly and exclusively show with exactitude, the situation as envisaged by the speaker. However, when these onomatopoeic words are doubled within a sentence structure, they describe more intensively the situation or circumstances of the activities as seen in 6 (a-c). Besides, irrespective of the existence of Ibibio Idiophones as single or reduplicated words, they naturally portray the same meaning as seen in 5(c) and 6(a). The sentences in 6(a,b) can be represented by the tree diagram as show in fig 4 and fig 5.

2. Reduplicative Process of Adverbial of Manner

Reduplication, as a morphological process is a technique of creating new words by simply replicating the root morphemes. In Ibibio, the notion of reduplication has been unrefutably accepted as linguistic instrument in the derivation of adverbials of manner from simple root, nouns or adjectives for instance:

	Root	Reduplication
7a	UsAk (noun), (slowly)	usAkUsAk
7b	Usop (noun) quickly	usopusop
7c	Idad (noun) Madly	idadidad
7d	Ntaha (adj) (unethically)	Ntahantaha

- 7e. afid (adj) Afidafid
completely
- 7f. nsøn (adj) Nsonnson
hardly

We can analyse the above reduplicated words as adverbials of manner syntactically for examples:

8a. Abasifreke a sañā usAkusAk post-verbal
3sg walk slow slow
Abasifreke walks slowly.

8b. UsAkUsAk ke nkesañā nka urua (pre-verbal)
Slow slow in pst walk 1stp go market
Slowly I walked to the market.

8c. Anye akesañā usAkusAk aka ufokAbasi nta ad anye mibakka, - post verbal
He/she 3sgpst walk slowly 3sggo church person is he/she late
He/she walked slowly to the church that is why he/she was late.

9a. Uduak anam nkpo idaidad. Post verbal (final)
Uduak 3sg do thing madly
Uduak behaves madly

9b. Idaidad edu-uwem isi fonø Pre verbal (initial)
Madly style life continually good (pre-verbal)

10(a) Mbōn amidionoke idem asinam
mkp̄o mm̄o ntahantaha (post verbal)

The foolish people have been behaving unethically.

10b) Unam nkpo ntahantaha idoho eti
uwem pre verbal (initial)

Do thing roughly is not good life.

Doing things unethically is not a good life.

10c. Ntahantaha ido ke nsua. Pre-verbal
(initial)

Roughly behaviour that Isg hate

It is unethical behaviour that I hate.

11a. Emaamademe ndidia afidafid
Ema 3sg pst hare food completely

Ema shared the food completely

The underline reduplicated adverbial of manner express the way in which the activities were performed or carried out. Principally,

they modify the main verbs irrespective of their position/occurrence either before or after the said verbs. In sentences 8 (a-c), the adverbial of manner us^kus^k, simply demonstrates the mode of walking by the subjects. In 9 (a-b), the adverbial idiaidad, which appears in post verbal and preverbal positions respectively, portrays how uduak behave in 9 (a) and the unacceptability of such behaviour in 9(b). Besides, the adverbial, Ntahantaha, despite the order of their occurrence as post-verbal, medial verbal and pre verbal in 10(a -c) respectively, does not void the unethicity of the subjects mannerism. The sentences in this class can be represented diagrammatically as in fig 6 and fig 7

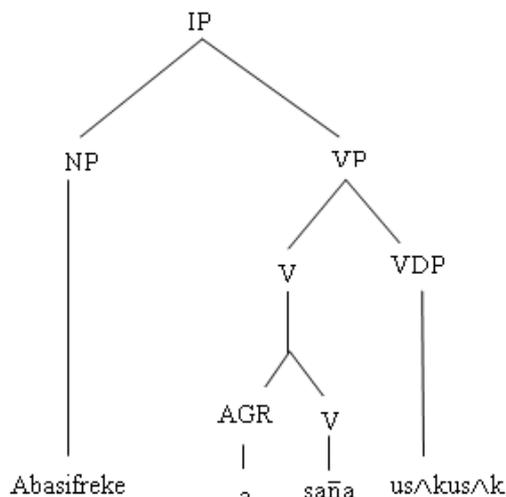


Fig 1.6:

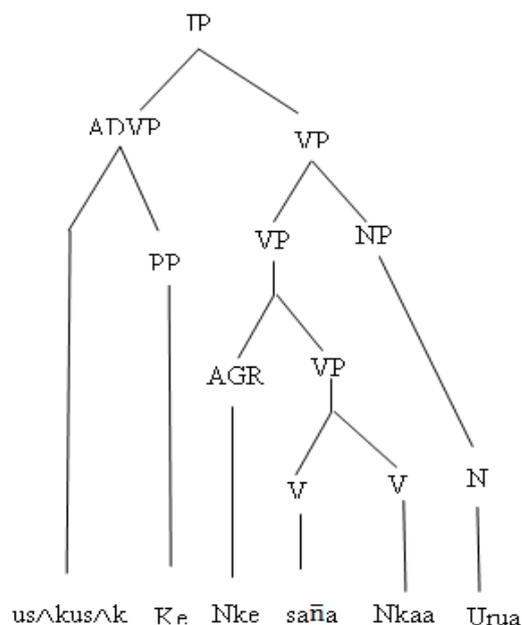


Fig 1.7:

Phrasal Category

Adverbial phrases of manner usually prefer answers to questions about how and in what way or manner some events or action were done or shall be performed. In their contribution, Pence and Emery (1971:12) posit a phrase as a group of related words devoid of subject and predicate. However, Kuiper and Allens (1999) adduce that a phrase is a unit intermediate between words and sentences. In Ibibio prepositional phrases constitute the major ways of creating adverbials of manner.

The following examples illustrate some structural variants of their occurrences in Ibibio lexicon.

- 12(a) Ke (in) + adjective +
Way/manner
- 12(b) Ke (in) + noun +
Way/manner
- 12(c) ye (with) + noun +
Way/manner

The functionality of these structures are easily discernable based on their roles as shown in examples 12(a - e).

- 13a. Andikan akeborọ eka-
Ọmmọ ke iyatesit us^An
Andikan 3rdp pst Answer
mother his in
Andikan answered his
mother in anger way

- Andikan reply in An angry manner.
- 13b) Andikan akeboro eka ammo ke
us^An iyatesit
Andikan 3rdp pst answer in way
anger

- Andikan answered in an angry manner
- 13(c) Akeboro ke iyatesit
He 3rdp pst answer with
anger
He replied with
anger

- 13(d) Anye akeboro
Kembrembre us^An
He 3rdp pst answer in playplay
way
He replied playfully.

- 13(e) Kpegheke mbai ke mbai inaṅ
Cut in piece in piece four
Cut into four pieces.

In sentences 13(a -c), the underlined adverbial phrases of manner modify the root verb ọrọ (answer). Syntactically, ke iyatesit or ye iyatesit, are prepositional phrases indicating manner and semantically, they describe the same situation. Specifically, it shows that the communications were not amicable.

However, in 13(d), there was a change in attitude as he replied jovially and playfully. 13(e) presents a different scenario of how the

object was shared into four and not necessarily equal pieces. The tree diagrams showing

sentences 13(a) and 13(b) are illustrated below.

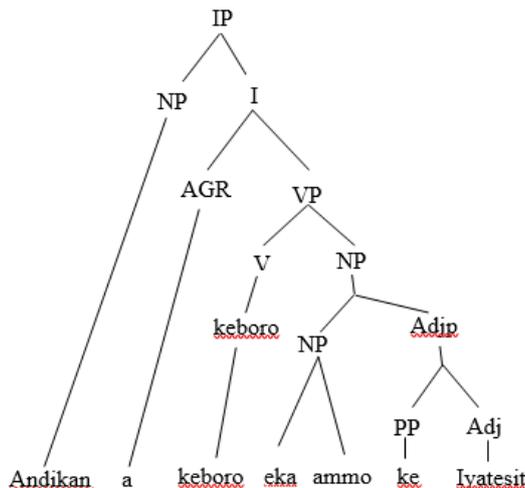


Fig 1.8:

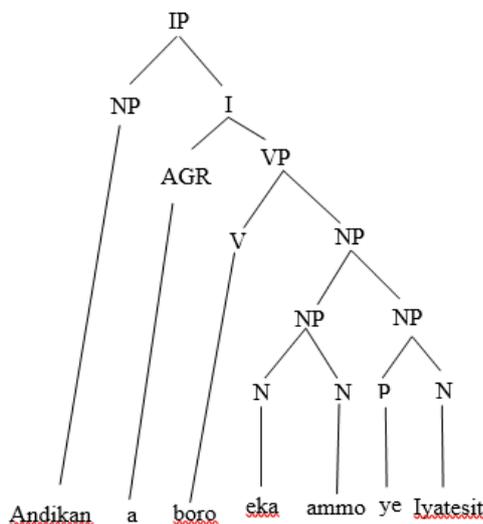


Fig 1.9:

Clausal Category

The concept of a clause has been discussed severally by many linguistic. According to Crystal (1992: 65), a clause is regarded as a type of grammatical construction containing major functional elements such as subject and a verb that can be sandwiched between a phrase and a sentence. On the other hand, Kuiper and Allen (1996:287) construed a clause as a unit with basic structure of a sentence. In this paper, any clausal expression that performs the function of an adverb is known as adverbial clause. In Ibibio an adverbial clause of manner is any dependent clause that modifies the main verb and

specifies how the action/event was or is performed. For examples:

14a. Ekaette ake tuayet nte akpedoho
 ebe ammo
 sub 3rdPst verb as if
 husband her
Ikpon akeba
 alone was there
 Ekaette cried as if her husband was the only person who was there for her.

14b. Mbok yet anye ukem ukem nana nkuwot
 Please wash it exactly as how I show you.
 Please do it exactly as I showed you.

14c. Ubaaka oh!,nte akpe doho edim ibikdep mfin

How I wish oh as though the rain will not fall today.

14d. Nañā nte-Abasi odionke afid kpa ntro ke uboñ ammo akpøn

just as God know all person so glory his great

just as God knows all human so his glory is great.

14e. Ukpono ama yem, us̄ñ Òdionò nañā eyam ibòk ayin.

Ukpono 1stpst find way know how sell medicine baby

Ukpono found out how the medicine for the child cost.

14f. Yem us̄ñ dionò nañā idem ammo aba

Find way know how body his is Find out how she/his is faring.

The underlisted adverbial clause of manner in examples 14 (a -f) describe precisely how the actions were carried out. In 14 (a), Ekaette cried despondently as if her life depended entirely on her husband. Whereas 14(b), Ukemukemnañā nkuwot, enjoins the use of a special method of washing and nothing else, 14 (c), clearly expresses a definite desire for a particular situation to prevail. On the other hand, 14 (d-f) portray vividly how the actions ended.

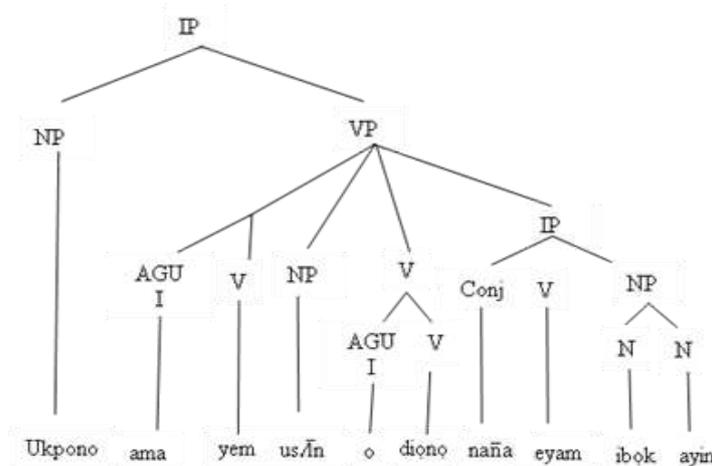


Fig 1.10:

Adverbials of Manner by Comparison

In Ibibio, it is an acceptable means of communication to express the way certain activity is/was done by comparing it with something well known or easily imagined by the listener or targeted audience. For example Invariably, the following structures have been established in Ibibio.

15(a) Nte + Noun phrase

15(b) Nte/nañā + clause

The following sentence illustrates how an adverb by comparison with obvious scenario can performs the functions of adverbial of manner.

16(a). Tono ini mkpa eka ammo, ufan mmi asie asana nte akananwan.

Since time death mother his/her friend me use to walk as old woman.

Since the time of her mother’s death my friend used to walk like an old woman.

16(a) Ufan mmi asana isam nana akan anwan asisanan.

Friend my walk walk as old woman walk.

My friend walks as an old woman.

16(c) Ufan mmi asana isan nte anye akpedoho akananwan.

Friend my walk walk as she should be old woman.

My friend walks as if she is an old woman.

17. Although structurally example 16 (a -c) are syntactically different, but semantically, they have the same meanings. Interestingly, in 16(a), the comparison take the form Nte(as) + noun phrase to become nte akananwan,

(like an old woman) while in 16 (b – c), the structure is nāna + clause combine to become nāna akan anwan asana and Nte anye akpedoho akan anwan respectively.

Summary/Conclusion

This paper explores the structural analysis of adverbials of manner in Ibibio. Adverbs or adverbials of manner constitute a very important morphological, syntactic and semantic categories that explicate the WH-word or how an action is executed or shall be performed. The adverbials of manner are structured into six modules namely lexical, idiophones, reduplication, phrases, clauses and comparison technique. There is a slight distinction between an adverb and adverbial of manner. Whereas adverb of manner is a single word that modifies the verb, adverbial of manner can be a group of words that modifies either the main verb or the entire sentence.

It is insightful to opine that in Ibibio, adverbials of manner can be structured and analysed, morphologically, syntactically and semantically.

It is germane to state that adverbial of manner can occupy the initial, medial or final position in any construction without systemic voidness of the original meaning.

In Ibibio, while nana (how) introduces adverbial of manner at the clausal level, ke (in) and ye (with) are used to describe adverbial of manner at the phrasal level.

It is also pertinent to point out that at the phrasal level, the combination of adverbial of manner with either adjective or noun does not lead to any semantic ambiguity.

Specifically, the adverbial of manner in Ibibio can be expressed in the light of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. Besides, there is a strong relationship among them at these levels which project the patterned system of communication.

Didactically, just as in some other African languages, there are no adverbial affixes in Ibibio. The functions of these affixes in a sentence are subsumed by ideophones or reduplications processes.

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