

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF SELECTED NOUN PLURALIZATION PROCESSES IN JJU

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Abstract

This study entitled: A Descriptive Study of Selected Noun Pluralization Processes in Jju examines the processes involved in the formation of selected plurals in Jju with a view to identifying the different factors determining the pluralization of nouns in Jju. The study adopts Carl's analytic comparison model as theoretical framework. Descriptive approach was employed in the analysis of the data that were collected through both primary and secondary sources. The study reveals that Jju uses prefixation predominantly as a plural marker. The study concludes that any Jju learner of English who attempts to transfer the process(es) of pluralization from Jju to English may likely end up with faulty grammatical constructions because of the disparate and complex nature of the synthetic process of Jju pluralization as compared to English.

Keywords: Noun Pluralization, Jju, English, Word formation, Plural marker

Introduction

Every language has its distinctive syntactic processes usually intended as a guide to the learning and usage of that language. A grammar of a language must contain a lexicon: the vocabulary of the language along with its other linguistic properties. Language is a system of symbols designed for the purpose of communication with due adherence to its phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax, the violation of which mars rather than generates meaning. Language, like human beings, is comprised of parts, known as structures. It begins from sounds, which are combined at the level of form to

express meaning. The basic structure of language is phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. All languages possess these macro-linguistics levels, each of which plays important roles in language. The desire to focus on structures or forms of words - number, case, tense, and the arrangement of words to facilitate construction of sentences descriptively and scientifically so as to evaluate the 'grammar' of nouns - nouns inflect and undergo the morphological processes of pluralization.

Linguistics is the scientific study of language; and every language has its peculiar syntactic processes linguistically designed as a guide to the learning and usage of that language. A grammar of a language contains a lexicon - the vocabulary of the language along with its other linguistic properties. Acquiring or learning a language, therefore, means learning how these properties apply to a particular language besides which combinatorial processes are appropriate for each parameter for that language. In fact, Radford (1988), captures this better when he says that:

...a grammar of a language specifies how to combine words to form phrases and sentences, and it seems entirely appropriate to suggest that native speakers of English and of other languages have access to cognitive systems which ... specify these possibilities for combination. (1988:4)

The strength of Radford's argument is that a grammar generates a language because it provides rules that account for the syntax of that language and its speakers have mental systems that enable them generate infinite combinations. This aligns with Cook and Newson's postulation that "[a] set of phrase structure and transformational rules form a generative grammar, as they state precisely what the structures are in a language and how those structures may be transformed into other structures" (2007:35).

Derivational and inflectional processes enable us to form words from other words, and the field of linguistics which examines the internal structures of words and processes of word formation is known as morphology.

Plurals and pluralization involve quite varying processes in different languages. In some languages, there might be no variation between the singular and the plural forms of nouns. However, this is, only in a few cases, applicable to languages such as English, Jju, Tiv, Kiswahili, Japanese, Igbo, and Turkish. The morphological processes of pluralization in Jju, in spite of their complexity, are scholarly intriguing and absorbing. These morphological processes are comprised

of prefixation, suffixation, duplication, infixation besides replacives, morpheme additives, tonality and plural markings and morpheme deletion. English, too, though largely viewed as regular and irregular with the plural forms of most nouns created by simply adding the morpheme or letter 's' to the end of the word.

A Brief History of the Bajju

Bajju is an ethnic group found in the northern part of the middle belt area of Nigeria precisely the southern part of Kaduna state. 'Kajju' is the land, 'Jju' is the language and the people are 'Bajju'. The derogatory name commonly known to the people is 'Kaje' especially the Hausas who could not pronounce the name 'Kajju' (meaning the land of the Bajju people). The Jju language is from the 'Kwa' language family with a tradition of origin relating to earlier habitats from Bauchi and Plateau State, and mainly found in Zangon-Kataf Local Government Area and part of Jama'a and Kachia Local Government areas, all in Kaduna State. The Bajju derived their name from their language: Jju, a descriptive name meaning 'the people who speak Jju of the West Plateau language'.

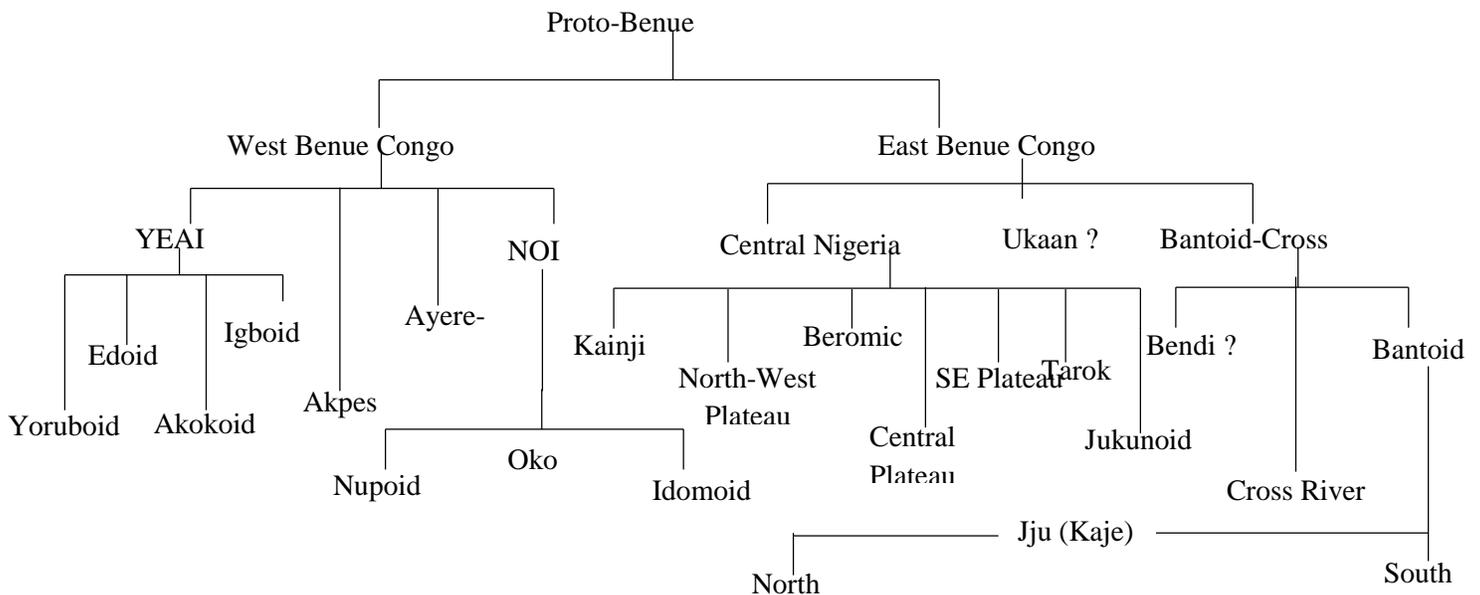


Fig. 1: Benue Congo Languages showing the position of Jju

Source: (<https://amightytree.org/niger-congo-languages-and-history/>)



Fig 2: Map showing the Jju homeland in Kaduna.

Source: (<https://joshuaproject.net/assets/media/profiles/text/tl12435.pdf>)

According to oral history, the origin of the Bajju can be traced as far as Bauchi state where a group of people lived in hill caves and had watchers atop the hill to watch for enemies. These people were called 'mutaneduwatsu' (literary translation in English is 'stone people'). It was believed that their migration was for the search of better hunting grounds. They migrated from Bauchi state to Plateau state and settled on a hill called 'Hurruang'. The hill was already occupied by a tribe called the Jarawa, but the Jarawa people left and lived on another hill called 'Tsok-kwon'. (Dambo, 2011).

Morphology

The term "Morphology" according to Aronoff and Fudeman (2005:1) is generally attributed to the German poet, novelist, playwright and philosopher, Johann Wolfgang von Goether (1749-1832), who coined the term in the early nineteenth centuries in the content of biological science. The coinage has its etymology in

Greek, where Morph means “shape forms”, and Morphology means study of forms. In Biological science, Morphology refers to the study forms and structure of organisms, and in Geology, it refers to the study of the configuration and evolution of land forms.

According to Suleyman (2015:169) Morphology as a sub-discipline in Linguistics was named for the first time in 1859 by German linguist August Schleicher who used the term for the study of the form of words, today Morphology forms a core part of linguistics.

In Linguistics, Morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formations or the branch of linguistics which deals with the words, their internal structure and how they are formed. (Aronoff and Fudeman, 2005:2)

Lieber (2009:2) asserts that Morphology is the study of word formation, including the ways new words are coined in the languages of the world, and the way forms of words varied depending on how they are used in sentences. Fromkin and Rodman (2011:41) posit that “the study of the internal structure of words, and the rules by which words are formed is called Morphology. Tomori (1999:21) sees Morphology as the study of the structure of words, - the study of the rules governing the formation of linguistic words in a language. Crystal (2008:314) is of the view that Morphology is the branch of grammar which studies the structure of words, primarily through the use of morpheme constructs. The structure of words consists of the different parts that make up the entire word. O’Grady, et al (1996:132) conceptualized Morphology as the system of categories and rules involved in word formation and interpretation. Therefore, one can presume that Morphology is a linguistic field where words are categorized in structures and also the various processes of creating new words. Malkjaer (1991:314) simply sees Morphology as the study of the meaningful part of words. Winkler (.2012:113) shares her opinion that Morphology is the field of linguistics that studies the structure of words and their component. She further states that all words are made up of one or more part that have meaning. To explain this, the word “*unhappy*” was use which has two meaningful parts: “*happy*” describing an emotional condition and a prefix “*un-*” meaning not. The combination of these two parts gives us the complete meaning of the word “*unhappy*”. Taking a similar track, is Yule (2001) who refers to Morphology as a kind of study which explores all the basic elements of words used in language through analysis. Hartmann and stock (1972:145) assets that Morphology deals with the analysis of structures, forms and classes of words. Thus, the detention ending of inflection such as “-s” in *walks* and the Derivational ending such as “-ness” in *happiness* illustrates this.

Following the above definitions by various scholars, it is observed that most linguists share similar view on Morphology. It is palpable that Morphology is a branch of linguistics which studies the various elements that make up a word. Morphology studies words by way of looking at the various structures that come together to form the bigger unit "*word*" and how they must form linguistically acceptable word.

Most linguists have agreed that there are two major types of Morphology namely: Inflectional Morphology and Derivational/lexical Morphology.

i. Inflectional Morphology

Inflectional Morphology studies the way words vary in their form in order to express a grammatical contrast.

Huddleston & pullum (2002) state that Inflectional Morphology deals with Inflectional forms of various lexemes. It has something of the character of an appendix to the syntax. Where syntax tells us when a lexeme may carry a certain Inflectional property whereas Inflectional Morphology tells us what form it takes when it carries that Inflectional property.

Aronoff & Fudeman (2005:168) share this view that Inflectional Morphology does not change the core lexical meaning or the lexical category of the word to which it applies. Thus, a noun with a plural suffix attached to it, is still a noun. For instance: "*book*" and "*books*" take the same lexical meaning and belong to the same class of word.

In a nutshell, Inflectional Morphology comprises the ending in a grammar of a language, mainly the declensions of nouns and the conjugations of verbs.

ii. Derivational/Lexical Morphology

Derivational Morphology studies the way in which new items of vocabulary can be built up out of combination of elements. Derivational Morphology is also referred to as lexical Morphology. It is related to the dictionary. It describes the processes by which new lexical bases are formed and the structure of complex lexical bases, those composed of more than one morphological element. (Huddleston & Pullum 2002)

Aronoff & Fudeman (2005:168) state that Derivational Morphology may or may not affect the lexical category of a word it applies to, and it typically changes its meaning.

Simply put Derivational Morphology is concerned with all types of word formation which involves the addition of affixes to bases, the linking of two bases together. It is to note that Derivational Morphology have class maintain words and class charging words.

The Morpheme

The term 'morpheme' according to Fromkin and Rodman (2011:41) is derived from the Greek word "*morph*" meaning forms. Thus, it is the linguistic term for the most elemental unit of grammatical form.

Lieber (2009:32) defines it as the minimal meaningful units that are used to form words. Aronoff and Fudeman (2005:2) posit that it is the smallest linguistic pieces with a grammatical function. Downing and Locke (1992:13) share this opinion that the morpheme is an abstract category, which has either lexical or grammatical meaning. Crystal (2008:313) sees it as the minimal distinctive units of grammar and the central concern of Morphology, it is worthy to note that its original motivation was as an alternative to the notion of the term *word* which had proved difficult to work with in comparing languages. Words however become complex in structure and there a need for a single concept. The morpheme accounts for the smallest meaning a unit of word makes, hi the words of Yule (2001:75), the morpheme is a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function.

Tomori (1999:25) is of the view that the morpheme is the smallest unit of speech that has semantic or grammatical unit. Thus, he explains that the word "*salt*" is a single morpheme while "*salts*", "*salting*" and "*salted*" each are made up of two morphemes with its grammatical meaning, where *s* in *salts* signifies plural, "*-ing*" in *salting* signifies continuous tense and "*-ed*" in *salted* signifies past tense.

Similarly in Jju the words "*riyei*"(plate), "*ron*"(pot) and "*fuwo*" (ear) are single morpheme each. Whereas "*ariyei*" (plates), "*aron*" (pots), and "*afuwo*" (ears) are made up of two morphemes, where the sound "*a-*" found in the words depicts a plural meaning. Thus, a morpheme accounts for the smallest meaningful unit of a word.

Suleyman (2015:163) assets that the term morpheme is used by linguists to describe the meaningful elements that compose a word.

Awolaja & Awolaja (2008:52) consider the morpheme to be the smallest meaningful grammatical unit in systematic grammar. Thus, it is the lowest on the grammatical rank scale. Fromkin and Rodman (2011:42) also posit that a

morpheme is an arbitrary union of a sound and a meaning (grammatical function) that cannot be further analysed. He illustrated this by stating that:

A morpheme may be represented by a single sound such as the morpheme "a" meaning without as in "*amoral*" and "*asexual*" or by a single syllable such as *child* and *ish* in *child* + *ish*. A morpheme may also consist of more than one syllable: by two syllables as in *camel*, *lady*, *water*, by three syllables, as in *hackensack* and *crocodile*, or by four or more syllables, as in *hallucinate*, *apothecary* and *onomatopoeia* Fromkin & Rodman (2011:42).

Following the definitions by linguists above, the morpheme has been depicted as the smallest unit of a language that bears grammatical meaning. Thus, it could be a sound (that bears meaning), a single word such as "*hand*" or a meaningful piece of a word such as *-ed* of "*looked*", that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts.

i. Free and Bound Morphemes

Linguists such as Yule (2001), Fromkin & Rodman (2011), Robin (1967) have all distinguished the morpheme into free and bound morpheme.

The free morphemes are morphemes that can stand alone as words, not dependent on any structure for meaning. Examples: *Boys*, *kind*, *head*, *wipe*, etc.

In bound morphemes, the morphemes cannot stand on its own but must be attached to a free morpheme where ever it is used. Examples: '-s', '-ness', '-ing', 'un-' as found in *Boys*, *kindness*, *heading*, *unwipe* respectively are never words by themselves but are always parts of words.

Robin (1967) shares his views that the free morpheme is a type of morpheme that can stand as a word and act as a root or stem in which other morpheme can be affixed to. Thus, a free morpheme can constitute a word by itself and exist independently with both grammatical and semantic meaning without combining with other morphemes. He also states that a bound morpheme is a type of morpheme that is unable to establish words by itself but must appear with at least one other morpheme - either bound or free in a word.

In jju language, free morphemes are identifiable: where we have words such as: "ba" (come), "nat" (go), "suruwan" (sit), *tiyon* (run), *ya* (eat), and also bound morphemes are seen in words such as "nyon" (hens), "nyak" (grains), "ntunga" (markets), "nvak" (hands). Where the "n-" in each of the words are meaningful part of the word indicating plural but cannot occur alone as words.

Awolaja & Awolaja (2008:52) also share their opinion that some elements in the structure of the words can occur alone which is known as free morphemes, whereas those parts of the word which are meaningful but which cannot occur alone as word are called bound morphemes.

Similarly, Tomori (1999:29) stresses that “A morpheme is isolatable if it occurs in isolation, that is if it can exist alone in the language. For example, *boy, girl, stone, water,* are all isolable morpheme because each of them occurs in isolation in the English Language.” Hence, they are free morpheme.

Fromkin and Rodman (2011:47) identify bound roots where they state that bound roots do not occur in isolation and they acquire meaning only in combination with other morpheme. For example words of Latin origin such as *receive, conceive, perceive,* and *deceive,* share a common roots “*ceive*” in the same vein, the words *remit, permit, commit, submit, transmit, and admit,* share the root “*mit*”

In a nutshell, a free morpheme can appear alone, and be independent, while bound morpheme must be attached to another morpheme to make its meaning. Thus, it can only occur in connection with a further morpheme.

ii. Lexical Morpheme and Functional Morpheme

The free morpheme is further divided into lexical morpheme and functional morpheme. Suleyman (2015:164) asserts that lexical morpheme just like the name implies are the ones identified with the lexeme of a language.

The lexical morphemes are also called referential morphemes, those that have semantic meaning and usually refer to a thing, quality, state or action. These morphemes generally take the forms of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Examples: *dog, house, come, cook, happy, red, fat, quickly, slowly* etc. therefore they form the content words in a language. Buhari (2011:14), also states that a morpheme is considered a content or lexical morpheme when it has a relatively more specific meaning. Thus, it is a morpheme that names a concept or idea in our record of experience of the world.

Some examples of lexical morphemes in Jju can be seen below:

kavou – dog (Noun)

ba – come (verb)

athrow – cloth (noun)

ayuyon – quietly (adverb)

kasham – beautiful (adjective)

ajiyiyad – white (adjective) e.t.c.

Functional morphemes on the other hand are often defined by their functions. It is also called grammatical morphemes. These morphemes have little or no meaning on their own but show grammatical relationships in and between sentences. Buhari (2011:14) asserts that a functional morpheme is that morpheme that has relatively less specific meaning than a content morpheme, it is a morpheme whose primary meaning is to signal relationship between other morphemes. These morphemes are usually presented by prepositions, conjunction, articles, demonstratives, auxiliary verbs, pronouns. Examples: *with, on, of, and, but, a, the, can, who, me* etc.

In Jju, these types of morphemes are not easily identifiable but are used according to the meaning the speaker wants to achieve. Examples:

a. *Ba tyong bu kawon lea.*

They escape with the baby.

In sentence (a), the functional morphemes are: *bu* - (with) and *ka* - (the)

b. *Yakubu bu Yohana ban nat makaranta.*

James and John went to school,

In sentence (b), the functional morphemes is “*bu*” (and) whereas “*to*” as seen in the English translation is not indicated in the Jju sentence.

Simply put, lexical morphemes are those morphemes which have a specifiable independent meaning, whereas grammatical morphemes are also units which carry meaning but occur in combination with other lexical morphemes.

Roots, Base and Stem

The root according to Tomori (1999:32) is the very heart of a word, thus it is the root morpheme. For instance in the word “*disagreement*”, the heart of the word is “*agree*” which is the root morpheme.

Suleyman (2015:169) sees the root as the irreducible core of a word with absolutely nothing else attached to it. It is the part that is always present, possible with some modifications in the various manifestation of a lexeme. The root is a form that is not further analyzable, either in terms of Inflectional or Derivational Morphology. It is that part of word form that remains when all Inflectional and Derivational affixes have been removed. (Bauer 1983:20).

Katamba (1993:42), also asserts that roots tend to have core meaning which in some way modified by the affixes. For instance, in jju a root can be identified in words such as: Zigwai (we thanks/ happy), Zidype (we praise), Kutyak (it is finished), Zabrang (help us), where the core words are: gwai (happy), dype (praise), tyak (finish) and brang (help) respectively.

Buhari (2011:14) opines that the root is usually a free morpheme around which words can be built through the addition of affixes. She further explains that the root is the item left when a complex word is stripped of all other morpheme. Therefore, the root is the semantic core of the word to which prefixes and affixes are attached.

The stem on the other hand refers to that part of a word to which the last morpheme in the word is structurally added (Tomori 1999:32).

Aronoff and Fudciman (2005:2) conceptualize a stem as a base unit to which another morphological piece is attached. For instance, the word "*unemployment*", the last morpheme structurally added to the word is "*ment*".

Katamba (1993:45) is of the view that the stem is in existence before any Inflectional affixes (i.e those affixes whose presence is required by the syntax such as makers of singular and plural, number in noun, tense in verbs etc) have been added.

In the same vein, Bauer (1983:20) states that the stem is the part of a word to which Inflectional affixes are added to, and also that word form that remains when all Inflectional affixes have been removed. Thus, a stem is concern only when dealing with Inflectional Morphology. Following the above definition of stem, one can easily identify a stem in Jju as follows:

bathro (clothes)

bakumbvon (daughter-in-laws)

bakpandan (friends)

where the last morpheme added to each of the word is "b-". Therefore, in the words of Fromkin and Rodman (2011) when a morpheme is combined with an affix, it forms a stem.

A base is another morpheme which needs to be distinguished from roots and stem. A base is any form to which affixes of any kind can be added. (Bauer,1983:20).

This means that any root or any stem can be termed a base, although the set of base-is not exhausted by the union of the sets of roots and the set of stems. A derivationally analysed form to which Derivational affixes are added can only be

referred to as a base. Therefore, the word “*touchable*” can act as a base for prefixation to give “*untouchable*” but in this process, “*touchable*” could not be referred to as a root because it is analyzable in terms of Derivational Morphology nor as a stem, since it is not the adding of Inflectional affixes that is in question. Therefore all roots and stem are bases but not all bases are root and stem. Similarly, it is worthy to note that the root morpheme also acts as the stem for the occurrence of other morpheme that result in the derivation of other stem or words.

The distinction between the three can simply be said that a stem is that part of a word which remains if the last added Inflectional affix is removed.

A base on the other hand is that part of a word which remains if the last - added Inflectional or Derivational affix is removed, where as a root is that part of a word which remains if all affixes are removed.

Morphological Processes

Every language has its own way of word formation that generates meaningful grammatical expressions. This is a morphological process, which, John Goldsmith confirms, “...is a means of changing a stem to adjust its meaning to fit its syntactic and communicational context” (Goldsmith, 1994:48). This aligns with Matthews’ position that:

Morphological process [is] any of the formal processes or operations by which the forms of words are derived from ‘stems or roots’. E.g. reran is derived from the root run by two morphological processes, one adding re- (- rerun), the other changing u to a (rerun - reran) (Matthews, 2007:252).

Matthews further lists types of morphological processes such as affix; compound; modification; reduplication; subtraction, suppletion. According to Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum:

...the chief processes of English word-formation by which the base may be modified are:

Affixation (a) adding a prefix to the base, with or without a change of word class (eg: author - co-author...)

(b) adding a suffix to the base, with or without a change of word-class (eg: drive-driver ...) (Quirk and Greenbaum, 2007:430)

Linguistic studies have recognized certain procedures from which pluralization in human language are achieved. Applicable to the Jju grammar are affixation, tonality, morpheme transformation or replacives, vowel and consonant mutations, morpheme substitution and others. Unlike English, Jju nouns take the prefix morphemes 'a', 'd', 'k', 'n', copular as well as tone to form plurals.

Again, in contrast to Jju, the English plural morphemes are morphological and then phonological condition has three shapes: /s/, /z/, and /iz/, the realization of which is determined by the type of segmental phoneme preceding it; as in hats /hats/, bags /bagz/, and boxes /boksiz/ respectively. Apart from some instances of vowel change or zero morpheme which exist in both Jju and English, the morphemes in the latter, unlike the former, take the plural form with the addition of -s - books, -es - mangoes, -ies - flies, -ves - knives, -en - women.

Plural and Pluralization

In linguistics, grammatical number is a grammatical category of nouns, pronouns, and adjective and verb agreement that expresses count distinctions such as 'one', 'two', or 'three or more'. In many languages including English and Jju, the number categories are singular and plural. Some languages also have a dual number or other arrangements. The count distinctions typically, but not always, correspond to the actual count of the referents of the marked noun or pronoun. In any human language, "a plural", as Matthews asserts, "is often a term, in the category of number...". It is a semantic feature of forms used in referring to more than one, or more than some small number of individuals or things. This aligns with Ugande (2005:32) and Murthy's (1998:18) position when he observed that "[a] noun which denotes one person or thing is known as singular number".

Pluralization is the process of forming plurals in languages, in this study; the concept is related to English and Jju. In his appraisal of Jju pluralization, Tartule has this to say:

Pluralization entails the various procedures which are inherent in the linguistic repertoire of Jju native speaker that enables him to form quantitative nouns in the language. It is a process because, there are acceptable morphological conventions or rules in the language for plural formation which must be observed, maintained, and adhered to without violation (Tartule, 2013:26)

From the forgoing postulation therefore, to say that pluralization is an outgrowth of morphological study in linguistics is simply stating the obvious, in this context, English and Jju language precisely. Joan Bybee L. opines that “a language has grammatical number when its nouns are subdivided into morphological classes according to the quantity they express; such that every noun belongs to a unique number class (nouns are partitioned into disjoint classes by number) (Bybee, 1982:65). In addition to Bybee’s observation above, it is noticeable that noun modifiers (such as adjectives) and verbs may also have different forms for each number class and be inflected to match the number of the nouns to which they refer (number is an agreement category). This is partly the case in English: every noun is either singular or plural (a few forms, as ‘fish’, can be either, according to context), and at least some modifiers of nouns – namely the demonstratives, the personal pronouns, the articles, and verbs – are inflected to agree the number of the nouns to which they refer: ‘this car’ and ‘these cars’ are correct, while ‘*this cars’ or ‘*these car’ are ungrammatical and, therefore, incorrect. However, adjectives are not inflected and most verb forms do not distinguish between singular and plural. Only count nouns can be freely used in the singular and in the plural. Mass nouns, like ‘milk’, ‘silverware’, and ‘wisdom’, are normally used in only the singular form. Many languages distinguish between count nouns and mass nouns.

Theoretical Framework.

This study concentrates on Jju pluralization thereby x-raying the complexities involved in the morphological processes of plural formation in Jju language. Using Contrastive Analysis theory, the study looks at the noun pluralization processes in Jju and the challenge(s) Jju speakers learning English, as their second language, may encounter. In line with this direction, therefore, contrastive descriptions can be evaluated at every level of linguistic structure. Therefore, this study used a descriptive approach, where Carl’s (1996) model of descriptive analysis was adopted

Methodology

Certain combinations of methods were used to collect data for this study. The methods used to elicit and collect information for this study were introspection (as earlier mentioned), unstructured interview and participant and non-participant observation. The method of introspection engaged the researcher in deep thought

about Jju linguistically. To achieve this, the researcher relied on his knowledge of the language as a native speaker (linguistic competence) and also his expertise and skill in understanding how the language works (linguistics knowledge). Based on these attributes, the researcher was able to generate some data used in the study.

There was also the use of participant and non-participant observation. In linguistic research, the idea of obtaining linguistic data that is spontaneously generated by the speakers of a language is paramount. Consequent upon this, the researcher uses the methods of non-participant and participant observation to collect firsthand information that was spontaneous and 'natural'. In many instances of the observed conversations and discussions, the researcher only notes privately how the native speakers expressed themselves using the various plural forms in their conversation.

Pluralization Processes in Jju

Pluralization in Jju involves several processes as discussed below:

Pluralization by Prefixation

Prefixation is a very productive word formation process in both languages. the major plural form in Jju language is by prefixes which are 'a', 'b' and 'n' which are found in *pfuo* (ear) – *apfuo* (ears), *arantyyok* (man) – *barantyyok* (men), *kub* (bone) – *nkub* (bones). The following are prefixes 'b' examples of plural form in Jju language.

Addition of 'b' to form certain plurals in Jju ('b' prefixation)

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
Akprok	Chair	Bakprok	chairs
Attyi	Father	Battyi	fathers
Anaa	Mother	Banaa	mothers
Awhai	Son	Bawhai	sons
ayechen	Visitor	Bayechech	visitors
arundong	Gun	Barundong	guns

awoi	Butcher	Bawoi	butchers
ayekwuo	Elder	Bayekuo	elders

Exception:

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
awumba	Brother	bawumbiyang	brothers
aranbying	Woman	Banyiring	women

The above exception does not just add the prefix 'b', but also a suffix (iyang or ring) is added to realizetheir plural forms.

Plural formed by 'd' Prefixation

Consonant 'k' changes to consonant 'd' to form plural in Jju

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
kassiyang	Boy	Dassiyang	boys
kaniyang	Girl	Daniyang	girls
kakunak	Orphan	Dakunak	orphans
kakrong	Knife	Dakrong	knives
kanshang	Basket	Dashang	baskets
katsung	Axe	Datsung	axes
kahyuai	Twin	Dahyuai	twins
katanghurung	Finger	datanghurung	fingers

Exception:

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss

kawon Child dawon/nawong children

The above exception does not just change the prefix 'k' to 'd', but also changes it to 'n' and adds a suffix (g) to realize the plural form.

Plural formed by 'n' Prefixation

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
Hyuet	Arrow	nhyuet	Arrows
Nom	Day	nnom	days
Tswan	Pestle	ntswan	pestles
Kup	Cord	nkup	cord
Kub	Bone	nkub	bones
Rong	Fire	Ndong	fires
Rung	Pot	Ndung	pots

Note that in the last two examples, other than the addition of the 'n' prefix to the singular to form the plural, the 'r' in the singular words changes to 'd' before the addition of 'n' prefix.

Plural formed by Substitution

In the following examples, there is consonant and vowel deletion before the addition of the vowel 'a' to form the plural.

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
dichuu	Head	Achuu	heads
dichat	Hair	Achat	hairs
Dissi	Eye	Assi	eyes
Pfuo	Ear	Apfuo	ears
Diryen	Tongue	Ariryen	tongues

din-yyi	Tooth	Anyyi	teeth
shong	Cheek	Ashong	cheeks
tag	Leg	Atag	legs

Exception:

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
Pfuo	Ear	Apfuo	ears
Shong	Cheek	ashong	cheeks
Tag	Leg	Atag	legs

The above exception does not undergo consonant and vowel deletion, but rather adds a suffix 'a' to realize the plural form.

Double Plural form

In Jju language, there are words that have double plural forms. In this case, the consonant 'k' is substituted for 'd' or 'n' to form certain plurals in Jju.

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
Kawon	child	dawon or nawon	children
Kabawon	small child	dabawon or namawon	small children
kassiyang	boy	dassiyang or namassiyang	boys
Kaniyang	girl	daniyang or naniyang	girls
Kahyuai	twin	dahyuai or nahyuai	twins
Kakunak	orphan	dakunak or nakunak	orphans
Kakrong	knife	dakrong or nakrong	knives
Katsuong	axe	datsuong or natsuong	axes
katanghurung	finger	datanghurung natanghurung	or fingers

Tonality Plurals

There is no distinction between the singular and plural in the written Jju. However, in spoken manifestation, the plurals, some of which are listed below, can only be determined by tonal change.

Examples:

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
bvon	goat	ˈbvon	goats
Chunyyi	rat	ˈchunyyi	rats
Assi	face	ˈassi	brooms
tswa nshuu	groundnut	ˈtswa nshuu	groundnuts
Nyreng	marriage	ˈnyreng	marriages
Bassok	blood	ˈbassok	blood
bashekwuot	water	ˈbashekwuot	water
Nyuon	chicken	ˈnyuon	chickens
bvontsaap	sheep	ˈbvontsaap	sheep

Areas of Similarities with English

Pluralization is a universal linguistic concept. English is a global language while Jju language is a local one that is spoken in a part of Kaduna state of Nigeria. Pluralization has been well-studied and documented in English while in Jju, the study has hardly started. In spite of the disparity in the level of study in the two languages, the semantic implication of the concept is still similar if not the same. The semantic distinctiveness of pluralization is a mark of plurality in a nominal phrase. Pluralization is a morphophonemic process, a grammatical category that has both a function and a meaning. In English and Jju, it functions as a mark of plurality which is affixed to the subject or object of a verb in a grammatical structure while it means a morphophonemic process which changes one number quantity (singular) to more than one (plural). Pluralization therefore, means a mark of a process which changes a singular number to a plural one in both English and Jju.

Examples:

	English		Jju	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Kassiyang</i>	<i>Nassiyang</i>
	<i>Girl</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Kaniyang</i>	<i>Naniyang</i>

The Mutation

This plural system has a limited number of noun forms in the English language. It affects only few noun forms in the English language. The structure of the singular noun form changes by substituting the internal vowel. In other words, the singular noun forms are made up of both front and back vowels, but when the words are made plural, the vowels automatically become front ones only. Whereas in Jju, such mutations only occur with certain consonants.

Examples:

	English		Jju	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
	woman	women	Kakunak	nakunak
	Foot	feet	Katsuong	natsuong
	Tooth	teeth	Katanghurung	Natanghurung

While the English language changes the internal vowels to make word plural, the Jju changes the initial consonant to vowels to perform the same. Since some of the noun forms start their spelling with consonant/vowels, it is the initial consonant/vowel of singular noun forms that change to front ones in order to make a word plural.

The Zero Structural Pluralization

This is another similar plural system in both English and Jju. It is the manifestation of pluralization without any formal structural difference between the singular and the plural forms. The semantic difference between the singular and the plural forms is not obvious from just the orthographic forms of the two nouns. The structures of the singular and plural forms are usually the same. In other words, there is a zero structural difference between the singular noun and plural one.

The English language has several noun forms which are culturally bound to maintain their spellings in both singular and the plural usages of such noun forms. This class of words comprises of common nouns, nationality names pre-modified quantitative.

Examples:

	English		Jju	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Sheep		sheep	Trang	trang
furniture		Furniture	Hwon	hwon
information		Information	Nyak	nyak
Staff		staff	Mun	mun
swine		Swine	Kpang	kpang
equipment		Equipment	Bvuu	bvuu

In the above examples, there is no structural difference between the singular and plural forms. In this case, the semantic difference cannot be determined until such noun forms are used in sentences.

When they are used in sentences, the context use of pre-modifier like numerals and determiners help to determine the semantic difference between the singular and plural usage.

Examples:

- i. *The hunter shot and killed that deer. (one)*
- ii. *The hunter shot and killed those deer. (more than one)*
- iii. *The Japanese came to our house on Sunday. (one)*
- iv. *The Japanese came to our house on Sunday. (more than one)*

In sentence (i), the use of the determiner 'that' quantifies the number to be one (singular) 'deer', while the use of 'those' in sentence (ii) quantifies the number to be more than one (plural).

In Jju zero plural morphological process, like the English one, is the manifestation of singular and the plural forms as the same; there is no noticeable structural difference between the singular and the plural forms.

Examples:

Singular		Plural	
Jju	Gloss	Jju	Gloss
Nyak	cow	Nyak	cow(s)
Bvuu	zebra	Bvuu	zebra(s)
Trang	bear	Trang	bear(s)
Bassok	blood	Bassok	blood
Kkwu	tuber	Kkwu	tuber(s)
Kup	cover	Kup	cover(s)
Hwon	fish	Hwon	fish(es)
Kpang	stone	Kpang	stone(s)
Mun	mosquito	Mun	mosquito(es)
tswong	mushroom	Tswong	mushroom(s)
Zuom	elephant	Zuom	elephant(s)
Bassi	Tear	Bassi	tear(s)

Implications for Jju Speakers of English

From the discussion presented above, it is clear that Jju has pluralization processes that are majorly by prefixation. The implication therefore, is that Jju users and learners of English may erroneously transfer the process of pluralization from Jju to English and end up with faulty grammatical constructions. Jju learners of English might find difficulties in learning the process as Lado (1957) claims that wherever there is divergence between the structure of foreign language and that of mother tongue, there must be difficulty in learning and error in performance in a classroom situation, the implication of grammatical and pronunciation errors will manifest in the student's blemish in their use of English consequently affecting competence and performance. When one spends time and examines linguistically the way some of the Jju speakers communicate in English, since English happens to be the language of education, media, commerce etc, they mostly violate the phonotactic and pluralization rules of the language especially in articulating consonant clusters, assimilation and vowel harmonization in Jju aspect of pluralization because of mother tongue interference complemented by the ignorance of the correct spellings of such words. For example, the plural marker

's' is pronounced as /z/ when the sound preceding it is a vowel or voiced consonant sound.

However, some Jju English speakers realize the plural markers 's' in such words as *mirrors, crabs, boys, arrows* as zero plurals instead of the /z/ sound because those words are pluralized in Jju without affixing 's' to them. The consequence of such wrong pronunciation arises and poses problem of mutual understanding of their speeches when teaching or discussing in any social event, pupils and students tend to copy their teacher or presenter in almost everything the latter has done, even the errors they are likely to commit in any situation.

Conclusion

Pluralization as a linguistic concept is an incremental mark of a morphophonemic process which increases a singular quantity to a plural one. This study has discovered that the concept is functionally the same in the two languages in the areas of manifestation, it was discovered that, in spite of dissimilarities in the structures and forms of Jju and English, for example, the different forms of the plurality morpheme /-s/ for English and /a/, /d/, /k/ etc for Jju. Similar characteristic features also abound, for example pluralization is marked in nouns, pronouns and determiners of both languages.

Based on the above findings, it may be concluded that structural and formal difference exist in the plural morphophonemic processes of both the Jju and the English languages, and there are also notable functional similarities in them. The areas of similar characteristic features constitute area of positive transfer in English language learning efforts of the Jju learners of English.

For example:

	Singular	Plural
English	<i>Man</i>	<i>Men</i>
Jju	<i>Antyok</i>	<i>Bant yok</i>

This is an example of positive transfer of the knowledge of vowel to vowel and vowel and consonant mutation from Jju to English. The internal vowel changes in English but in Jju the initial vowel/consonant changes. In short, there is always a change of vowel or consonant both in Jju and in English. In other words, the areas of similarities constitute the input competence of the English learning efforts of Jju speaker.

	Singular	Plural
English	<i>Man</i>	<i>Men</i>
Jju	<i>antyyok(man)</i>	<i>bantyyok (men)</i>
English	<i>Calf</i>	<i>Calves</i>
Jju	<i>din-yyi (tooth)</i>	<i>an-yyi (teeth)</i>

This research work on the Jju and English and pluralization process (plural forms) has attempted to reveal to a great extent, how diverse, complex and similar the languages are at the pluralization level. English has played a significant role of a base language whose pluralization forms are used to elicit word formation processes in Jju for the purpose of contrastive study. It must be mentioned at this juncture that even though the present study is not pursued for its academic value, it shall serve as a reference material to sociolinguists, morphologist and educationists, especially text book writers.

Besides, it is believed that the Jju part of this work will be an eye opener to future Jju linguists especially those who may be interested in the area of morphology. The study will also contribute in no small measure, to facilitating more research into the syntax, semantics and pragmatics of Jju. It is true that works already exist on some of these fields of linguistic study in Jju, but some controversial issue may be resolved of the pluralization process or plural forms discussed are carefully studied.

The analysis carried out shows that Jju has rich linguistic properties that can further be developed to attract linguistic attention and deeper research could be conducted to describe its linguistic properties more fully. It is believed that some of the questions raised at the beginning of this work have, to a reasonable extent, been answered.

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