



A Comparative Analysis of Hausa and Dakkarci (C'lela) Sentence Structure

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ABSTRACT

Hausa and Dakkarci (C'lela) languages are two different languages with closer phonological, morphological, syntactical, as well as semantic structures. Many factors have contributed to the current similarities in the languages, existing in the same area. Nevertheless, they share different features. In view of this, the paper is intended to look at the comparative analysis of Hausa and Dakkarci(C'lela) languages in their sentence construction.

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1.0 Introduction

The paper is intended to study the comparative analysis of Hausa and Dakkarci languages patterning their sentence structure. The paper will therefore touch some areas of similarities and differences such as their mode of sentence structure, word order, and nominal construction. The paper will also discuss on both the Hausa and C'lela auxiliary and non auxiliary sentence structures.

1.1 Towards Defining a Sentence

A sentence is defined in almost every grammar book and in almost every dictionary. Despite all the definitions given by different books and dictionary, it sounds difficult to find two definitions that are identical. Example: Abraham (1964) views sentence as “ a group of words that form a statement ,command, exclamation or question which contains a subject and verb , and in (written English) begins with a capital letter and ends with any of the marks (! . ?) .

A sentence is a complete and independent unit of communication, the completeness and independence being alone that is being uttered by itself without depending on anything. Others view sentence as a group of words or in some cases a single word which makes a statement or a command or expression of wish or a question or an exclamation.

From the above, we may conclude by saying that, a sentence is a word or group of words that give a grammatical meaning; and this meaning shall be clearly understood by the speaker and the receiver of a particular language.

1.2 Mode of Sentence in Hausa and C'lela Language

Sentences are generally classified into statement, question and commands. All the three sentence types are available in both Hausa and C'lela language .

For example in Hausa we say:

A –Statement = Musa ya kashe zaki(Musa killed a lion)

B-Question = Me Sani ya saya?(What did Sani bought)

C- Command = Zauna!(Sit down)!

For the case of C'lela language here are some examples:

A-Statement = Yayanta elin s'hevo(girls are dancing)

B-Question = U wen han tanna(who came here)

C-Command = Unu(stand up)

1.3 The Structure of Hausa Basic Sentence

The basic component of a sentence in Hausa is made up of two portions, i.e the name (noun) and what is said about the name (predicate). It is equally important to note that in Hausa the simple declarative sentence is of two types: those with the auxiliary element and those without the auxiliary. Auxiliary are further sub-divided in to equational and existential types. In a given construction we have the agreement element and the tense aspect which Galadanci (1976) called proper pronoun, but Amfani (2000) calls it subject agreement element . Hence suggested to be called auxiliary sentence, since the auxiliary shares common feature with the subject.

However, we should note that the auxiliary sentences go with the agreement and tense aspect such as **yaa, sun, kan, yana, tana** etc; while the equational sentences go with the copular which is “ne or ce “ and ne goes with masculine gender while ce go with feminine gender. The existential sentences go with the words such as: **da, akwai** and **da akwai** respectively.

1.4 Word Order

This is to do with the sentence structure of a language. The sentence structure of Hausa language is S V O (Subject Verb and Object). It is very true to say that a Hausa native speaker while making a statement he frames up three major parts of speech which include the subject, verb and object.

Comparatively with the C'lela language, the C'lela language has the same pattern of sentence structure that is S V O. It is equally true to say that the C'lela native speaker frame up the three major aspects. In view of the above, both the Hausa and C'lela word order (typology) share the same structure.

For example as in Hausa:

1.Audu yaa kaamaa zaakii

Subject verb object

2. Akuyar taa faɓa ruwa

Subject verb object

We also have the same situation in C'lela language as follows:

1. U saka o(he brought him)

Subject verb object

2. Urmu yaka diga(the man ate food)

Subject verb object

But one important aspect to note here is that, unlike Hausa, in C'lela we do have a single vowel which may stand on its own and has a grammatical meaning as a word. Equally in C'lela tense aspect is incorporated in the verb unlike Hausa. One other important aspect is the use of determiner. In C'lela they don't have the determiner but instead the NP remains as a noun or a pronoun even though the NP is in group, may be because in C'lela sentence the determiner is not a quantity marker as in Hausa. So what is obtained here is some morphophonemic changes in the NP to form a similar form as in Hausa.

Example in C'lela :

Omo lev'ko(Dog slept)

D'omo lev'ko(the dog slept)

However, as we have noted above, the determiner remains a non-marker whereby the noun has some morphological changes as in the above example. So if we compare this pattern with that of the Hausa we can realize that they do not have the same procedure.

1.5 Nominal Construction in C'lela Language

In C'lela, nominal construction undergoes some changes which comparatively differ from Hausa nominal construction. The following are some of the changes.

i. Final Vowel Deletion

That most of the nouns do not take their final vowel when used in construction.

Example: The words "Buku" (tomorrow) and "Kaci" (hen) in nominal construction, the final vowel will be deleted as shown in the following nominal construction.

Buk tun haven nile.(tomorrow I will go to town)

Kac elin dihwera(hen is resting)

ii. Nouns Transformation

Apart from the above, in C'lela nouns do change their forms entirely in a construction.

Example: Mho (water) will change in nominal construction as:

Got hom unzu (see water there)

Netna (people) will change to:

Nitina uvkun kuru (people entered the room)

iii. Movement

However, the position of these markers do change from front position to the end position in

NP construction. Example:

Una (leg)-sna (legs) in construction

Bai (bag) – C'bai (bags) baic (in construction)

When these words are used in sentence construction, the plural markers 'S' and 'C' would then undergo a movement from initial position to end position as in the following example.

Nas ru getanga (his legs are broken)

Baic el hwedi un yara (there are many bags in the market).

From the above, we study three basic ways in which noun in C'lela undergo some changes in a construction, but if we are to compare them with that of Hausa they do not go into such changes.

1.6 The Structure of the Hausa Auxiliary type of Sentence Rule:

S- NP Pred p

Pred p – pred (adv p)

Pred – pred1

Pred1 – aux vp (pp) (noun locative) (noun static)

Aux – pro tense aspect

Pro – person, number, gender

Person - 1st ni , mu (mai Magana)

2nd kai, ke ku ... (wanda ke Magana)

3rd shi, ita, ..., (wanda ake Magana da shi)

Gender – masculine, feminine

Number – singular, plural

Tense aspect – pass -a -

Progressive naa....

Habitual kan....

Future 1 za....

Future 2 ita.....

Subjective sun ... plural m/f

Aspect - (general) (relative).

Now let us study the following non-auxiliary sentence in Hausa, for example.

1. Audu yaa kwanta a } asa.

N + Agr/Tns V + p + N

2. Audu yana da kuji.

N + Agr/Tns + p + N

3. Audu yana jaka

N + Agr/Tns + Nloc

4. Audu yana zaune

N+ Agr/Tns + N static

The above four sentences can be represented in the phrase structure rule below:

1. Audu yaa kwanta a kasa.

N + Agr/Tns V + p + N

Rule:

S – NP PRED P

PRED P – pred

Pred - pred 1

Pred1 – aux + Vp

Aux - agr+tense aspect

Vp – V + pp

Pp - P + Np

Np – N

Agr – ya

Tense aspect – a

V - kwanta

P-a

2. Audu yana da kuji.

N + Agr/Tns + p + N

Rule:

S – NP, PRED P

PRED – pred 1

Pred 1 – aux + pp

Aux – agr +tense aspect

Pp – P + Np

Agr – ya

Tense aspect – na

P -da

N - Audu , kuji

3. Audu yana jaka

N+ Agr/Tns + Nloc

Rule:

S – NP, PRED P

PRED P- pred 1

Pred I – aux + Nloc

Aux – agr + tense aspect

Np _ N

Agr – ya

Tns asp – na

N loc - daka

N - Audu

4. Auda yana zaune

N+Agr/Tns+N static

Rule:

S – PRED P

PRED P – pred

Pred - pred 1

Pred1 - aux ,N static

Aux - agr + tns asp

Np - N

Agr - ya

Tns asp - na

N static – zaune

1.7 Non Auxiliary Sentence Structure in Hausa

The non auxiliary sentences are those sentences which do not have the auxiliary constituents in their structure. The non auxiliary sentence are divided in to two, i. e those with the compliment and copular and those with the predicator, which are sometimes referred to as existential or equational Sentences (Rambo, 2001:38). For example.

1. Mangwarori unguwa ce a Zuru.

N + Compl.+ cop + P + N

Rule:

S –NP PRED P

PRED P – pred pp (adj p)

Pred - pred 2

Pred 2 – comp, cop

Comp – NP

Cop - ce

Pp - p NP

Np - N

P - a

N -Mangwarori, Unguwa, Zuru

2. Akwai tsauni a Zuru

Predicator + N + P + N

Rule:

S -NP PREDP

PREDP pred pp

Pred - pred 2

Pred2 -predicator

Predicator - akwai

Pp - P NP

NP- N

P - a

N - Tsauni, Zuru

1.8 Auxiliary Type of Sentence in C'lela (Dakkarci) Language

Like in Hausa auxiliary sentence, auxiliary in c'lela language has the same pattern as that of Hausa language. The following example will give more explanation.

1. Musa illin kuru (Musa yana daki)

N + Aux + N

Rule:

S - NP PRED P

PRED P - pred 1

Pred1 - aux+Nloc

Aux - agr +tns asp

Agr - illi

Tns asp - n

N loc - kuru

Np - N

N -Musa

2.Audu illaa Kacini hala gwelne. (Audu na da Kaji da Awaki)

N + Aux + N+ p+ N

Rule:

S - NP PRED P

PRED P - pred

Pred - pred1

Pred1 - aux pp

Aux - agr tns asp

Pp - (NP) P NP

Agr - illa

Tns asp - a

Np - N

N - Audu, Kacini, Gewlne

1.9 Non- Auxiliary Sentence in C'lela Language

A. Existential Sentence in C'lela language

Equally like in Hausa language, C'lela language has non auxiliary sentence. Below are some good examples for purpose of this paper.

1.Namun el bacho hwedi (akwai Shanu da yawa a gidanmu)

N Pred + N + Adj

Rule:

S - NP PRED P

PRED P - pred adj p

Pred - pred2

Pred2 - predicator

Predicator – el

Adj p - N Adj

Adj - hwedi

Np - N

N - Namun , bacho

B. Equational sentence in C'lela language

1. Audu e kanu govo (Audu Manomi ne)

N + Cop + N + Adj

Rule:

S – NP PRED P

PRED P – pred (adj p)

Pred - pred2

Pred2 - compl.cop

Compl - NP

Np - N

Cop - e

Adj p - Adj

Adj - govo

N - Audu, kanu

1.10 Similarities between Hausa and C'lela Sentence Structure

The two languages share so many things in common, such as word order, mode of sentences etc.

i. Simple Declarative Sentence

In both languages, they share same sentence structure which is S V O (subject verb and object).

ii. Mode of Sentences

Another area of similarities is in their mode of sentence structure. Both languages have three types of sentences namely, Statement, question and command. Structurally both languages are similar, because each sentence has two portions, that is, subject and predicate.

E.g: Audu ya tafi makaranta as in Hausa.

N Aux V N

In c'lela language we have:

Wawanta elin chigusku kusu (the girl is worshipping her shirt)

N Aux V N

Similarly, in simple declarative sentences are grouped into auxiliary and non auxiliary, the non auxiliary is further re-group into equational and existential.

For example, in Hausa:

1. Kabiru yana shara (auxiliary)

N Aux V

2. Salisu almajiri ne (equational)

N Copl.Cop

3. Akwai Hausawa a Zuru (existential)

Pred. N p N

Whereas in C'lela Language we have:

1. Bawa elin kuru (Bawa is in the room) auxiliary

N Aux N

2. Argo e seme (Argo is a name of mountain) equational

N Cop N

3. Tuduh ell Rambo (Rambo has a cool weather) existential

N Pred N

1.11 Differences between Hausa and C'lela Sentence Structure

In respect to the differences that exist between the two languages in their sentence structure, the paper has identified the following:

➤ In C'lela sentence construction, a syllable may start with a vowel, and that vowel may stand on its own as a word with grammatical meaning. Unlike in Hausa construction where syllable starts with a consonant. Example: U nesk me (he gave me) and U saka o (he brought him).

➤ In addition, determiner is another aspect of differences in the two languages sentence construction. In C'lela construction they don't have the determiner as a word , but rather they remain as a noun even though the noun is in group, and this may be because the determiner is not a quantity marker as in Hausa construction. Eg Omo (dog) and D'omo (the dog)

➤ One other important differences identified is on the gender. The study has revealed that the C'lela language is a gender free language, This is because in c'lela sentence construction they don't have feminine gender marker. Example: (i) U nesk me (he/she gave me) (ii) U saka o (he/she brought him)

➤ Moreover, in C'lela NP construction there are some movement, insertion and deletion within the noun which does not occur in the Hausa nominal construction. Example: ' Buku ' will change to 'buk' . some time the noun will change their form entirely in a construction . Example: ' mho' will change to 'hom'. Other changes include where when noun are used in plurality, the plural form markers 's' and 'ci' undergo some movement from initial position to end position. Example: 'Una' will change to 'nas' and 'bai' will change to 'baic'

➤ Size marker is also another area of difference, In C'lela sentence construction, they have a special way of identifying

both the animate and inanimate object, where (I) is used for small and (K) for big object. Example:

= Nama (cow) = inama (small cow) = knama (big cow)

= Legu (rat) = ilegu (small rat) = klegu (big rat)

Above are some of the major differences found in Hausa and C'lela language in terms of sentence structure.

1.12 Conclusion

The comparative study between Hausa and C'lela sentence structure is aimed at finding out similarities and differences of the two languages, which this papers has been able to came up with . In view of this, we suggest the need for a wider research work to be carried out in other areas such as phonology, morphology, as well as semantics, this will eventually unveil more information in respect of C'lela language and its relationship with other languages, especially Hausa language.

We suggest that, not only C'lela language should be studied, but also other minority Nigerian languages of Nigeria should be studied. When studied, records of such work should be made available for further educational purpose in future.

Finally, the paper is of the view that the C'lela language will be endangered if such studies are not carried out from time to time. Moreover, the domination of Hausa language over the C'lela language demonstrates that in future the C'lela language will be endangered if care is not taken.

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