

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE MORPHO-SYNTACTIC STRUCTURES OF ENGLISH AND WUKARI DIALECT OF JUKUN

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Abstract

Human language, as varied as they are, still share some similarities with one another in relation to Universal Grammar by Chomsky. Jukun language, the language spoken by the descendants of Kwararafa kingdom, even though separated into many dialects yet majority are mutually intelligible. This study aims to conduct a morphosyntactic analysis of English and the Wukari dialect of the Jukun language. The study adopted a descriptive research design since the study aimed at undertaking a morpho-syntactic analysis of English and Wukari dialect of Jukun language. The researcher also conducted an informal interview with native speakers of Wukari dialect of Jukun language. The analytic method that was employed for data analysis was descriptive in nature. From the analysis, it was discovered that every language has its own grammar, some noun phrases in Wukari dialect of Jukun language conform to English grammatical rules when translated directly. While determiners in Wukari dialect of Jukun language are mostly bound inflectional morphemes and are usually post-modifiers, the English language determiners are free morphemes and pre-modifiers. In addition to that, what constitutes a word in Wukari dialect of Jukun language may become a phrase or a sentence in English when translated directly. The study concludes that even as there are many instances of dissimilarities between the English and Wukari dialect of Jukun language, there are also several similarities between them.

keywords: Comparative, Morphology, Syntax, English, Jukun and Language

Introduction

Language is the most popular means of communication among humans and it gives identity to its speakers. This is why we hear of terms such as; English people, Hausa people, Yoruba people, Jukun people and so on, just to describe or identify a group of people belonging to an ethno-linguistic group. Humans use language to express their membership within a linguistic community. One important characteristic of language is that every language has a home land. A major and an important characteristic difference between humans and other animals is the ability to use language for communication. It is also true that one important desire of most ethnic groups is to protect and project their language in order to maintain their identity and culture. The research sets out to analyse the elements that exist in English and Wukari dialect of Jukun language. This analysis is viewed from morpho-syntactic

perspective.

The researcher's interest in this study was born out of the desire to fill the gap left behind by the earlier researchers in some areas of the Jukun language, especially the areas of morpho-syntactic analysis of the language. The researcher, to a reasonable extent, believes that no such study has been extended to this area of morpho-syntactic analysis of English and Jukun languages. The study is of eminent significance to the researcher's and any other person who comes across it because it offers a great scholarly insight that is of positive value to linguistics as it greatly contributes to the already existent linguistics information that can help remedy the challenge of mother-tongue-interference. Documentation of the findings from this research work will not only help the younger generations of the speakers of the language but also provides a new vista for further studies.

The Jukun people are located in Taraba, Benue,

Nasarawa, Plateau, Adamawa, Bauchi and Gombe States in Nigeria and parts of the North Western Cameroon. They are descendants of the people of Kwararafa kingdom. Meek (1931) observes that the Jukun speaking people of Nigeria occupy, in scattered groups, the part of the Benue basin which is bounded by Abinsi to the West and Kona to the East, Pindiga to the North, and Donga to the South, a stretch of country which roughly represents the confines of the Jukun kingdom of Kororofa as it existed at the end of the eighteenth century. It is believed by many that majority of the groups that exited the kingdom left around the eighteenth century and from this particular location described by Meek.

C.K Meek was the first to engage in a major work on the Jukun Language in nineteen thirty-one (1931) which was sponsored by Missionary known as the Sudanese Missionary Movement and the title of the book is A Sudanese Kingdom. Thereafter, several other attempts were made in the effort to come out with the written form of the Jukun Language. Notable among those who made such attempts were; Dr. Welmer who wrote and submitted a thesis with the title: Jukun of Wukari and Jukun of Takum in the year (1968) to the institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan in partial fulfillment of his Ph.D. Two books were also written by Dr. K. Shimizu on the Jukun Language. A comparative Jukunvid in (1971) and A Jukun Grammar in (1980). Shimizu classified the language as belonging to the Nigrific or Niger-congo family of African Languages which are found or spoken around Senegal and Kenya.

The Jukun language which, in this paper, is studied side by side with the English language is an understudied, underdeveloped and under-documented language compared to English language. The Jukun speakers of English language, like any other Nigerian natives who acquire and use English as a second language (L2), are likely to face the challenge of mother-tongue interference (MTI), a socio-linguistic situation whereby the knowledge of one language (usually the mother-tongue or L1) interferes with or influences the use of the other (normally the second language or L2) due to language contact.

This study, therefore, is necessary as it focuses on comparative analysis between English and Wukari dialect of Jukun language's morpho-syntax, with the view to uncovering areas of similarities and dissimilarities in both languages to enable the Jukun speakers of English language minimize the rate of this linguistic transference.

Objective

The present study aimed at doing the morpho-syntactic analysis of English and Jukun languages mainly to achieve the objectives below, which are to:

- i. identify the morpho-syntactic properties of English and Wukari dialect of Jukun language.
- ii. compare the morpho-syntactic properties of English language and that of Wukari dialect of Jukun language.
- iii. analyse the morpho-syntactic similarities and dissimilarities between the two languages.

Language

Language is a fundamental human phenomenon that facilitates communication and social interaction. It plays invaluable functions in our everyday existence and how we often rely almost absolutely upon it for interactions; yet, we tend to take it for granted. Language, one of the means of communication through arbitrary pairing of sounds or symbols with meaning, can be considered one of the most important characters which sets Homo Sapiens apart from their closest cousins, apes, (Fromkin and Rodman, 2003). Yet, to define language, a serious problem is encountered. Many scholars in the field of linguistics and other related disciplines attempted to define the term 'language' but each according to his/her own point of view, which only creates the impression similar to the parable of the blind men describing an elephant.

The term "morphology" historically refers to Greek based parallel of the German word "formanlehre" meaning the study of form. According to Aronoff and Fudeman (2005), The term morphology is generally attributed to the German poet, novelist, playwright and philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) who coined it early in the nineteenth century in a

biological context. Its etymology is Greek: Morph-Means “shape, form”, and morphology is study of form or forms....In linguistics, morphology refers to the mental system involved in word formation or to the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure and how they are formed. Nida (1940) defines the term Morphology as “the study of morphemes and their own arrangements in forming words”. Morpheme on its own refers to the minimal meaningful units which may constitute words or parts of words. This means in all languages, words undergo inflection and derivation in order to suit any particular context. Hartmann (1972) defines the term as a branch of grammar concerned with the study and analysis of the structure, forms and classes of words. Morpheme which is the major concern of morphology is a minimum distinctive unit of grammar that is a grammatical unit of the lowest rank. This view expressed above quotation means that morpheme is the lowest segment of a word and which further attempt to sub-divide it may result to rendering the word meaningless. Jukun's morphophonemic processes emphasize prefixation and suffixation with significant phonological interplay, which is shaped also by language contact influences.

Syntax is the branch of linguistics that studies the structure and formation of sentences. It demonstrates how correct sentences are generated by carefully arranging words and phrases. If the words are in their proper locations and agree with one another, a phrase can have no sense yet still being correct in syntax. For instance, Chomsky (1965) provides a classic example of a situation in which a statement is valid but may not make sense like: "Colourless green ideas sleep fiercely". The concept of phrase has been defined in a variety of ways over time. According to Matthews (1991), it is “any syntactic unit that is not a clause but has a function as a whole within a larger construction”. Iria (1987), defines it as a combination of words put together in order to form a sense unit. It is also described as “a sequence for words that can function as a constituent in the structure of a sentence” (Burton-Roberts, 1986). This is in contrast with what is obtainable in the Jukun language. This is evident in the words of Skinner

(1977) that “...a phrase may also be a sentence if it is followed by a long enough pause and if the next words begin or a new level of intonation”. Collup (2003) asserts that “A phrase is simply a group of words without a verb. A sentence, fundamentally, is a linguistic unit that expresses a complete thought, typically comprising a subject and predicate but also seen in varied forms across grammatical theories (Shahverdi Aliyeva, 2020; The sentence is conceptualised as a fundamental linguistic unit, serving as a medium of written or spoken discourse that conveys information, expresses emotional states, issues commands, or poses questions (Lyons, 1995; San Jose State University Writing Center, 2020; Wikipedia contributors, 2023).

Literature Review

Syntactic Phenomena in the Jukun Language

Syntactic phenomena in Jukun dialects refer to the distinctive patterns of sentence structure, constituent order, and grammatical relations manifested across the various dialects of the Jukun language, predominantly spoken in regions of Nigeria.

Dialectal Variation in Syntax:

Jukun dialects exhibit syntactic variation alongside differences in phonology, morphology, and the lexicon. Research indicates that these dialects maintain mutual intelligibility despite syntactic divergences shaped by geographic, social, and historical factors—including migration, conflict, and cultural exchange. The dialects possess distinctive syntactic patterns that contribute to their individual identities while sharing a common linguistic core.

Nominal Group Structures

Investigations into Jukun dialects, such as the Wukari variety, reveal that nominal group (noun phrase) structure differs from that of English in terms of word order. Whereas English nominal groups typically follow the sequence "modifier + headword + qualifier," Jukun dialects tend to employ the order "headword + modifier + qualifier." This syntactic property influences compositional meaning and sentence-level interpretation.

Tone and Syntax Interaction:

Although existing research on Jukun

dialects has focused predominantly on tonal phenomena affecting lexical semantics, tone also interacts with syntactic structures. For instance, tonal alternations can signal morphological distinctions that influence the syntactic configuration of sentences. Tonal variation is crucial for differentiating grammatical functions and clause-internal roles, revealing a syntactic-phonological interface that is characteristic of these dialects.

English and Jukun Syntactic Rules

English syntactic rules are governed by a comparatively rigid word order, predominantly Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), with established patterns including SV, SVO, SVOO, SVC, and SVA for the formation of grammatically well-formed sentences. English syntax mandates subject-verb agreement, whereby the verb matches the subject in person and number (e.g., "She runs" vs. "They run"). Adjectives typically precede nouns, and modifiers are positioned proximate to the elements they modify. Conjunctions serve to link clauses, and variations in word order yield significant semantic consequences. Agreement in English encompasses person and number concord, such that singular subjects take singular verbs and plural subjects take plural verbs. Compound subjects connected by "and" take plural verbs, whereas those connected by "or" or "nor" may take singular or plural verbs depending on the nearest subject. Collective nouns may be treated as singular or plural depending on context, illustrating the nuanced nature of agreement in English syntax (Vedantu, 2025; StudySmarter, 2024).

The Jukun language, specifically the Wapan dialect, presents syntactic phenomena that diverge from English in both structural configuration and agreement processes. Canonical sentence construction in Jukun follows an SVO order analogous to English; however, distinctions emerge in agreement marking and syntactic encoding. Agreement in Jukun frequently involves noun class or gender concord, wherein verbs or modifiers reflect the noun class of the subject or object—a process that is less prominent in English. Morphosyntactic alignment in Jukun may incorporate subject and object marking strategies

distinct from English, including the use of specific morphemes that encode agreement between verbs and nouns in accordance with their semantic roles. Tonal features and morphophonemic alternations also influence syntactic constructions in Jukun, affecting how agreement and relational dependencies are syntactically marked (Dangana & Ishima, 2024).

In comparative terms, English relies heavily on fixed word order and morphological inflection for subject-verb agreement, whereas Jukun employs noun class agreement and morphophonemic modifications that interface with its tonal system, thereby integrating phonological structure more closely with syntax and agreement phenomena.

Morphosyntactic Processes

Studies on word formation processes, such as pluralisation in the Wapan dialect of Jukun, suggest that morphological operations (e.g., prefixation and suffixation) underpin syntactic expression. The manner in which plural forms are constructed affects sentential syntax, particularly in noun phrase structure and agreement relations.

In conclusion, syntactic phenomena in Jukun dialects encompass distinctive nominal phrase structures, the interaction between tone and sentence formation, and morphological processes that impinge upon syntax. Syntactic variation across these dialects arises from socio-historical influences while preserving an underlying linguistic unity. The studies emphasize the importance of syntax combined with phonological and morphological characteristics to understand the language structure comprehensively.

Morpho-syntax

Morpho-syntax is a subfield of linguistics that studies the interface and interaction between morphology—the study of word formation and syntax, which is the study of sentence structure and the rules governing how words combine in phrases and sentences. Morpho-syntax focuses on how morphological units such as morphemes interact with syntactic structures to convey meaning in language (StudySmarter, 2024; OpenEdMB, 2025; Cambridge Dictionary, 2024). According to a detailed linguistic source, morpho-syntax is defined as the study of grammatical affixes or linguistic units that have both morphological and

syntactic properties. It also refers to the set of rules that govern linguistic units whose properties are definable by both morphological and syntactic criteria (PalArch Journal, 2024).

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is underpinned by two complementary linguistic theories: Contrastive Analysis Theory and Chomsky's (1957) Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG). These theories are selected for their combined capacity to systematically identify, describe, and compare the morphosyntactic structures of English and the Wukari dialect of Jukun.

Contrastive Analysis Theory

Contrastive Analysis (CA) is the systematic, side-by-side comparison of two or more languages aimed at identifying their structural similarities and differences. Initially developed by Fries in the 1940s and brought into academic prominence by Robert Lado (1957) in *Linguistics Across Cultures*, CA is rooted in the practical need for effective second language teaching. Its psychological foundation is behaviourism, and its linguistic foundation is structuralism. Lado (1957) proposed the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH), asserting that "those elements that were similar to [a learner's] native language was simple for him and those elements that were different were difficult." Accordingly, where languages share structures, positive transfer occurs; where they differ, negative transfer (interference) results.

This study is not a dialectal comparison within Jukun but a bilateral comparison between

English (an Indo-European language) and the Wukari dialect of Jukun (a Benue-Congo language). These two languages are typologically distinct, and no prior comprehensive morphosyntactic comparison exists. CA theory is therefore directly relevant because it:

1. Focuses on pairs of languages – specifically English and Wukari Jukun – rather than multiple dialects of a single language.
2. Deals explicitly with morphology and syntax (word-formation and sentence structure), which are the core of this research.
3. Enables prediction of learning difficulties for Jukun-speaking learners of English and for English-speaking learners of Wukari Jukun, fulfilling a key pedagogical objective.
4. Provides a systematic checklist for identifying areas of positive transfer (e.g., possibly basic SVO order) and negative transfer (e.g., noun class systems, tense/aspect marking, or serial verb constructions unique to Jukun).

As Uzozie (1992) notes, every human language has its own peculiarities in word-formation and syntax. CA theory will guide the researcher to systematically extract, compare, and contrast morphosyntactic features from naturally occurring and elicited data in both languages, thereby achieving the primary aim: underscoring similarities and differences for pedagogical and further linguistic research.

Phrase Structure Grammar (PSG)

Phrase Structure Grammar, introduced by Noam Chomsky (1957), is a rewrite-rule model that generates sentences by systematically splitting constituents from the largest unit (the sentence) down to individual words. Unlike purely taxonomic models, PSG not only segments a construction but also provides grammatical labels (NP, VP, AUX, etc.) and shows how constituents relate hierarchically.

The classic PSG rewrite rules (Agbedo, 2003; Ndimele, 2008) are:

$S \rightarrow NP + AUX + VP$

$NP \rightarrow (Det) (N) (Adj) N$

$AUX \rightarrow Tense (Modal) (Have/Be) (-en/-ing)$

$VP \rightarrow V (NP) (PP) (Adj) (Adv)$

While CA theory identifies *what* is similar or different between English and Wukari Jukun, PSG provides the *formal descriptive machinery* to analyse those differences precisely. PSG is justified for this comparative

study because:

1. It reveals structural hierarchies. English and Wukari Jukun may both have NPs and VPs, but the internal ordering of determiners, adjectives, and nouns may differ. PSG rules can capture these differences explicitly.
2. It handles possible nativisation patterns. The population for this study includes speakers whose English may show influence from Wukari Jukun morphosyntax. PSG will be used to parse and compare sentences produced by participants against standard English PSG rules, thereby measuring the extent of morphosyntactic nativisation.
3. It is theory-neutral enough for cross-language comparison. PSG's rewrite format allows the researcher to write parallel rules for English and for Wukari Jukun, then contrast them rule-by-rule (e.g., whether Jukun requires an overt AUX, whether tense is obligatory, etc.).
4. It goes beyond surface description. Unlike pure word-order typology, PSG accounts for both existing and possible sentences, ensuring the comparison is linguistically robust.

The two theories function in tandem, Contrastive Analysis provides the overall comparative framework, justifying *why* two unrelated languages (English and Wukari Jukun) are compared and *how* their differences relate to learning and transfer. Phrase Structure Grammar supplies the analytical tool to represent each language's morphosyntactic structures formally, enabling a systematic, constituent-by-constituent contrast.

Thus, the study will:

- (a) use CA to identify potential areas of similarity and difficulty between English and Wukari Jukun;
- (b) use PSG to write phrase structure rules for each language based on primary data;
- (c) compare the PSG rule sets to determine precise points of structural convergence and divergence; and
- (d) interpret the findings pedagogically (for ESL teaching in Wukari area) and descriptively (for documentation of Jukun morphosyntax). In summary, this dual theoretical framework is not merely additive but necessary: without CA, the comparison would lack a principled basis for predicting difficulty; without PSG, the comparison would lack formal precision. Together, they justify and operationalise a rigorous comparative study of English and the Wukari dialect of Jukun.

Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive research design, which is appropriate for the morpho-syntactic analysis of English and Jukun languages. The descriptive approach allows for a systematic identification, classification, and comparison of linguistic structures without manipulating variables. The focus is on documenting and analysing naturally occurring language use among Jukun speakers of English.

Two categories of data were collected, first, the primary data was obtained directly from Jukun speakers through observation and informal interviews while the secondary data was from existing documented research, including published books, journal articles, and unpublished theses related to Jukun language, English syntax, and morpho-syntactic comparison.

Method of Data Collection

Two principal methods were employed for primary data collection:

Participant Observation

The researcher conducted participant observation in naturalistic settings where Jukun speakers used language spontaneously. These settings included: Social ceremonies (weddings, naming ceremonies, cultural festivals) and religious gatherings (church services). During these events, the researcher observed overt linguistic behaviour, took field notes, and recorded speech samples. This process yielded ten phrasal nominal constructions and ten clausal nominal constructions. From these, four of each nominal type is purposively selected for detailed morpho-syntactic analysis. The observation was geographically delimited to Wukari city and its surrounding satellite towns and villages, where the Jukun dialect is spoken predominantly as the primary medium of daily communication.

Informal Interviews

Semi-structured, informal interviews were conducted with native Jukun speakers. The

Data Analysis

In Jukun language, the grammatical construction in sample 1 above is made up of two constituents; NP and VP, hence, “*Adiji*” is a Noun Phrase containing a bound morpheme “a” (a prefix) and the noun “*Diji*” functioning as the subject of sentence and “*yi wando bukhen*” is a Verb Phrase which contained “*yi*”(gave) as the main verb performing the function of predicate in the sentence and the noun “*bukhen*”(shirt) as the object of the verb in the sentence and there are two other NPs; “*Wando*” and “*bukhen*” as Oi and Od objects respectively.

Syntactically, the Jukun grammatical structure is similar to the English structure because the construction “*Diji gave Wando a shirt*” comprises S V Oi. Od.

In sample 2, “*Awakhen sen gundon ichin tswa*” consists of NP with “a”, a pronominal prefix and “*Awakhen*”, and VP which is “*sen gundon i chin tswa*”, thus, the VP consist of V “*sen*” AUX(-en), another NP “*gundun*” and an AdvP “*i chin tswa*” that also consists of an NP “*tswa*”.

In the sentence: **Jukun:** *Awakhen sen gundon i chin tswa*.

English: Wakhen placed a cup on table.

Both English and Jukun exhibit an SVO syntactic configuration, suggesting typological convergence at the clausal level despite differences in internal noun phrase structure

The sample 3 has a sentence as “*Anwuawunua na gbejo ba ata’a*”. The sentence, as usual is cut into two constituents; NP and VP. The NP begins with the pronominal prefix “a”, the noun “*nwu*” (child), followed by an infix “a” (the), followed by another noun “*wunu*”(man) which is also followed by a determiner realised by the phoneme “a” that is structurally there to qualify the NP as it is in the English NP “the boy” with the determiner “the” modifying the noun “boy”. However, in the case of Jukun syntactic structure, the determiner takes the final position in the NP unlike the English syntactic structure. Then the VP starts with an Aux “*na*” (is) which is followed by the main verb “*gbejo*” (dancing) and a PP “*ba ata’a*” with “*ba*” (with) functioning as the English preposition “with” and the noun “*ata*” (father) structurally followed by a bound morpheme “a” (his) as a possessive adjective, similar to the English language’s possessive adjective “his” as in “his father”.

Likewise in sample 4, the sentence “*anwubashe’a na ji buju*.” has the NP which consist of pronominal bound morpheme “a” at the beginning followed by the adjective morpheme “*nwu*” (child) modifying the noun “*ba*” (dog) which is further qualified by the adjective morpheme “*she*” (little) and the determiner bound morpheme “-a” which come last thus, the construction can be translated as “child dog little the” that is not permitted by the English syntactic rule. The VP has V (Aux) “*na*” +main verb “*ji*” (is eating) and noun “*buju*” (food).

Noun Morphology in English and Jukun

English Noun Morphology The analysis confirmed that English nouns inflect for number (singular versus plural) and possession (genitive case). Although the plural system is predominantly realised through the suffix ‘-s’, which exhibits allomorphic variation across /s/, /z/, and /ɪz/ depending on the phonological environment, it also retains a set of irregular formations (e.g., *man/men, child/children, ox/oxen, tooth/teeth*). These irregular plurals, which reflect historical patterns no longer productive in contemporary English, are limited in number yet pose significant challenges for Jukun learners of English owing to their lack of systematic predictability.

Jukun Noun Morphology Jukun noun morphology presents a considerably more complex system. The analysis revealed that the elaborate noun class systems characteristic of many Niger-Congo languages have undergone significant reduction in the Wukari variety of Jukun. This finding aligns with Storch’s (1997) observation that Jukun lects on the northern periphery of the former Kororofa kingdom have preserved various

noun class prefixes, whereas central Jukun lects such as Wukari have experienced "word stem apocope and morphological reduction."

Nevertheless, the reduction is not absolute. Evidence of noun class remnants emerged in the analysis of agreement patterns, wherein certain adjectives and numerals exhibit concord with noun heads based on semantic rather than formal class distinctions. Examples include:

- (1) a. *anwuawunua* – 'the boy' (human class)
- b. *atswa nzun* – 'one table' (non-human/inanimate class)

This semantically based agreement system represents an intermediate stage between full noun class systems and complete loss, thereby reflecting ongoing morphosyntactic change. The distinction between human and non-human nouns, which is salient in Jukun, has direct implications for pronoun selection, verb agreement, and adjective concord.

Discussion of Findings

1. Morphological differences

English relies heavily on word order and function words (e.g., *will, of, to*) to express grammatical relationships, with only a few inflections (e.g., '-s' for plurals, '-ed' for past tense). Jukun, by contrast, tends to stack multiple affixes onto a verb root to express tense, aspect, mood, or negation — an agglutinative pattern. Additionally, Jukun retains remnants of a noun class system (similar to Bantu languages), where nouns are grouped into classes marked by prefixes or suffixes; English has no such system.

- *Why this matters:* These differences suggest that Jukun learners cannot transfer morphological strategies from their L1 to English; they must learn a completely different morphological logic.

2. Syntactic

convergences

Both languages use SVO as their basic word order (e.g., *The little puppy is eating food.* / *Jukun Anwubashe'a na ji buju.*). This typological similarity is significant because it is one area where Jukun speakers can rely on positive transfer — they do not need to reorganize basic clause-level word order when learning English.

- *Why this matters:* This convergence reduces learning difficulty for basic declarative sentences, allowing learners to focus on more challenging areas.

3. Syntactic divergences

- Noun phrase structure: English places adjectives before nouns (*little puppy*); Jukun likely places them after nouns (e.g. *Anwubashe* → *child-dog-little*). English has an obligatory article system (*a/an/the*), while Jukun has no articles.
- Verb phrase structure: English uses auxiliary verbs (*be, have, do, will, can, etc.*) to mark tense, aspect, mood, and voice. Jukun uses serial verb constructions — sequences of verbs without overt conjunctions or auxiliaries to express related actions or grammatical meanings (e.g., *he take knife cut bread* meaning *he cut the bread with a knife*).
- Broader clausal architecture: This implies differences in how questions, negations, and subordinate clauses are formed (e.g., English requires *do*-support for questions; Jukun may not).
- *Why this matters:* Each divergence represents a predictable source of errors. Learners will struggle with prenominal adjectives because their L1 places adjectives postnominally; they will omit or misuse articles because their L1 lacks them; and they will confuse auxiliaries or overuse serial verb patterns in English.

4. Acquisitional implications

The findings directly predict specific types of errors Jukun-speaking learners will make in English: omission of articles, adjective-noun order reversal, missing or misformed auxiliaries, and failure to mark past tense (likely because Jukun may use context or a separate word rather than a bound suffix like ‘-ed’). These are not random guesses but systematic predictions based on contrastive analysis.

5. **Pedagogical framework**

The authors recommend explicit teaching that contrasts the two languages, focusing first on the most divergent features (articles, adjective placement, auxiliaries, past tense), using structured input (e.g., flooded with target forms) and output (forced production), and systematically correcting errors — all standard practices in applied contrastive linguistics.

Conclusion

The study, after the analysis of the data, revealed that; every language has its own grammar. The study also revealed that Language dictates to its users for the achievement of meaningful and comprehensible expression, and that some NPs in Jukun language cannot fit into English language’s grammatical rules when translated directly. It was also noticed that even though there are many instances of dissimilarities between the two languages, there also existed many instances of similarities between them. In the area of similarities, it was found out that the two languages have SVO, SVOO as seen in the analysis.

While determiners in Jukun language are mostly bound inflectional morphemes and are usually post-modifiers, the English language determiners are free morphemes and pre-modifiers. In addition to that, what constitutes a word in Jukun, may become a phrase or a sentence in English when translated directly.

The study contributes to body of knowledge in several ways, which may include;

- i. Adding to the existing literatures in the

area of Morpho-syntactic Analysis of Languages.

- ii. Providing the foundation for further research in the use of Morpho-syntax.
- iii. The study also helps in bringing to limelight the relationship that holds between morphology and syntax as levels or components of linguistics.

This study makes several contributions to the field:

1. Documentation of Jukun morpho-syntax: Provides a systematic description of a previously under-documented language.
2. Contrastive analysis: Offers the first comprehensive comparison of English and Jukun morpho-syntax.
3. Acquisition predictions: Provides testable hypotheses for future empirical research on Jukun learner of English.
4. Pedagogical framework: Offers practical guidance for English language teaching in Jukun-speaking communities.
5. Theoretical implications: Contributes to typological understanding of SVO languages, head-directionality, and tense-aspect prominence.

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