Analysis of Nominalization Processes in the Tiv Language
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Abstract

Previous studies on nominalization in Tiv language focus on nominal compounds where compound words which belong to the grammatical category of nouns are derived through the process of compounding. This paper analyses the nominalization processes (strategies) in the Tiv language. The paper seeks to determine the nominalization processes in the Tiv language, and the classes of words as well as the linguistic units that are nominalized in Tiv. The study adopted the survey method in investigating the facts about the nominalization process in the language. The study used primary sources of data collection. The primary data were sourced through interview. Structured interview questions were used to elicit the needed data on nominalization from the ten selected adult Tiv native speakers in Makurdi and Gboko in Benue State. A total number of eighty (80) data were gathered and analysed. The theory adopted in the paper is Hockett's (1954) structural theory modified in (2004) whose models are the Item-and-Process (I.P) and Item-and-Arrangement (I.A). The study found out that the processes through which nominalization occurs in the Tiv language are prefixation, prefixation plus some modifications, tonality and desententialization (sentence deconstruction). These processes are discovered to be very productive in nominalization in Tiv. It has also been found out that verbs roots and adjectives are the classes of words that are nominalized (lexical nominalization) in the Tiv language together with sentences (syntactic nominalization). The paper concludes that nominalization is very essential in word creation and helps in enriching the Tiv language.

Keywords: *Nominalization, Nominalizer, Prefixation, Modification and tonality*

Introduction
Morphology is one among the branches of linguistics. It essentiallystudies the internal structure of word and word formation processes. Nominalization as a morphological method is a process of deriving nouns from other word classes. Nominalization processes has been demonstrated by researchers in many world languages such as English, Igbo, Tee an Ogoni (Kegboid) group of languages spoken in the Tee district of Tai Local Government in Rivers State, among others. Itis also evident in Tiv, one of the Bantu

groups of languages majorly spoken in Benue State. Though nominalization is known to be evident in the Tiv language, available researches conducted on the Tiv language, such as Adzer (2020) and Mbapuun (2021), focused on formation and analysis of compound words (nominal compounds). However, other processes of nominalization arenot examined in the previous studies. These include desententialization, the process of converting sentences into nouns, prefixation and tonality. There is therefore need to account for these other processes of nominalization in Tiv, which has the potential of providing a broader view on nominalization in an indigenous African language like Tiv. This paper seeks to analyse the nominalization processes (strategies) in the Tiv language with a view to ascertaining the word classes and linguistic units that are nominalized.

Tiv People, Language and Location

Tiv is a term that bears three varying meanings. Udu (2009:1) asserts that "First, it refers to the ancestral father of Tiv race of central Nigeria. Second, it refers to the ethnic group which is a descendant of Tiv. Lastly, it refers to the language spoken by the race." From the above, it could be said that Tiv is a name of a group of people, their ancestral father and their language. This is in line with other people and their languages where the names of their ethnicities and languages are the same. For example, the Yoruba people have Yoruba language, Igbo people have Igbo language and the Jukun have Jukun language.

The native speakers of Tiv speak one common language (Tiv) with variations which are mutually intelligible to all speakers. The Tiv ethnic group is the fourth largest in Nigeria inhabiting mainly Benue State in North Central Nigeria with a population of over four million people (2006 census). A substantial number of the Tiv people are also found in Taraba, Nasarawa,

Plateau, Cross River States and in the Republic of Cameroon (Damna, 2018, Udu, 2009). The traditional headquarters of the Tiv people is Gboko where the palace of the Tor-Tiv (king of the Tiv people) is located. The paramount ruler of the Tiv nation is addressed as 'Tor-Tiv,' meaning king of the Tiv nation, and resides in the 'kwator' (king's palace) in Gboko.

Tiv people in Benue State share boundaries with Jukun in the North, Cross River on the East, the Idoma in the South and Lafia in the West. In Benue State, the Tiv people share their land with other ethnic groups such as Jukun, Nyifon, Abakwa, Etulo and Iyon (Adzer, 2020). They live in clusters. This means that the Tiv people are very generous and hospitable.

Review of Related Literature:
Morphology and Morphological Processes

Haspelmath and Sims (2010) define morphology as "the study of the internal structure of words." This means morphology is concerned with the shapes of words and their components. Corroborating this view, Badejo (2004:7) defines morphology as "the branch of linguistics that is the repository of the information on the structure of words." From the above definitions, it is crystal clear that morphology studies the structure of words and the processes of word-formation.

According to Badejo (2004), there are three major processes of word-formation which are: affixation, reduplication and modification. Affixation is the process whereby an element is attached into an existing root or stem which could either be a prefix or suffix (Ojonungwa, 2015). Reduplication is a process where another shade of meaning is produced by repeating the whole or part of the root (Badejo, 2004). Examples are hush-hush, goody-goody, hanky-panky. Modification, to Matthew (1974), is a process by which a whole part of the shape of a root is

structured or qualified to get another meaning as in man – men, foot – feet. Yule (1996) identifies compounding as a word-formation process. Compounding, to him, is a process of joining two separate words to produce a single form as in bookcase, finger-print, among others.In nominalization, the aforementioned processes (affixation, modification, reduplication, compounding, among others) are operational in languages (Maduagwu, 2010). This however does not mean all of the processes must be productive in nominalization in all languages. Some of these processes may operate in certain languages, but absent in others.

Nominalization as a derivative process

According to Anyanwu and Omego (2015), nominalization is a process of deriving a noun from some other word classes (e.g. 'ability derived from 'able', 'failure' derived from 'fail', 'dancing' derived from 'dance') or the derivation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause (as in "His answering the phone was surprising" derived from "He answered the phone). From the foregone examples, 'ability' as a noun is derived from the adjective able', 'failure' as a noun derived from the verb 'fail', 'dancing' a gerundive noun derived from the verb 'dance'.

Chomsky (1970) says there are two main types of nominalization: lexical and syntactic (grammatical) nominalization. Lexical nominalization produces linguistic forms belonging to the lexical category of noun, while syntactic nominalization creates nominal expressions that do not have lexical status (Shibatani and Awadh, 2009). Alternatively, lexical nominalization is a derivational process of word-formation where nouns are derived from some other lexical categories, typically, a verb or an adjective, by modifying the root (Anyanwu and Omego, 2015). Example, 'legal, legalize, and legalization' (Anyanwu and Omega, 2015).

Previous Studies on Nominalization

Scholars have worked on nominalization in various languages. Dauda (1971) researched on "lexicalist hypothesis and Hausa". In his study, Dauda examined nominalization in Hausa in the context of Chomsky's lexicalist hypothesis. He identified derived norminals and gerundive norminals in Hausa. The study relates to the present study because it centres on nominalization and a Nigerian language (Hausa). The present study however focuses on the Tiv language. Similarly, Anyanwu and Omego (2015) researched on "aspects of deverbal nominalization in Tee," an Ogoni (Kegboid) (Ikoro, 1990) group of languages spoken in the Tee district of Tai Local Government in Rivers State, Nigeria (Anyanwu and Omego, 2015). The study finds agentive norminalization (verb root: tɔ̄gɛ́'teach'-derived agentive: nɛ̄ɛ̄-tɔ̄gɛ́ 'teacher'), gerundive nominalization (verb root: dé 'eat' – derived gerunds: lò-dé-dé (act of eating'), action noun (non-gerundive) nominalization (verb root: dém 'create' - derived action nominal: dém 'creation', infinitive nominalization (verb root: tɔ̄gɛ́'teach' – derived infinitive: gìgà-tɔ̄gɛ́ 'to teach'), state (qualificative) noun nominalization (verb root: lúkpè 'be sweet' – derived infinitive: kpé 'sweetness) as type of deverbal nominalizations that are evident in Tee language. The study relates to the present too. Its point of departure from the present study is that it looks at Tee language and restricted to lexical nominalization. The present study seeks to analyse both lexical and grammatical (syntactic) nominalization in the Tiv language.

Nominalization is also evident in Igbo language. Maduagwu (2010) researched on 'aspects of nominal derivation in Igbo'. She examines this linguistic phenomenon and finds two categories of derived nouns in Igbo language are: nouns formed from nominal compounding and nouns formed from

sentences. The examples of the nouns formed from nominal compounding are as follows:

        N1   N2   N3
a. onye   + agha→Nominal compound
'person'   'war'
        onyeagha 'soldier'

b. ndị +   ahịa→Nominal compound
'people'   'market'
        ndịahịa 'merchant'

c.ụgbọ +   elu→Nominal compound
'vehicle'   'top'
        ụgbọelu 'aeroplane'

d. anya+   ọkụ→Nominal compound
'eye'   'fire'
        anyaọkụ 'jealousy'

e. aka +   ike→ Nominal compound
  'hand'   'strength'
        akaike 'stinginess'

The examples of nouns formed from sentences as given by Maduagwu (2010:4) are as follows:

Derived Nouns Sentences
a. Nwakàego   <u>From </u>Nwakà ego
                   (female person's name)
                   child surpasses money

b. Ndùbùàkù   <u>From </u>Ndù   bù   àkù
'female person's name' 'life is wealth'

The study examines how nouns denoting ideas of excessiveness could be derived.It also analyzes nouns derived through pronominal position-switching and auxiliary deletion among others. From all the above examined researches, none considers the Tiv language majorly spoken in Benue State hence the need for the present study.

Theoretical Framework

This paper is anchored on Hockett's (1954) structural theory modified in 2004, comprising Item-and-Arrangement (I.A) and Item and Process (I.P)models.The Item-and-Arrangement (I.A) model considers both roots and affixes as morphemes with at least one allomorph of each stored in the lexicon (Maxwell, 1998). This means that in 'independently,' the root is 'depend' and the other morphemes 'in-', '-ent', and 'ly' are affixes and are both listed in the lexicon. Alternatively, the Item-and-Arrangement theory looks at the analysis of the structure of words by decomposing words into their immediate components (Ajim, 2018). The model sees inflectional formatives and derivation as a process of arrangement of items such as affixation of bound morphemes onto the base in its simplest form. This manner of analyzing word form (i.e. Item-and-Arrangement) treats words as if they were made of morphemes put one after the other (concatenated) like beads on a string (Ajim, 2018).

Item-and-Process model has it that a word form is the result of applying rules to change a word-form or stem in order to produce a new one. For example, an inflectional rule takes a stem, changes it as is required by the rule, and outputs a word form; a derivational rule takes a stem, changes it as per its own requirements, and outputs a derived word; a compounding rule takes a word form and similarly outputs a compound stem (Spencer, 1991). In other words, Item-and-Process treats word-formation as not only arrangement of linguistic elements but also the involvement of processes. The model holds that affixes are processes, that is, affixes are morphological rules that exist in a separate component of grammar. Based on the model, in the word 'singer,' it is only the root 'sing' that is listed in the lexicon, the suffix '-er' is only a morphological rule of deriving a noun from the verb 'sing'. The two theoretical models examined here are suitable

in the analysis of nominalization in Tiv. The application of the models helped in accounting for the different linguistic components that come together to derive nouns from other words classes and the processes involved whether affixation, modification, compounding, reduplication, tonality, sentence deconstruction (desententializaton) among others.

Methodology
The study adopted the survey method in investigating the features of nominalization process in the Tiv language. Both the primary and secondary sources of data collection were used. The primary data were sourced through interview. Structured interview questions were used to elicit the needed data from the adult Tiv native speakers in Makurdi and Gboko in Benue State. The choice of Makurdi is because as the headquarters of Benue State accommodates the native speakers of Tiv from different intermediate areas. Gboko has been chosen because it is the headquarters of the Tiv Nation and the Tiv language in Gboko is the standard variety. A total number of eighty (80) data were gathered from ten (10) respondents and analysed. The data are presented in tables based on the discovered strategies of nominalization in the Tiv language. The analysis is done qualitatively by adopting Hockett (1954, 2004) structural theory of morphology whose models are Item-and-Arrangement (I.A) and Item-and-process (I.P).

Nominalization Processes in Tiv Language
The nominalization processes that are evident in the Tiv language are:
1a.   Prefixation: This is a type of affixation where a linguistic element is attached to the beginning of a root word. The element that is attached to the initial position of the root word is a prefix. Prefixation is a

very productive process in nominalization in the Tiv language as seen below:

Table 1a: Table of derivation of nouns (nominalization) from verbs through prefixation

S/No	Prefix	Verb root	Noun Derived
1	m-	ande (resurrect/ appear)	m-ande (resurrection/ appearance)
2	m-	Civir (worship)	m-civir (worship)
3	m-	gbide (beat)	m-gbide (act of beating)
4	m-	hia (matured)	m-hia (maturity/ maturation)
5	m-	kôôm (correct/ interdict)	m-kôôm (correction/ interdiction)
6	m-	soo (love)	m-soo (act of loving)
7	m-	tsua (select/ remove)	m-tsua/mtsugh/ selection/removal
8	m-	time (dig)	m-time (digging)
9	m-	umbur (remember)	m-umbur (remembrance)
10	m-	venda (refuse/ reject)	m-vende/mvenda (refusal/rejection)
11	m-	yange (prevent)	m-yange (prevention)
12	m-	ye (eats)	m-ye (food/the act of eating)
13	m-	tôv (investi-gate)	mtôv (investigation)

Source: Field survey (2022)

As buttressed from table 1a, it is crystal clear that nouns can be derived from words by prefixing 'm' to the root verbs proving prefixation as a productive process in nominalization in Tiv. From the table, it could be observed that 'm-' used in the above example has no meaning on its own but when added to the root verbs, the verbs are

changed to nouns making the prefix 'm-' as used in the above examples as a nominalizer.

1b. Prefixation with some Modifications as Nominalization Process in Tiv

Nominalization in the Tiv language can also take place through prefixation with some modifications as seen in the table below:

Table 1b: Table of derivation of nouns (nominalization) from verbs through prefixation with some modifications

S/No	Prefix	Verb root	Noun Derived
1	m-	gema "change/ turn"	mgem "dynamism"
2	m-	kaa(n) "say(ing)"	mkaanem "speech/saying"
3	m-	zua 'join'	mzoo "union/ congregation"
4	i	tuha "insult"	ituhanev "insult"
5	i	sar(en) "desire(ing)"	isharen "desire"

Source: Field survey (2022)

From the above presentation, it could be observed that some verbs roots are changed to nouns through prefixation and some modifications. In the above table, 'm', 'a' and 'i' are used as prefixes. In the first example 'm-' is prefixed to the root 'gema' (change/turn) and the last letter of the root verb 'a' deleted to derive the noun 'm-gem' (dynamism). In the second example, 'm' is prefixed to 'kaa' (say) and (-n) suffixed to 'kaa' to produce 'kaan' (saying) and 'em' further suffixed to derived 'mkaanem' (speech saying) which is a noun. In example three, 'm' is prefixed to 'zua' (join) and /ua/ replaced with /oo/ to derive 'mzoo (union/congregation).

1c. Nominalization through Prefixation of 'm', 'mba', 'i' or 'u' to Adjectives

Some Adjectives in the Tiv language can be nominalized by prefixing 'm', 'mba', 'i' or 'u' to adjectives as seen in the table below:

Table 1c: Table of nominalization through prefixation of 'm', 'mba', or 'i' to adjectives

S/No	Prefix	Base adjective	Noun derived
1	m-	ange (sour)	m-ange (sourness)
2	m-	doo (good)	m-doo (goodness)
3	m-	hange (necessary)	m-hange (necessity)
4	m-	kundu (cold)	m-kundu (coldness)
5	m-	lihe (long)	m-lihe (length)
6	m-	tav (tall)	m-tav (tallness/ height)
7	m-	saanyol (happy)	m-saanyol (happiness)
8	i-	lihe (long)	i-lihen (length)
9	mba-	atseregh (tricks)	mba-aatseregh (tricksters)

Source: Field survey (2022)

Table 1c shows the derivational formation of nouns from adjectives. It could be observed that nouns are derived from adjectives by prefixing 'm', 'mba' and 'i' to the base of the adjectives. These prefixes are bound morphemes and have no meaning when they stand alone but in the context they are used, they function as nominalizers. Here, the knowledge of the choice of the right nominalizers in any giving context is based on the intuitive knowledge of the native speakers. Non-native speakers of the language find it difficult applying the rightful

nominalizers in deriving nouns in the language.

1d. Nominalization of Nouns from Adjectives through Prefixation with some Modifications

Nominalization in the Tiv language can take place through prefixation with some modifications as seen in the table below:

Table 1d: Table of nominalization of nouns from adjectives through prefixation with some modifications

S/No	Prefix	Base adjective	Noun derived
1	m-	doo(m) (good/ beautiful)	m-doom (beauty)
2	m-	yuha (heavy)	m-yohom (heaviness)
3	m-	vihi(m) (ugly)	m-vihim (ugliness)
4	i-	bume (stupid/ foolish)	i-byumegh (stupidity/ foolishness)
5	i-	yuusu (foolish)	iyuusugh (foolishness)

Source: Field survey (2022)

From the above demonstration, it could be observed that some adjectives can be nominalized by prefixing and suffixing linguistic elements to the base as in "m + doo (good/beautiful) + m →mdoom (beauty)," some can be nominalized by prefixing, infixing and suffixing linguistic elements to the base as in " i + bume (stupid/foolish) + -y- + gh→ibyumegh (stupidity/foolishness)" where 'i-' is the prefix, 'bume' is the root or base, '-y-' is an infix and '-gh' is a suffix.

2. Tonality as a Nominalization Process in Tiv Language

Nominalization in the Tiv language can be achieved through the process of tonality as seen in the data below:

Table 2: Table of nominalization through tonality

S/No	Word/word class	Noun derived through tonal variation
1	àmbē (verb) "to suck"	ámbé "crocodile"
2	bēndè (verb) "touched"	béndé "kind of amulet"
3	dūrà (verb) "thunder"	dúrá coccidiosis"
4	dāā (verb) "to push"	dàà "table"
5	gbòr (adjective), gbór (verb) "age grade", "to pluck unripe fruits roughly"	gbōr "stomach"
6	gbēr (verb) "to cut down"	gbér "gallon"
7	jìjà (adjective) "a spoilt object"	Jìjá "castor plant"
8	jììr (verb) 'to cook'	jūr "a place"
9	kōr "to sew"	kór, kòr "rope", "sasswood"
10	ìpyúsù (adjective) "uncircumcised"	ípyūsū "loamy soil"
11	lū (verb) "was"	lú "mortar"
12	nyíàn (adjective) "red"	nyīán "today"
13	nyìàr (verb) "to wink as somebody"	nyíār "lightening"
14	pēv (verb) "to touch and feel"	pèv, pév "to make a hole in something", "a slope"
15	pēr (verb) to touch and feel"	pér "war shield or floor cover for farming"
16	sùlè (verb) "to become cold,	súlé, súlè 'farm' "money"

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S/No		
	to die"	
17	tsā (verb) "sleep over"	tsá "farmland"
18	tàr (verb) 'spread'	tár 'nation'
19	ùmā (verb) 'dried'	úmā "life"
20	úsé (verb) "partially dried"	ūsè "down"
21	wúà (verb), wùá (verb) "to kill" "to grind"	wúā "guinea-corn"
22	wùhē (verb) "to uproot, to close"	wúhé, wúhē "coldness" "co-wife"
23	yàngè (verb) yàngē (verb) "to dress with charms," "to prevent, to prohibit"	yángé "sun/day"
24	tsēr (adjective), tsèr (verb) "hot or warm", "to be neat/multiply"	tsér "a local Tiv plate"
25	zèndè (verb) "to walk"	zéndē "a journey"

Source: Field survey (2022)

From the above demonstration, it could be observed that some Tiv verbs and adjectives can be nominalized by variation in tone. In the above examples, changes in tonal marks change adjectives and verbs to nouns as in jìjà [dʒìdʒà] – a spoilt object →jìjá [dʒìdʒá] - castor plant, and bēndè [bēndè] – touched →béndé [béndé] – a kind of 'amulet'. In line with the Item-and-Arrangement (I.A) and Item-and-Process (I.P) models, the linguistic items used in the above examples are the words and the tonal marks, and the process employed to nominalized the adjectives and verbs is tonality and the tonal marks used are the nominalizers.

3.   Desententialization as a Process of Nominalization in Tiv Language

Nominalization in the Tiv language can be achieved through the process known as desententialization (sentence deconstruction) as seen in the table below:

Table 3: Table of nominalization through the process of desententialization (sentence deconstruction)

S/No	Sentences	Nouns derived through desententialization
1	mba ngohol kpandegh they collecting tax "they are collecting tax"	mbangoholkpandegh "tax collectors"
2	mba tan kpandegh they throwing/paying tax "they are paying tax"	mbatankpandegh "tax payers"
3	mba maan kwagh they building something "they are building something"	mbamaankwagh "builders/masons"
4	mba nan jighjigh they giving believe "they are believing"	mbananjighjigh "believers"
5	mba man kwagh they drinking something "they are drinking something"	mbamankwagh "drinkers"

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6	mba eren tom they doing work "they are working"	mbaerentom "workers/labourers"
7	mba vinen amar they dancing dance "they are dancing"	mbavinenamar "dancers"
8	mba wan atsam they inserting/singing songs "they are singing"	mbawanatsam "singers"
9	mba fan kwagh they knowing something "they are becoming wise"	mbafankwagh "wisemen"
10	mba kuhan kwagh they drumming something "they are drumming"	mbakuhankwagh "drummers"
11	mba kuran ya they protecting compound "they are safe guiding the house"	mbakuranya "the house securities"
12	mba wan amo they inserting/singing sons "they are singing"	mbawanamo 'singers'
13	mba duun amo they removing songs "they are composing songs"	mbaduunamo "song-composers"
14	mba been ayol they finishing bodies "they are becoming old"	mbabeenayol "old people"
15	mba gbiden boo they beating ball "they are playing ball"	mbagbidenboo "players"
16	mba eren msen they doing prayer 'they are praying"	mbaerenmsen "prayer warriors"
17	or ngohol kpandegh person collects tax	orngoholkpandegh (tax collector)
18	Ior mba ngohol kpandegh people they collecting tax "people are collecting tax"	iormbangoholkpandegh "tax collectors"
19	or civir akombo human being worships idol "man worships idol"	orcivirakombo "an idol worshiper"
20	ior mba civir akombo people they worship idols "people are worshiping idols"	iormbacivirakombo "idol worshipers"
21	or keren kwase man searching woman "a man womanizers"	orkerenkwase "a womanizer"
22	or hemba aondo ga man surpasses god not	Orhembaaondoga "someone's name-personal noun"

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23	suur sha ter "trust on god'	Suurshater "a unisex name – personal noun"

Source: *Field survey (2022)*

From the above presentation, it could be seen that desententialization is very productive in nominalization in Tiv. Desententialization is a morphological process whereby sentences are changed or converted into words. In desententialization, sentences are deconstructed (sentence deconstruction) to form words. In the above sentences, the sentences are deconstructed by joining together the linguistic elements that constitute the sentences to form words as in "mbaeren tom (they are working)" deconstructed by co-joining the linguistic elements to form the noun "Mbaerentom (workers/labourers).

Conclusion
Nominalization is a linguistic process whereby other words classes and sentences are converted or changed into nouns. In the lexical parlance, verbs and adjectives are nominalized in Tiv. Syntactically, sentences are also nominalized through the process of desententialization. Other processes of nominalization in Tiv are prefixation, prefixation with some modifications and tonality. In conclusion, nominalization as a derivative process is very essential in word creation and helps in enriching the Tiv language. As a morphological process, it increases the number of words available in the Tiv language and used in the interactions of the language users.

The paper unveils the processes through which nominalization takes place in the Tiv language such as prefixation, prefixation plus some modifications, tonality and desententialization (sentences deconstruction), thereby making a major intervention on nominalization in Tiv linguistic studies. This essay proves the extent to which these processes are productive in nominalization in Tiv. It argued that verbs roots and adjectives are the classes of words that are nominalized together with sentences.

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