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Quantifiers in English and Izhia: A Minimalist Investigation

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Abstract

This paper investigates the Izhia Quantifiers and those of the English language, and examines how the quantifiers in both languages could enter into relationship with the nouns to form determiner phrases. The study uses the minimalist program and the Determiner phrase Hypothesis as tools for identifying, predicting and generalizing functional and structural similarities and dissimilarities within the two languages which may pose difficulties in second language learning or ease second language learning, and the Documentary linguistics to bring solace to an endangered language like Izhia. Data used in this study were obtained through oral interviews. Those interviewed include: Mr. Ogbu Okoro who is minimally educated in English, Dr. Matthew Aleke and Dr. James Ani. Findings reveal that quantifiers in both languages are functionally similar but structurally dissimilar, as the English quantifiers occur only in pre-position in their DP system while in Izhia the reverse is the case as some appear in both pre-and post-position, some only in pre-position, while some appear only in post-positions in their DP system. On this premise, it is realized that the knowledge of the similarities and dissimilarities in the structures of the L1 and the L2 can enhance proficiency and good performance in the teaching and learning of English language as a second language as far as Izhia speakers of English are concerned.

Key words, Quantifiers, English, Izhia, Minimalism, Investigation

Introduction

Language is the most important means of communication used by human beings. People make use of language to express ideas, emotions, behaviours, feeling and thoughts. A language is uttered with the use of words which are put together in form of phrases, clauses and sentences.

The mother-tongue of an individual is referred to as any

language an individual gets in contact with, that is indigenous to a region, an area or a community (Olayemi 1980). These languages perform several functions for the individual and the community living in such society. In the words of Sapir (1970), these functions allow the individual to express himself, it affords others the opportunity to understand the feelings, emotions and experiences of others, it functions as a tool for

explanation and analysis of concepts and their processes, it brings people of a community together and solidifies their identity and pride. These functions and many more are the same across all communities and languages. Greenberg in support of this established that languages are not exclusively different, they exhibit similarities and dissimilarities (1970). The source finds out that all languages have phonological, syntactic and semantic systems that are used to convey messages. This corroborates the intention behind the formulation of the Nigerian policy on education (NPE) which states that every Nigerian child should receive formal education in the mother-tongue for the first three years of his/her education life.

Ani (2020) and Aleke (2023) observes that many Nigerian indigenous languages are at the verge of extinction courtesy of the new trend of Nursery schools. One of such Nigerian indigenous languages is Izhia language. Languages are different and as a result, a second language learner may be confronted with some challenges in the process of learning the target language hence the need for a contrastive study. This study serves as a medium for the contrastive work in the area of determiners in two languages; English and Izhia, focusing on an aspect of the determiners; quantifiers and how they can go into relationship with the nouns to form determiner phrases.

The Quantifiers

Quantifiers are determiners that provide information about the

quantity of a noun in a phrase or sentence (Uzoigwe 2011). They are the determiners used in the sentence to express the quantity such as many, enough, little, much, any, some etc. (Ndimele, 2003). The source points out that English quantifiers also include multiples such as half, one-half, two-third etc. Nweze (2014) defines quantifiers as determiners used to show quantity. Anyanwu (2010) classifies them as post-N specifiers in Nwga Igbo. According to Aleke (2021) quantifiers are words used to denote quantity.

The Izhia Language

Izhia is the name of the people and the language they speak. The language is predominantly spoken in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State with a population of about one hundred and eighty thousand (180,000) speakers. It is a dialect of Igbo language. Izhia belongs to the Igboid subgroup within the Benue Kwa in the New West Benue Congo. Izhia speaking communities are also found in Ntezhi and Ehziolo in Ishielu Local Government of Ebonyi State as well as a village in Otukpo in Benue State.

Research Methodology

This study targets Izhia-English bilinguals. Data for this study were gathered through oral interview. The interview lasted for an hour in three different sections within two weeks interval. Those interviewed include: Mr. Ogbu Okoro who is minimally educated in English, Dr. Matthew Aleke and Dr. James Ani. To achieve the aim of this study, analytic method was adopted. The

study was analyzed in three phases: the English phase, the Izhia phase and the comparative phase. The study examined the different quantifiers in both languages and their processes of entering into relationship with nouns to form determiner phrases.

Determiner Phrases in English and Izhia

Determiners are important elements in language studies. Crystal (1997) and Berk (1999) observe that determiner is a grammatical category which includes number or rather different kinds of words that always precede a noun and an adjective. Mbah (2011, p. 211) observes that 'a noun cannot project into a phrase whose nucleus is a verb or a preposition'. 'A determiner is a word which signals the presence of a noun' (Ndimele 2003, p102). According to this source, the determiner is a cover term for articles (a, an, the), demonstratives (this, that, these, those), possessives (my, our, their, his, your), quantifiers (some, every, any, much, few, a few, several) and numerals (one, two, three, first, second, third). A determiner projects into a determiner phrase by entering into a relationship with a noun. By so doing, the determiner becomes the head while the noun serves as the complement. Uzoigwe (2011) notes that, languages could have the pre-modifiers where the modifier is placed before the head, and a post-modifier where the modifier is after the head. According to the source, the English language is a good example of a pre-modifier situation. This means that in English language, the determiner occur in pre-position.

It is important to note that singular determiners take singular NP complements and plural determiners take plural NP complements.

In Izhia, determiners invariably exceed the nouns they refer to. This is to say that the determiners in Izhia, occur in post-position. Nevertheless, for the purpose of this study, the focus is on one aspect of the determiners: quantifiers.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for this study is the Minimalist Program, and also incorporated are the Determiner Phrase hypothesis and the Documentary linguistics.

The Minimalist Program

The Minimalist Program (MP) is a modification of the Principles and Parameters Theory (PP) earlier known as Government and Binding Theory (GB) advanced by Chomsky (1989, 1993 and 1995), where Chomsky presents a Minimalist inquiry into linguistic theory. It is an offshoot of the government and binding grammatical levels of representation: D-Structure, S-Structure, Logical Form (LF) and Phonological/Phonetic Form (PF) to interface levels, that is, just PF and LF. In this theory, Chomsky minimizes syntactic entities and principles for a plausible linguistic expression and explanation (interpretation). The PF interacts with sound/motor articulatory-perceptual faculties whereas the LF interfaces the meaning and conceptual modules of cognition like inference and

conceptual-intentional reasoning. The MP is designed in such a way that all the superfluous apparatus which may constitute a problem in the syntactic description of a natural language are removed.

This theory was developed when the emphasis on syntactic description began to shift from the constraint-based grammar of the Government and Binding (GB) framework with all its complexities to notions of economy and simplicity (Luraghi and Parodi, 2008). GB had focused on "limiting the scope of generative power by increasing the role of constraint grammar and limiting the power of Generative rules" (Carnie, 2007: p22). This led to the formulation of a lot of theories such as the Binding theory, the Case theory, the Theta theory, Bounding theory, Government theory and others, which in the GB era became cumbersome in the syntactic analysis of a language structure.

In the work, *Minimalist Program for Linguistic Theory* (1995), Chomsky proposes a theory of syntactic study which embodies economy, simplicity, and elegance (Hendrick, 2003). The principle of economy is central to the Minimalist Program. The notion of economy ensures that everything that appears in a sentence serves a purpose (Cook and Newson, 2007). This eliminates all superfluous elements in sentences which hitherto appeared in previous analysis.

Movement operation is integral to the MP. A key proposal of the minimalist program is that displacement and plane structure-building are established by one

operation, Merge (Chomsky 1995). Movement is forced by the requirement that a phrase appears in the minimal syntactic domain of a functional head to achieve feature checking (Radford 2004). The restriction on movement to cases where a phrase is raised to a minimal domain of head for feature checking is called the principle of last resort. This constraint constitutes part of the definition 'Move'. Features that are uninterpretable at LF (such as case) are eliminated after checking. They cannot appear at the LF as their presence would result in a violation of the interface condition of Full Interpretation (FI) (Cook and Newson 2007). Chomsky describes a derivation that yields an ill-formed interface as that which 'crashes'. Interpretable features like categories and semantic features are not eliminated after checking, and so, may enter into subsequent checking relations. The feature of the head that forces overt movement is uninterpretable (Carnie 2007).

Merge introduces substantive heads into positions where they can assign theta roles to their complements and certain specifiers (SPECs) and complements into configurational positions, where they can receive theta-roles from substantive heads. Theta roles are roles of semantic interpretations. In a Determiner phrase, the D is the head. Its features are inherited by the Head Feature Principle (HFP), which states that 'the head features of a headed phrase are identical to those of its head daughter' (Adger 2003). The daughter arises from X-Bar principle which the head is at

different degree of relationship with the satellites around it.

The concept of computational system is well developed in the MP. This is the operation where the fully formed words selected from the lexicon are combined in pairs through the process of “select and merge” (Luraghi and Parodi, 2008). Operation Select means the derivation which begins from an Array (A) which is an unordered list of lexical items selected from the lexicon, for example:

Array {Boys, the.....} forms a grammatically correct DP as follows:

The boys.

The unordered list such as the example (which formed the DP) is called Numeration. Each lexical item (LI) is taken from a tree formation which forms a set of the syntactic object (SO). Operation ‘merge’ therefore, is the merger of two syntactic objects (SO), (that is, the item that can undergo syntactic operations). Operation Merge involves combining two lexical items and where the merging is successful, the output is said to converge, but where they are unsuccessful, the output is said to have crashed. This is illustrated below:

{long, boy}

*long boy

The operations Move and Merge which have combined the two lexical items, long and Boy, to form ‘long boy’ is not successful, the final output has therefore crashed (i.e. formed a wrong construction). The reason is that boy is [+human] and

does not merge with an adjective like long in the description of height. Then the ill-formed construction is deleted and operation merge will carry out further combinational activities to ensure successful constructions otherwise there will not be continuity in the construction of sentences or phrases.

In the MP, a lexical category heads a phrase and where a phrase is headed by a determiner, that determiner is referred to as the lexical projection for the determiner category, while a phrase headed by a determiner is referred to as maximal projection. For example;

The students

The determiner ‘the’ is a lexical projection while the whole phrase (the students) is a maximal projection. The head of a phrase and the entire phrase have the same syntactic distribution in the syntactic construction. It, therefore, means that both the head which is the lexical projection and the head and its satellites can occupy the positions of subject and object in any syntactic construction. In the MP, all categories, whether lexical or functional can head a phrase. Nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives which are lexical categories function as the phrasal heads. Functional categories like conjunction (and, but) and prepositions (on, in to, by, beneath) as well as determiners like the, that, some, my can also be heads of their phrases. Even such syntactic elements as questions, qualifiers, tense and negators can perform the function of heading a phrase (Chomsky, 1995).

Locality is another term that is very relevant to economy. It is used to define domains in a given structure. In a review of Chomsky's (1995) work, Luraghi and Parodi (2008: p134) say that in the MP, "all relations between elements should be local...". This is to say that, "movement in the MP considers minimal domain, that is, the extraction site should be near like the landing site" (Carnie, 2007: p355). In other words, movement in the MP prefers short moves to long ones. The perspectives of these researchers are pertinent to the present study.

The Determiner Phrase Hypotheses

Syntactic theory is highly intricate and always evolving. Since the publication of Chomsky's Syntactic Structure (1957) and Aspect of the Theory of Syntax (1965), syntactic theory has been in a steady state of change and development. Chomsky's *Lectures on Government and Binding* (1981) and Minimalist Program (1995) paved way to re-interpreting several syntactic concepts and terms and introducing new ones.

One of the recently introduced concepts is the notion of the determiner phrase contained in Abney's (1987) DP hypothesis. This hypothesis claims that what we traditionally think of as a noun phrase (NP) (e.g. the book) has the determiner as its head not the noun as earlier canvassed by Chomsky and others. In this kind of analysis, the NP is, in fact, a complement of the DP. According to Abney (1987) cited in

Radford (2004), any phrasal category headed by a determiner is a determiner phrase while the item which sub-classifies it, specifies it is its complement. Radford (2009: p, 454) succinctly states that within this hypothesis, 'all definite expressions have the status of DPs-not just nominals like 'the President' which contains an overt determiner, but also proper names like 'John'. Now, within the framework of minimalist syntax, this hypothesis has become the standard for syntactic analysis. Within the minimalist syntax, the DP hypothesis has become the standard for syntactic analysis. In this study, the DP hypothesis is used in the analyses of DPs in two natural languages focusing on the quantifying determiners to find out any possible cross-linguistic application of this hypothesis. The DP is not an alternative but a mandatory hypothesis for a consistent and valid syntactic analysis of the English sentence (Sideeg, 2016). According to Bernstein (2001 p,537), 'the DP hypothesis resolves what was a theoretical inconsistency between the treatment of noun phrase and clauses, that is, according to this approach, nouns like verbs project into a functional category. The head as a syntactic category is the most important element from a grammatical point of view'.

Documentary Linguistics

The term "Language Documentation" can be interpreted as denoting both a process and a result. Language documentation is defined as a lasting, multipurpose record of a language in the sense of a

“comprehensive corpus of primary data which leaves nothing to be desired by later generations wanting to explore whatever aspect of the language they are interested in” (Himmelman 2006). In other words, the result of language documentation as a record is both accessible and likely to be of interest to various potential users – including members of the speech community and their descendants, historians, anthropologists, people involved in education and language planning, and of course linguists with a multiple of different research interests and a variety of theoretical persuasions (Nichols, 1992). In the extreme case, an existing record of the language may form the basis for revitalization efforts even in the absence of fluent first-language speakers.

Documentary linguistics is a sub-discipline of linguistics that aim to provide a comprehensive record of the linguistic practices characteristic of a given speech community. The aim of language documentation is to provide a comprehensive record of the linguistics practice characteristic of a given speech community (Himmelman, 2006). It is a subfield of linguistics which aims at describing the grammar and use of human languages. Language documentation seeks to create as thorough a record as possible of a speech community for both posterity and language revitalization (Wilkins, 1992). The record can be public or private depending on the needs of the community and the purpose of the documentation.

Language documentation provides a firmer foundation for

linguistic analysis in that, it creates a corpus of materials in the language. The materials in quest can range from vocabulary list and grammar rules to children’s books and translated works. These materials can then support claims about the structure of the language and its usage. This should be seen as a basic taxonomic task for linguists identifying the range of languages and the characteristics (Himmelman, 2006).

Language documentation can be beneficial to individuals who would like to teach or learn an endangered language. If a language has limited documentation this also limits how it can be used in a language revitalization context. Teaching with documentation and linguistic field notes can provide more contexts for those teaching the language and can add information they were not aware of (Nichols, 1992).

Documentation can be useful for understanding culture and heritage as well as learning the language. Important components when teaching a language includes: listening, reading, speaking, writing and cultural components. Documentation gives resources to further skills for learning a language. Language documentation and teaching have a relationship because if there are no fluent speakers of a language, documentation can be used as a teaching resource. This theory is relevant for this as its emphasis is on language documentation which is a powerful aid to language teaching.

The English Quantifiers

Quantifiers are determiners that provide information about the

quantity of a noun in a phrase or sentence. Common English quantifiers include all, each, every, some and few (Uzoigwe, 2011). Ndimele (2003), says that they are the determiners used in the sentence to express the quantity such as many, enough, little, much, most, any, some, all, each, every, few, etc, while Radford (1997) refers to determiners of this nature as 'quantifying determiners'(p. 38). The source posits that English quantifiers also include multiples such as half, one-half, two-third, etc. English quantifiers are classified into three namely:

- 1 Universal quantifiers (all, both)
- 2 The distributive quantifiers (each, every)
- 3 The partitive quantifiers (some, any).

As a determiner, each quantifier c-merges with its complement to form a DP as in the following excerpts from the data: all politicians, each house, every house, some houses, few houses, many houses, enough food, most lecturers, little girl, much water, half bag, any person.

Structurally, the determiner phrases appear as follows in tree configurations:

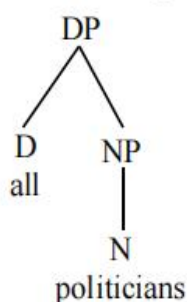


Fig. (i)

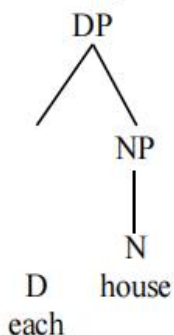


Fig. (ii)

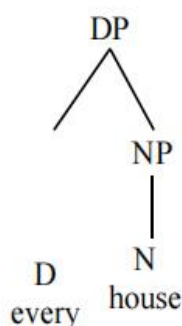


Fig. (iii)

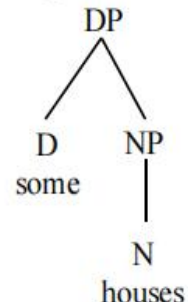


Fig. (iv)

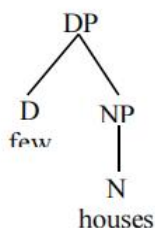


Fig. (v)

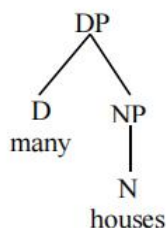


Fig. (vi)

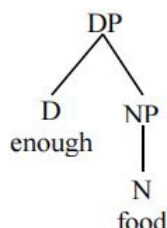


Fig. (vii)

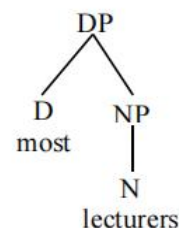


Fig. (viii)

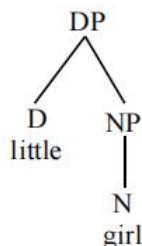


Fig. (ix)

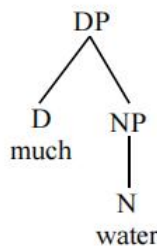


Fig. (x)

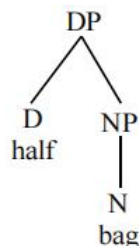


Fig. (xi)

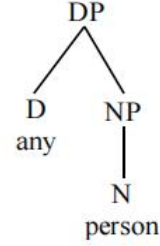


Fig. (xii)

Structures of the English DPs with Quantifiers

In figure (i), 'all' as the head pre-modifies the noun 'politicians', and is used to provide information about the quantity associated with the noun 'politicians' while the plural noun 'politicians' is the complement. In figure (ii), the quantifier 'each' pre-modifies the noun 'house' and is the head of the DP 'each house' while the noun 'house' serves as the complement. In figure (iii), 'every' pre-modifies house as the head of the quantifier phrase 'every house' and is used to signal the quantity associated with the noun 'house' having the noun 'house' as its complement. This means that, the quantifier 'every' is the head while the noun 'house' is the complement of the head. In figures (iv) and (v), the

quantifiers 'some' and 'few' are the heads of the phrases 'some houses' and 'few houses', and are used to demonstrate the quantity associated with the plural noun 'houses' while the noun 'houses' is their respective complements and the heads appear pre-posed. Furthermore, in figure (vi), the quantifying determiner 'many' as the head of the DP 'many houses' pre-modifies the plural noun 'houses' while the plural noun 'houses' complements it, and in figure (vii), the determiner 'enough' plays the role of the head to the DP 'enough food' while the noun 'food' serves as its complement, and the determiner appears in pre-position. In figure (viii), the quantifying determiner 'most' is the head of the DP 'most lecturers', and is used to dramatize

the quantity associated with the plural noun *lecturers*, while the plural noun *'lecturers'* complements it with the determiner occurring head first. In figure (ix), the quantifier *'little'* heads the phrase *'little girl'* having the noun *'girl'* as its complement, and the quantifying determiner appears pre-posed, while in figure (x), the determiner *'much'* is the head of the phrase *'much water'* and is used to signal the quantity associated with the noun *'water'* as its complement, and the determiner appears in pre-position.

In addition, in figure (xi), the quantifier *'half'* serves as the head of the phrase *'half bag'* while the noun *'bag'* plays the role of complement to the head word *'half'*, and the determiner occurs in pre-position. Likewise, in figure (xii), the partitive determiner *'any'* as the head pre-modifies the noun *'person'* and is used to justify the quantity associated with the noun *'person'* having the noun *'person'* as its complement and the head occurs in pre-position. From the analysis, English quantifiers like other English determiners occur in pre-position. In summary, English quantifiers are pre-positioned in their DP system as the heads of the quantifier phrase. Judging from the

minimalist parlance, the quantifying determiners c-merge with their respective complements to derive the DPs with their heads occurring leftward and their complements rightward.

The Izhia Determiner Phrases with Quantifiers

In Izhia, quantifiers are the determiners used to show quantity. Anyanwu (2010), classifies them as Post-N specifiers in Ngwa Igbo. This means that quantifiers in Izhia play the same role like those of English and Ngwa Igbo. Izhia quantifiers include: *lile* (all), *upfodu* (some), *lofu* (all), *igwery igwe* (many) *obule* (every), *naanuu naanuu* (each), *ubvu* (half), *chikiriyi* (little). For instance, in the phrases *unu lile*, (you all), *upfodu umadu/ umadu upfodu* (some people/persons), *igweryigwe umadu/umadu igweryigwe* (many persons), *ubvu ekpa* (half bag), *onye eobule* (every person), *nwata chikiriyi* (little child) etc, the quantifiers *'lile, upfodu' lofu, igwery igwe, obule, naanuu naanuu, ubvu* and *chikiriyi* are used to mark quantity as they describe the quantity associated with the nouns they modify and they form the head of the DPs while the nouns they modify form their respective complements. This is because DP hypothesis states that the determiner is the head of every determiner phrase (DP) (Abney 1987). Below are their analyses in tree configuration.

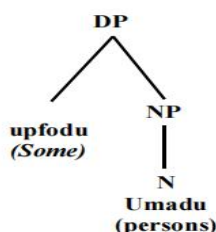


Fig.(i)

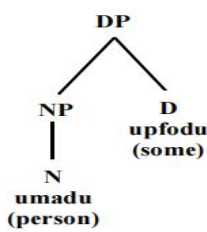


Fig.(ii)

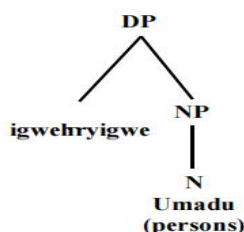


Fig.(iii)

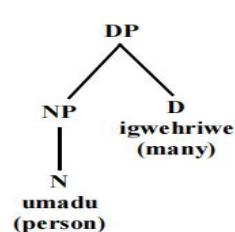


Fig.(iv)

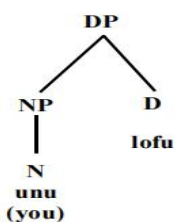


Fig.(v)

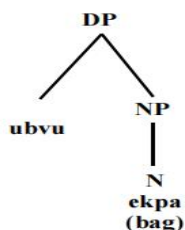


Fig.(vi)

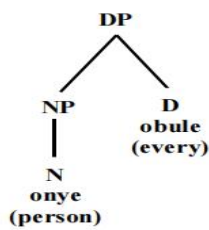


Fig.(vii)

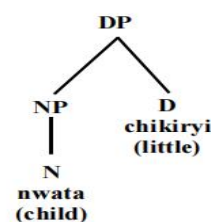


Fig.(viii)

Structures of Igbo DPs with Quantifiers

In figure (i), the quantifying determiner *uphodu* is the head of the

phrase *uphodu umadu* (some persons) and is used to mark the

quantity associated with the noun *umadu* (person) while the noun *umadu* (person) serves as its complement and the head *uphodu* (some) appears in pre-position, but in figure (ii), the same *uphodu* as the head of the DP *umadu uphodu* (some persons) also used to indicate the quantity associated with the noun *umadu* (person), and with the noun *umadu* (person) as its complement

appears in post-position. In fig. (iii), the quantifying determiner *igwehryigwe* (many) is the head of the phrase *igwehryigwe umadu* (many persons) and is used to depict the quantity associated with the noun *umadu* (person), while the noun *umadu* (person) complements it and the head occurs in pre-position, but in fig.(iv), the same determiner *igwehryigwe* (many) as the head of the phrase *umadu igwehryigwe* (many persons), also used to signal the quantity associated with the noun *umadu* (person), with the noun *umadu* as its complement appears after the noun it modifies.

This analysis show that the two quantifiers mentioned above have the language potential to occur in both pre- and post-

position, and such is acceptable and grammatical in the language. In fig.(v), the quantifying determiner *lofu* (all) is the head of the phrase *unu lofu* (you all) and is used to demonstrate the quantity associated with the plural noun *unu* (you), while the noun *unu* (you) plays the role of complementation and the head appears after the noun, and in fig. (vi) the determiner *ubvu* (half) is the head of the DP *ubvu ekpa* (half bag), and is used to augur the quantity associated with the noun *ekpa* (bag), while the noun *ekpa* (bag) is its complement, and the head appears in pre-position. In fig. (vii), the quantifier *obule* (every) is the head of the phrase *onye obule* (every person) and is used to demonstrate the quantity associated with the noun *onye* (person), with the noun *onye* (person) complementing it, while the head appears in head-last position. In fig.(viii), the quantifier *chikiryi* (little) is the head of the DP *ophe chikiryi* (little soup), and is used to portray the quantity associated with the noun *ophe* (soup) while the noun *ophe* (soup) forms its complement and the head appears after the noun it modifies. In fig. (ix), the determiner *lile* (all) plays the role of headship to the phrase *unwoke lile* (all men) and is used to showcase the quantity associated with the plural noun

unwoke (men), while the noun *unwoke* (men) complements it and the head occurs in post-position. Finally, in fig. (x), the determiner *naanunaanu* (each) serves as the head of the phrase *onye naanunaanu* (each person) and is used to depict the quantity associated with the noun *onye* (person), while the noun *onye* (person) complements it and the head appears in post-position. The analysis here shows that Izhia quantifiers and their English counterparts are functionally similar as they are used to mark the quantity associated with the noun they modify. It also indicates that Izhia language has both head-first and head-last structure in its DP system corroborating with Alake's (2023) stand that some Izhia determiners have the language potential to occur in both pre-and post-position. In other words, the C (complement) selection sequence of quantifiers in the language is both rightward and leftward.

Furthermore, the analysis brought to the fore the fact that Izhia quantifiers have both D+N and N+D order and that some quantifiers have the language potential to occur in both pre-and post-position, and such is both grammatical and acceptable in the language.

Comparative Analysis of English and Izhia Determiner Phrases with Quantifiers

Quantifiers are the determiners that provide information about the quantity of a noun in a phrase or sentence (Aleke, 2021). In other words, they are the determiners used to show quantity in English and Izhia. Below are DPs with quantifiers in English and Izhia:

English	Izhia
1) all men, <i>unwoke lile</i> N+D	D+N
2) each house <i>ulo naanunaanu</i> N+D	D+N
3) every house, <i>ulo obule</i> N+D	D+N
4) some houses <i>uphodu ulo</i> D+N	D+N
<i>ulo uphodu</i> N+D	
5) many houses <i>igweryigwe ulo</i> D+N	D+N
<i>ulo igweryigwe</i> N+D	
6) little child <i>Nwata chikiryi</i> N+D	D+N
7) half bag <i>ubvu ekpa</i> D+N	D+N
8) any person <i>Onye obule</i> N+D	D+N

The above phrases justify that quantifiers in both English and Izhia are used to signal the quantity associated with the nouns in a phrase, clause or sentence. For example, in DP (1) *Unwoke lile* in Izhia, and 'all men' in English, the quantifying determiner *lile* (all) as the head is used to augur the quantity associated with the plural noun *unwoke* (men) in the phrase in both languages, while the noun *unwoke* (men) serves as its

complement and the determiner appears in pre-position in English and in post-position in Izhia, depicting functional similarity and structural dissimilarity. In DP (2) *ulo naanunaanu* in Izhia and 'each house' in English, the determiner *naanunaanu* (each) as the head is used to justify the quantity associated with the noun *ulo* (house) which complements the head in the phrase in the two languages and the determiner occurs in head-first position in English and in head-last position in Izhia demonstrating functional similarity and structural dissimilarity. In DP (3) *ulo obule* in Izhia and 'every house' in English, the quantifier *obule* (every) is the head of their respective phrases while the noun *ulo* 'house' serves as its complement and is used to signify the quantity associated with the noun *ulo* (house) and the head appears pre-posed in English and post-posed in Izhia. In DP (4) *uphodu uio* in Izhia and 'some houses' in English, the determiner *uphodu* (some) is the head of the DP in the two languages and is used to dramatize the quantity associated with the plural noun *ulo* (houses) which complements the head and the head occurs in pre-position in both English and Izhia thereby demonstrating D+N structure in both languages. Worthy of note that the Izhia quantifier *uphodu* (some) which occurs in pre-position has the language potential to also occur in post-position as in *ulo uphodu* thereby signifying structural dissimilarity with its English counterpart, and such is grammatical and acceptable in the language. In DP (5) *igweryigwe ulo* in Izhia and 'many

houses' in English, the determiner *igweryigwe* (many) plays the role of headship of the phrase in the two languages with the plural noun *ulo* (houses) complementing it and the head appears pre-posed in both English and Izhia, showcasing structural similarity in the two languages in discourse. It is expedient to know that the Izhia quantifier *igweryigwe* (many) can also occur in post-position as in *ulo igweryigwe* (many houses) thereby demonstrating structural dissimilarity, and such is also grammatical and acceptable in the language. In DP (6) *nwata chikiryi* (little child) in Izhia and 'little child' in English, the quantifying determiner *chikiryi* (little) as the head is used to signify the quantity associated with the noun *nwata* (child) which complements it, and the head appears in head-first position in English and head-last position in Izhia, thereby depicting D+N structure in English and N+D structure in Izhia. In DP (7) *ubvu ekpa* (half bag) in Izhia and 'half bag' in English, the determiner *ubvu* (half) is the head and is used to portray the quantity associated with the noun *ekpa* (bag), while the noun *ekpa* complements it, and the head occurs at the initial position in the two languages under discourse justifying structural similarity in both languages. In DP (8) *onye obule* (any person) in Izhia and 'any person' in English, the quantifying determiner *onye* (person) as the head is used to augur the quantity associated with the noun *onye* (person) in the two languages while the noun *onye* (person) plays the role of complementation, and the head

appears initially in English and lastly in Izhia, demonstrating functional similarity and structural dissimilarity. This is to say that DP with quantifiers in English and Izhia are functionally similar and structurally dissimilar though with the exception of *uphodu* and *igweryigwe* which occurs both in pre- and post-position as well as *ubvu* which occurs only in pre-position. These similarities and dissimilarities in the structural position of the source and target languages have the potential to constitute learning difficulties among Izhia-English bilinguals and can lead to ungrammatical English sentence construction among Izhia users of English.

Summary of Findings and Conclusion

This study has examined syntactically the English and Izhia quantifiers in their DP structures. The paper notes that the quantifiers are words used to demonstrate the quantity associated with a noun or nouns in a phrase, a clause or a sentence. This is in tandem with Uzoigwe's stand that quantifiers are determiners that provide information about the quantity of a noun in a phrase or sentence (2011). The study shows that Izhia quantifiers operate at distributional equivalence with its English counterparts. In addition, quantifiers in both languages are used to denote quantity thereby depicting functional similarity, but structurally the reverse is the case as they occur head-initial in English and head-final in Izhia, though with the exception of *uphodu* and *igweryigwe* which occurs in both pre- and post-position, and



ubvu which occurs only in preposition like its English counterpart. This means that Izhia DP with quantifiers have both D+N and N+D structures while English DP with quantifiers has only D+N structure. These differences have the potential to constitute learning difficulties for Izhia learners of English. Teachers should draw up a course plan to see that these differences are efficiently handled in order to make the learners proficient in both the source and target language.

Finally, the study suggests that further studies of this kind should be carried out on the form of Izhia and English in such areas as semantics and syntax to broaden the horizon on the areas of similarities and dissimilarities in their functions and structure.

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