

BINOMIALS IN ENGLISH AND KENYANG

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ABSTRACT: *In linguistics, a binomial pair or binomial is a word pair or sequence of two words or phrases belonging to the same grammatical category, having some semantic relations and joined by some syntactic device. Different languages and cultures have deferent ways of presenting binomials and this can be a problem to those studying English as a second language. There are two main ways in which this linguistic device is formed: Linguistically and non-linguistically. Both Kenyang and English have binomials and the speakers of Kenyang learning or teaching English as a second language encounter some difficulties using and understanding them. We therefore thought it necessary to describe this linguistic phenomenon by looking at the factors involved in their ordering. These factors differ and range from the syntactic to semantic and to phonological principles. Data for this work was collected from published articles and books and cross checked by specialist of the language. The construction grammar theory was used as the bases for our analysis. The findings revealed that the Kenyang language makes use of binomials and that semantics, syntax, pragmatics, phonology and even paralinguistic factors are involve in the placement of these pairs. The findings equally revealed that, gender bias is one of the criteria use in determining which name comes first in a binomial pair .We concluded our findings on part two of this work that male names are use first and are more stable before female names.*

KEYWORDS: Kenyang, English, binomials, word pair, culture.

INTRODUCTION

According to Mohammad Abdoulahi Guiliani and Tam Kim Tua (1917), People all over the world usually have their special way of thinking and presenting ideas. From one language to another, word may appear in a different order. Words can appear either single or in a pair. Some words most at times go together commonly called collocation. For example, seat and chair. Namvar et al. (2012) believes that Collocation can be classified into two major classes that is, grammatical and lexical. The former usually consist of parts of speech while the later consist of the combination of these parts of speech with content words Biber and Conrad (1919:183) cited in Kashiha and Chan (2014) also say that there are also groups of words called lexical bundles these bundles consist of three words that statistically occur together. More often, lexical bundles include phrases such as “it is necessary that, according to, as far as, etc. These bundles are usually common in non-written discuss, to let the audience predict what is going to happen next. (Biber et al. 2004). Similarly, there are some words that are called reduplications. They may consist of two elements,

one of which is a phonologically altered word containing a repeated syllable or speech sound as in /ʃsu'-tʃu'/ "red" again, there is another group of paired words called Binomials. Binomials refers to the sum of two terms, which are of the same syntactic category being linked with a conjunction. English binomial is a string of words occurring together, intervened by linking words like "and", "by", and "or". One fact about Binomials pair is that it is not possible to reverse the order of the elements of such a pair. According to (Mohammad and Tan 2017) in a binomial pair like "bride and groom" the constituent elements frequently occur together with no swap in position, marking one independent meaningful word as a whole. On the contrary, if the constituent changes place, the meaning of the whole pair will be marked affected. This work is divided into five sections. The first section is the introduction. Section two is centered on the categories and the factors that characterized the ordering of binomial pairs. The third section dwells on the linguistic analysis of binomials in the language and also describes how binomials are formed in the language. Section four on its part is focused on investigating the order of names in the kenyang and to know if male names are placed before female. To do this, we designed 05 questions for interview which we translated into English. This interview was administered to some 15 selected elders of the Kenyang speakers who live in Maroua and master both the culture and the kenyang language. The last section is the conclusion.

Categorical binomials

In this sub-section, we are going to do a description of the categories of binomial pairs that exist in both languages based on their internal structures. It is however important to note that the Kenyang language has five categories out of the seven that exist in the English language.

1-Synonymous pair like

Small and tiny

Mándúneǵípsí

Opposites

Front and back

mbɛɲensem

Similar alteration

Fast and furious

Ayákneɛɛɛtɛɛ

Rhymed elements

See and saw

ɣɔ' nɛ ɣɔ'mbú

Repeated words

On and on

Function words

Such and such

Abbreviations

A and A

A nɛ A

According to (Prenor and Levy 2006) there are many factors involved in the formation of binomials they are: semantic features, frequency constraints, metrical validity and phonological parameters. Other studies like (Malkiel, 1959, Muller, 1997) uncovered certain phonological and semantic principles for the arrangement of the constituents of a pair. Metrical or phonological explanations is attributed by (Bolinger 1962) as a leading factor in the formation of binomials. (Cooper and Ross, 1975:70) believes that binomials follow the criteria of semantic and phonological patterns as “me first and you second» or «A is smaller than B" respectively, over emphasizing the semantics of words. (Fenk-Oczlon 1989) also emphasizes that the frequency rate of the first elements in a binomial was also given prominence in determining which constituent should appear initially. Finally, Hay (2002) found that males were predominantly used as the first elements in a word pair, namely “first- position and phonology. Although there has been much study in the use and formation of binomials in English, it has not been addressed in the context of the Kenyang a Bantu language spoken in the South West Region of Cameroon. It is a tone language and follows the s.v.o structure. This paper seeks to carry out a comparative study on the formation and use of binomials in Kenyang and English and to examine whether they can affect the learning and teaching of English as a second language.

FACTORS THAT DETERMINE THE ORDER OF A BINOMIAL PAIR

This sub-section handles the different viewpoints presented by different linguists on the placements of binomials. Concerning the argument on which element comes first in a binomial pair, there are different points of views expressed by different linguists these views are discussed below.

Size

According to (Mohammad and Tan 2017) the constituents of a binomial pair can be ordered in terms of size. That is to say, the element which is bigger precedes the smaller one. As given by Boors and Lindstronberg (2005) in the phrase “cloak and dagger, the first word is larger and has a domineering role to cover the second item. This can also be realized in bread and butter, and milk and honey as bread covers cheese or butter, and honey is dissolved in milk and becomes part of it. Similarly, events can also speak of priority of appurtenance of elements in a binomial. To illustrate this in English, let's take the phrase “hide and seek“ which follows the logical pattern of occurrence, that is, we first hide, then we search, therefore, the order of the act governs which one should appear first as in “water and sweep”. First, it is necessary to make the place wet and then start sweeping them. This also appears in numeral binomials which come as they are for example “six and seven.”

Markedness

Another factor that determines the arrangement of binomial parts is markedness theory. According to (Mohammad and Tan 2017) this concept has been typically applied to cases where a group of

languages display grammatical property “p”, and smaller groups of languages display not only “p” but “q” is rarer and additional “q” because property “q” is rarer and additional to “p”. It is said to be marked where as “p” is unmarked for example, French and English can both question on direct objects: who did she see? /qui a-telle vu ? but only English can form questions on the objects of prepositions. Who did she speak to? * qui a-telle parle a? Hence, question formation on objects of prepositions would be more “marked” than question formation on direct objects (Johnson & John 1999).

Accordingly, less marked words are more frequent than those that are marked. Mayenthaler 1988 cited in Abdollahi-Guilani, Yasin et (2012) believed that words that donate a permanently less marked concept take an initial position in a word pair. Hence in the binomial pair, hen and rooster, the word hen is unmarked while rooster is marked. To restate this, Mayenthaler(2012) cited in Abdollahi-Guilani Yasin et al (2012) proposed that in being animate is less marked than being inanimate, and singular is marked than plural and so are the relations between right and left, positive and negative, concrete and abstract, front and back, above and below, and finally vertical and horizontal. There are however some cases of exceptions concerning this criterion for example (Mohammad & Tan 2017) argues that, although concrete items are less marked as in physical and metal, and body and soul, there are cases violating this concept. Moved heaven and earth. As most people are right-handed, the word right can be less marked than left, .However, the phrase left, right and center breaks the rule. Again they say that:

- Easily accessible things are usually in front, above, vertical and within vision for example head and tail, above and below, .So they have a lower level of markedness although some exceptions like root and branch may break the role.
- The powerful subjects are often less marked as in cat and mouse; however, this is not cat and dog.

SOCIO- CULTURAL CRITERIA

Finally, cultural and sound social hierarchy can also contribute to how the binomial pairs co-occur for example. If a person has an important role in the society in terms of power, it is more likely that they stand in the binomial pair as it is true for male gender for example boys and girls, men and women. As Junaid, Mohd, Fuad and Novel (2012: 40) puts it “ domination of the people in certain areas make them more powerful in terms of geopolitics” and thus can make them take up high-statues roles. Based on the principles that exist in any society, there are priorities (Malkiel 1959) , believes that one who is stronger, precedes the weaker one on a binomial pair as the dominant gender commands for example son and daughter husband and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Similarly , physical power is more dominant as in mother and child. Also positions in governments like prince and pauper, or in wealth, like rich and poor. And finally the noun which is animating precedes one which is not animate like horse and carriage. In all of these power is the main factor and it is determined and established differently by different cultures and values.

Likewise (Cooper & Ross 1975) talk of Complementary pair and state that what is more complementary in the society is the first element in a binomial pair. eg salt, eating and gold enjoy

higher importance than pepper, drinking and silver, therefore there is salt and pepper, eating and drinking, and gold and silver. There are other factors such as:

OTHER CRITERIA

Dominance can be seen in the color black in that when mixed it affects other colors, so it earns a high binomial status.

A- Alphabetic order is another reason for the ordering of the elements of a binomial pair as “b” proceeds “w” in the phrase “black and white”

B- The precedence of one word to the other can be uttered to the physical strength used for pronunciation. Vowel length and the number of syllable in each word, can determine which word can go first. These words that requires less energy or take a lesser time for utterance usually appear earlier in this pair (Pinker & Birdsong 1979).

C- Phonologically, there are fewer syllables in men’s names. In addition, their names are more likely starts and ends with consonants especially obstruent, harder sounding once. (Hegarty et al, 2011) In one study on the prevalent of popular names, females names on popular names, female names were found to contain 2,4 syllables on average whereas this figure 2.1 syllable on average for men’s names. Furthermore just 4.4% of the names for women were monosyllabic while 18% of the names for men were monosyllabic (Oakeshott-Taylor 1984). It should be noted that this criteria is not respected in the culture of the speakers of the Kenyang language because they don’t have particular names reserve only for men. This will be discussed in detail in the section two of this work.

a- In this regard, Cooper & Ross (1975) puts and forward the following criteria

1-Single –syllable words precedes multi-syllable ones: salt and pepper

2- Words with short vowels qualities appear earlier in the pair for example hands and feet.

3- Words that start with consonants clauses are second in the pair for example fair and square

4- Words that have more final consonants stand before those with fewer consonants at the end for example betwixt and between

5-Initial sonorant consonants help words proceeds over those words that start with initial obstruent

6- Words that have closed and front vowels stand first in the binomial pair example flip –flap

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF BINOMIALS IN KENYANG

This section of the work describes the placements of binomials in the language, taking into consideration the characteristics discussed above. First, the ordering or placement of binomials can be done in terms of size. This means that the element which is bigger precedes the smaller one and that the smaller one is inclusive in the other. Kenyang has such inclusive features as in /ɛkwánenyá /to mean “plantains and meat” or /ɛβá nɛɛrú / which mean “fufu and eru“. In our first example, /ɛkwá / is bigger than / nyá / and it has a domineering feature. Just like the first example / ɛβá / is domineering in the second example. Another example is seen where the Kenyang speakers will likely say /mɪkne βóβí/ meaning “the world and its people”. Here the world contain the people so, it is bigger and should come first. The language also take into consideration logic and priority of appurtenance of elements in the formation of binomial pairs. For example Kenyang follows the order of events as in /twɪjtʃɪkɔ́ámɪk/ meaning “enter and sit down” as one first enters before sitting.

Let's look at another example /sɔt nye/ which means "take and eat" we first take before eating so logically one must take before eating. We have also noticed that the language in question also take into consideration markness when dealing with binomials for example /ngɔɾɛnɛmbákánɛm / the word /ngɔɾɛ/ "bride" is unmarked and /mbákéákáɛm / "groom" is marked.

Culture, social hierarchy, gender, and pronunciation also contribute to the way binomial pairs co-occur in the language. Talking about social hierarchy, the Kenyang speakers will normally say /mfɔmgbɛɛ βɔmgbɛ/ meaning the ekpe chief and the ekpe boys. In the Kenyang culture boys can not be placed before chief. It respects social class and hierarchy. To illustrate the gender power priority in Kenyang culture, males eat, rush to encounter danger, stand in front of congregations, pour libations etc. All of these can be related to the fact that males dominate the society and so their names stand first in a binomial pair. Similarly, the color black precedes white in the phrase "black and white" but this is not in any way related to the number of black people on earth. As already explained, the pronunciation of the word white requires more energy than that of black and so white stands second. It is also important to note that, in Kenyang /pyɔɾɛpepep/ that is "black and white". /pepep/ "white" needs more energy to be pronounced. A related issue is the number of syllable in man and woman, were the first name has a single syllable but the second has two. Following the length of the syllable the Kenyang equivalent for man and woman is/ ngɔɾɛ nɛ mbákánɛm/ which means woman and man, regarding the energy consumed for the utterance of the words /mbákánɛm/ which means man is transferred and takes more energy and length. Let us look at the example of boys and girls in the Kenyang language. To say "boys and girls" in the Kenyang language, is /βɛsákáβó nɛ βáɣɔɾɛ/ boys takes more energy to pronounce and has four syllables as compared to girls which has just tree syllables and is easier to pronounced. That is why boys it is placed before girl.

In the same line of thinking, we normally say in Kenyang/ Nfá/ which means "up or heaven" before /mɪk / which is "down or earth". For these words to appear as a binomial pair in the language under study, / Nfá/ comes first probably because they belief that the heaven is above the earth and is acting upon the earth so it should take the first position, Secondly because God, the creator of the universe resides in / Nfá/ heaven . In /mɛnɛ wɔ/ which means "me and you", "me" comes first in the pair because in the culture of the speakers of the language, charity begins at home. This means that one normally starts with himself before moving to other persons. The culture of the people states that, "me" should be placed before "you", any violation of this order will mean a distortion of the intended meaning of the message. Looking at the pair/ awɔ' nɛɛkák/ meaning "hand and leg" "hand" takes the first in terms of placement because logically the "hand" comes before the "leg" as far as the logical order of the parts of the human body is concern. This does not in any way mean that the "hand" is more important than the "leg" because they are complementary. In the pair /ɪkánɛbáyá/ which is "salt and paper", salt is first because it is more important and gives more taste to food than paper. The Kenyang speakers and even Africans in general believe that salt is a treasure because one can eat food without pepper but difficult to eat without salt. When people even eat without salt, they prefer to use Maggi, which still contain salt. So although all of them are ingredients, one is more important than the order. To continue, we have /Ntínɛɛmɪ/ which means "head and neck ", the head comes before the neck as parts of the body but neck carries the head . This is to say that they are complementary as far as their functions are concern. To say why one

comes before the order, we consider the fact that the head contains the brain, mouth, and sense organs and is the first upper part of the human body. Logical it should be placed first. The next pair we are going to discuss is /nɔ̃nɛ mɔ̃/ meaning mother and child. Here, mother is placed first because she is the one that carries the child for nine months. She is the protector, disciplinarian friend and one who must sacrifice her wants to satisfy those of her children. She is one who wants her child to grow up, to be healthy, happy, and successful. A mother accepts her child for who he or she is, and forgives her child for their mistakes, big or small. Another pair is /nɛnyɛnɛnyú/ meaning "eating and drinking". Eating comes first because in life people are advice to eat before they drink. Moreover, when we say somebody is eating, it means the two actions are going on. One is in the other. Finally we have /Aɲwá nɛ mbwɛp/ meaning "cat and rat". In The culture of the speakers of the language, cat is considered first because physically the cat is bigger than the rat. Second the cat is more powerful than the rat and last because the cat eats rats but rats do not eat cats. The binomials discussed above are summarized in table below.

Table below shows binomials that exist both in Kenyang and English

Table 1: some binomials in the Kenyang Language

KENYANG	ENGLISH
Nfánɛmɪk	Up and down
mɛnɛ ɔ̃	You and me
awɔ̃' nɛkák	Hand and leg
ɲkákɛnbáyá	Salt and pepper
ɛβú nɛɛrú	Fufu
Nfánɛmɪk	Heaven and earth/ up and down
Ntínɛɛmɪy	Head and neck
ɛkwánɛnyá	Plantain and meat
nɔ̃nɛ m ɔ̃	Mother and child
Mɔ̃kɛ n ɔ̃	Mother or child
nɛnyɛnɛnyú	Eating and drinking
Aɲwánɛmbwɛp	Cat and rat

Besides the binomial pairs discussed above, we also have another type called irreversible binomial pairs that exist in the language. In linguistics and stylistics, an irreversible binomial, also known as frozen or non-reversible word pair is a pair or group of words used together in fixed order as an idiomatic expression or collocation. The words belong to the same parts of speech, have some semantic relationship and are usually connected by the used of "and" or "or". Many irreversible binomials are catchy due to alliteration or rhyming and may have catch phrases. Let us look at some examples in the Kenyang language. A Kenyang speaker who instead of saying/ nyɔ̃ p nɛ βítí/ for day and night, says / βítínyɔ̃ p/ meaning "night and day" will only be sending the message that he does not master the language well. Semantically the day symbolises brightness and everything that is good while night is known to symbolise evil and that is the more reason the speakers of this language places day before night. Again, we have/ mbɛ̀ɲn`ɛnsɛ`m / which means "front and back", if anybody says / nɛ̀mn`ɛmbɛ̀ɲ/, it will not only be incorrect but the

interpretation of what we intend to say will be different. Some of these irreversible binomials are presented table below.

Table of irreversible binomials

KENYANG	ENGLISH
mbɪ`ɣn`ense`m	Through and fro
ŋkɔknɛnɛtʃɪ	The hen and the egg
nyɔ`p nɛ`βítí	Day and night
ekɔŋnɛmpáp	Love and hate
nɛyɪ` nɛnɛpɛ`m	Life and dead
Ntínɛ` nɛkɪ`	Head and shoulder
Mfajɛmɪ`k	Up and down/heaven and earth
esɔ`p nɛmanyɛp	Soap and water
ě nɛ ê	Yes and no

Finally, there are however some binomial pairs that do not exist in the language. It is not possible to have a word like "peace and «quiet" with separate labels in the language. The word "peace in Kenyang is /gbák/ and it is the same word used for the word "quiet" so we cannot say "peace and peace" to mean "peace and quiet". The same applies to "short and sweet, neat and tidy, Down and out, wear and tear , " just to name a few. These pairs exist in the language as individual words but cannot be used as a binomial pair. The section that follows is going to investigate whether the language in question has a particular preference in the ordering of names in the language.

BINOMIALS AND THE ORDER OF NAMES IN KENYANG

From the interview and discussions we discovered that, the Kenyang culture do not differentiate male names from female names. They explained that this is not because they lack names but that it is part of their culture to respect the members of their families that have passed away by naming their children after them. So this is sometimes done to show love for their family or their lost once. In doing so, the names were associated without respecting if the bearers of the names are male of a female. For example the name Besong is given to both male and female.

Concerning their opinions on which name comes first, the men explained that in their culture it is a man that gets marry to a woman and again it is still the man that takes the woman to live under his roof, he (the man) guarantees her security and provide for her so it is his name (the man) that comes first. They also added that the kenyang speakers also believe in the process of tagging of names. They join two names together at times to please the woman but the name pertaining to the woman comes at the second position. For example the name Enownchong is a combination of Enow and Nchang. Enow belongs to the man that is the husband and Nchong belongs to the wife. The two names are put together to form a family name and to make the wife belief that she is also part of the family but it must take the second position. The women on their part think that it is but normal that the name of the man comes first in a couple because they are Africans and must respect their culture. From this one can say that even the Kenyang woman like other African women are bias against their gender. They accept to be dominated even at the level of association.

Talking about some names being attributed only to boys or girls, they all agreed that there were no special names associated to only boys or girls as far as their language is concern. For them, the difference is only felt at the level of the duties they handle at home. For preference, Fathers for example will prefer their boy children while mothers will prefer their girl children. According to them, male parents belief that their female children will one day get marry and make another family with a different man while the boy child stays within the family to continue the family line. The women on their part said that in using the children at home they easily call the once whose names are very easy to pronounce and at times they follow alphabetical order. Finally we wanted to know the position of women vis-à-vis the fact that they are placed in the second position when associating names to their children. They said they are very comfortable with the situation and they see no problem with that because they are followers of their culture. They even added that in a couple, the name of the first child is given by the husband and that in a situation where there are five children in a marriage home, the husband names three while the wife names two to confirm the fact that in their culture husbands has more right than the woman as far as associating names to children is concern.

To sum up we have shown that male names are placed before female names and that phonology alone is not responsible for the tendency to place male names before female names. When the two names are equal, an independent bias still exist. Generally speakers of the language prefer male names before female names. Besides we also find cultural aspects coming into play when names are concern according to the culture loving people of manyu where the Kenyang language is spoken.

THE PEDAGOGIC IMPLICATION OF USING BINOMIALS IN THE KENYANG LANGUAGE

The pedagogic implications that can be derived from this research study is that is it necessary to make both the learner and teachers of English as a foreign or second language and the learning and teaching of Kenyang aware of the fact that language learning or teaching is not just about grammar and vocabulary, they should also take into consideration what frames native speakers use to place their messages in. Thus, language learners are advised to take care of the concept of binomials as one important component of vocabulary learning so that they can sound more natural when writing, speaking and even translating from one language into another

The author believes that the findings of this research can benefit both second or foreign language teachers and learners and teachers of the Kenyang language as well. On the one hand the teachers can direct Kenyang speakers that are studying English as a second or foreign language to pay attention on some pragmatic use of language. And on the other hand; the learners can be motivated to notice languages that are deferent not only in grammar and vocabulary but also in language use. In addition course designers can allocate some parts of languages textbooks to binomials and similar issues such as collocations so that the materials that students encounter will sound more natural and native alike. Above all, this study can give ideas to lexicostatistics to include word

pairs in dictionaries so that language learners will not see just single words but junks and phrases as they are learned and retained more easily.

CONCLUSION

From our discussion of the types of binomial pairs that exist in the language, and following the research question, it can be concluded that there is no single criteria that can take accountability for the ordering of binomials constituents in the language. Phonology, semantics, pragmatics, autography, size and even paralinguistic are involved in the construction of binomials in the language under study. This is mainly confirmed by the interview and discussion which showed that several principles are applied in the process. Frequency seems to play a key role in the ordering of names. In binomial pairs, on the basis of the kind of constituents parts in the pair there are direct reasons. Gender bias cannot be rolled out in determining which elements should follow next. Another parameter is how frequent is a certain word .Certain words are used more often .As male names tend to be more stable and consistent .Over time, there are frequently used ,hence leads to male names being placed before female names. Phonology, culture geographical locations, personal believes and many more factors are involves in the formation of binomials .Finally the nature of language may not work universally alike in all situations. Some principles may fail in certain cultures. However, it can be recapitulated that not only do Kenyang and English follow the features of their own language system, but they also share some universality in terms of the arrangements of the elements of a binomial pair.

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