JOURNAL OF MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE (JMEL) VOLUME 14, JUNE 2021.
ISSN: 978-978-48450-4-5

THE MORPHO-SYNTATIC STRUCTURES OF GERMAN AND YORÙBÁ COMPLEX VERBS: PARALLELS AND CONTRASTS

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Abstract
The morpho-syntactic analysis of complex verbs structures in German and Yorùbá languages are the focal points of this article. Hence, German complex verbs found in Gunter Grass's Blechttromel and Yorùbá complex verbs found in Fagunwa's Igbó Olódùmarè literary texts were the databases for this study. Secondly, the study identified the morpho-syntactic structures of the identified complex verbs in the two languages, thereby categorising them with a view to pragmatically synthesising, comparing and contrasting their contextual usage in the corpus. Furthermore, the theoretical framework adopted for this study is the Contrastive Analysis Theory of Robert Lado. The result shows that some of the complex verbs in both languages comprised of two or more constituents; while those with more than two constituents are in the minority. As a result of the composite nature of the verb-forms in the languages, coupled with other identified idiosincracies, remarkable features of distinction noticeably distinguish the morphology and pragmatics of verb- forms in the two languages, especially when prepositional or nominal items are concatenated with verb-forms. Conclusively therefore, it is opined that these factors are substantial and capable of instantiating areas of learning difficulties for Yorùbá learners of German and German learners of Yorùbá languages pedagogically.
Keywords: Yorùbá complex verbs, German complex verbs, composite words, decomposition, derivation.

1. Introduction

Although German and Yorùbá languages belong to two different world language groups, there exists a number of individuals who are faced with the challenge of having to combine the knowledge of the two languages either as bilingual individuals or for heuristic reasons in this modern world. In any of such circumstances, confusion emanating from the composition and the inalienability of the constituents of complex verb formation can hardly be ignored. This is particularly so when it comes to abstracting the lexical status in order to ascertain the semantic value of complex verbs in either of the two languages. It is also found that there are a number of instances where verb forms in the two languages typically contain more than one morpheme within a verb- constituent, thereby making the notion of wordhood of a verb in the two languages to be quite intriguing. Thus, plethora of studies abound in the two languages where scholars have independently ventured to expound the status and

the morphological structures of words, as opposed to syntactic structures, in the contexts of their syntactic and pragmatic configurations. Adewole (2000:148) for example, proposes that syntactic categories are defined according to whether they analyze complete or incomplete expressions, while the domain of verbal process is determined by the instantiation of the feature [LEXICAL]. For words like a verb, however, lexicality is fixed and defines the domain of lexical rather than syntactic processes. In other words, words in morphology is taken as primitive and defined as X [+LEX] which means a lexical category that is neither a stem nor an affix. In Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar (GPSG) analyses which he uses, it is understood that, a lexical category is neither a stem nor an affix. The lexical features appear with their own lexical entries, which means that they do appear through the operation of the word formation rules. Verb forms are lexical categories and they are defined parallel to syntax with the use of two single value feature denoting [+word] (i.e. non-stem and non-affix). The lexical features instantiated above connotes that they can appear through the operation of the word formation rules.

Further highlights on word given by Miller, cited in Sproat (1994:361), describes complex verbs as verbs that have undergone derivational processes in order to modify the forms, augment the meanings and spur the structures of arguments of the base- verbs. In addition, Mathew in Ogunwale (2005:318), Fabusuyi and Ogunwale (2015:79), in another independent study, expatiate what could be taken as a morphologically complex word in Yorùbá. It is opined in the studies that a root cannot be broken into smaller grammatical units but word-forms could be derived by the addition of other morpheme(s) and affix (es). The descriptions of Miller and Mathew observably point to the fact that a complex verb is formed by the addition of other morphological constituents which could either be free or be bound to a verb. Such a co- constituent may or may not share the same lexical category with the (root) verb. The attempt of the present study, however, is to provoke further discussions by highlighting the constituents in verb–forms in the area of contrastive linguistics drawing corpus from German and Yorùbá languages.

Complex verbs in both German and Yorùbá, as the name implies, are not without complexities for linguists to decompose because their internal constituents in both languages are enigmatic and problematic. As a result, it is observed that the morpho-syntatic behaviours of the word-forms in the two languages call for a systematic account and delineation.. The focus of this study therefore would be a detailed identification of morpho-syntactic structures of complex verbs in German and Yorùbá languages, categorisation of the identified complex verbs and highlighting the parallels and contrasts

of complex verbs contextual usage in both languages in the corpus with a view to assisting the bilingual students working on the two languages.

2. Complex Verbs in German

Steinbach et al (2007:59) categorised German complex verb formation into four: Prefixed verbs (Präfixverben: *zerfallen*), particle-prefixed verb (Partikelpräfixverben: *umfahren*), particle verbs (Partikelverben: *umfahren*) and double-particle (Doppelpartikelverben: *hineinlaufen*). However, only particle and prefixed verbs appear to be the most recurring types of complex verbs. Hence, this study focuses on particle verbs and prefixed verbs.

2.1. Particle verbs

Dehe in his study attests to the German particle verbs as:

> […] also: phrasal verbs, separable (complex) verbs, verb-particle combinations) are combinations of verbs and preposition like elements. (Dehe, 2015: 613)

Particle verbs are a type of complex verbs which can broadly be subdivided into two constituents either morphologically or syntactically. Müller (2002:51) opines that particle verbs are complex verbs with morphological and syntactical first constituent.

In syntax, the first constituent of particle verbs is referred to as verb ancillary (Verbzusatz). Lüdeling (2001) as cited by Willeke (2006:36) highlights three positions of particle verbs in German which include:

- They are separable complex verbs with pre-verb, these pre-verbs like spazieren (to stroll) in *spazierengehen* (to walk) *belong* to arbitrary syntactic category.
- Particles of the Particle verbs are mostly intransitive prepositions that require both syntactic analysis and also morphological analysis.
- The third group of particles include those that are formed with adverbs, adjectives and/or prepositions e.g. ab, auf, nach, unter, wider, fest, frei., amongst others.

Examples of particle verbs in German include: *einsammeln* (to collect), *einkehren* (to come), *freikaufen* (to ransom), *nachziehen* (to trail, to follow), *mitspielen* (to play with).

2.2. Prefixed verbs in German

Generally, prefixes are bound morphemes that are placed at the left side of the (root) verb. German verbs are monosyllabic with abstract meaning. Prefixed verbs under explicit derivation are described

as complex verbs with inseparable derivational prefixes. Prefix verbs are referred to in German grammar books as pure prefixes (echten Präfixen), verbal-prefixe derivative (verbale Präfixderivate). These groups of complex verbs are neither morphologically nor syntactically separable. Verbal prefixes in German are grouped into two; prefix without homonym verb particle such as: be-, ent-, ge-, miss-, ver-, zer- and prefix with homonym verb particle such as durch-, hinter-, über-, um-, unter-, wider (Wermke et al. 2009: 696)

Particle verbs are differenciated from prefix verbs in that prefix verbs cannot be separated when the verb appear at initial position of a sentence, and the stress of the particle verb is on the particle, i.e prefixed verbs have their stress on the basic verb or the root. Examples of prefix verbs are *bedecken* (to cloak, to cover), *bedürfen* (to require), *begehren* (to desire), e*ntgehen* (to avoid), *erblicken* (to behold).

3. Complex Verbs in Yorùbá

Verbs in Yorùbá are majorly monosyllabic, although there are sizeable number of them that are derived with more than one syllable/morpheme. Ogunwale (2007:79) identifies the Yorùbá prefixes as ≠ heads of their respective tokens. Head words in Yorùbá are analoguous of head in syntax where the head words are capable of changing the categorial status of lexical words in the grammar of the language. can be cited as example in this regard:

(1)	prefix	+	verb	noun
	a	+	bọ̀ (arrive) v	àbọ̀ (arrival)
	ọ	+	gbọ́n (to be wise)	ọgbọ́n(wisdom)

Observably, it is found that it is the prefix /o/ that changes the verb form from a verb to a noun. Yorùbá verbs, according to Awoyale in Ògúnwálé (2005:319), are therefore canonically monosyllabic roots with regards to complex verb formation. Asiwaju (1967: 32) also points out that Yorùbá verbs have verbal combinations which can be likened to the German verbal compositon as found in:

(2) *Toju- sorgen, yawo- Geld borgen, kawe-lesen, logbe- abholen.*

Verb	+	noun	verb
tọ (raise/paint)		oju	tọju
ya (tear)		owo (Geld)	yawo (Geld borgen)
ka (count)		iwe (book)	kawe (lesen)
lo (go)		igbe (abode)	logbe (abholen)

The structure of Yorùbá complex verbs are usually difficult to determine for a non linguist because of the unpredictability associated with the categorization of verbs in the language. At least for two major reasons: (i) Homonymic conflicts as a result of a word encapsulating more than a single meaning .Words do swoop meanings and meanings do swoop words such that each of them could entail overlapping values. (ii) The issue of word bundary erasure may make the exact deleted phoneme to be difficult to discern, especially when the last/final sound segment of the verb (in the first word) is a vowel and the first/initial sound segment in the second word is also a vowel. One finds it difficult to know what and which vowel is deleted from either the verbal or the nominal items following a contraction process.

Confusions therefore arise when it comes to the assignment of a particular meaning to the contracted word. Although there are disambiguation mechanisms in the language that help in such language difficulty (Ogunwale,1997: 99). Such homonymic conflict can be seen in the compkex verbs:

pakú (do it in such a way that it will die)

patì (do it in such a way that it will become abandoned)

kọjú (to face (a certain direction) amongst others)

A more comprehensive work on instances of Yorùbá monosyllabic verbs is contained in Awóbùlúyì (2008: 187) where he classified Yorùbá verbs into thirteen different classes which include amongst others: splitting verbs, complex verbs, echoing verbs and adjectivisable verbs, etc. He posits that a group of Yorùbá complex verbs have idiomatic meanings and as such, have newer entries in the lexicon. Awóbùlúyì (2008:208) noted that there is absence of derivational affix in the formation of complex verbs in Yorùbá unlike what obtains in German language. He mentions that complex verbs are morphologically *formed with a verb and its object*, formed by combining two verbs, formed by combining a verb and a preposition as seen in the example below respectively:

(3) (i) Verb + Object: *gbọ́* (hear)+ *afẹ́* (enjoyment) → *gbáfẹ́* (to enjoy).
(ii) Verb + Verb: *yẹ̀* (examine) + *wò* (look)→ *yẹ̀wò* (to consider)
(iii) Verb + Preposition: *bọ́* (fall)+*sí* (in)→ *bọ́sí* (to succeed).

He noted that out of the three processes of deriving a complex verb in Yorùbá, the most productive is the verb and noun process. The Awobuluyi, Ogunwale and Asiwaju observations that have been alluded to above, are almost similar in form and content.

4. Methodology

The data analysed in this study are those German complex verbs selected from Gunter Grass's novel, *Blechtrommel* and the Yorùbá complex verbs garnered from *Igbó Olódùmarè.* The choice of the two texts are neither random nor amorphous, rather they are deliberately chosen in recognition of the fact that the authors are good users of the languages who exploit the language intuitions of the native speakers expressively and independently derive complex verb forms found in those texts.

Gunter Grass was a renowned German novelist, poet and playwright of the 20th century who won the nobel prize in Literature in 1999 due to the historic and political style of his writings. The novel, *Blechttrommel* is the first novel by Gunter Grass published in 1959 in German and has been repeatedly published till date with several translations of into the English language. The novel, due to its peculiarity, has also been adapted into film, radio and theatre. The novel, *Blechtrommel* is full of composite words from the very first word in the text i.e. *zugegeben.* In addition to this, the novel was written in standard German and therefore, reveals the correct syntactic usage of composite words embedded in it. The choice of *Blechtrommel* for such a linguistic study as this is hinged on the credibility of Gunter Grass's writings, his mastery of the German language, and the numerosity of composites words in the voluminous text.

D.O Fagunwa is a renowned Yorùbá literary icon who was able to create a niche for himself in the way he demonstrated unequal amount of literary wizardry against the backdrops of Yorùbá tradition and people`s folktales. The novel, *Igbó Olódùmarè* is one of the five novels authored by Fagunwa in his life time. *Igbó Olódùmarè* was published in 1949, although it has repeatedly been published till date. Fagunwa was not only a pioneer of creative writings in Yorùbá, but he was also adjudged to be a foremost novelist in the language. The novel is replete with composite words involving roots and words formed from the language and its dialect variations, whose meanings cannot be derived by putting together the meanings of their component part.

The present study is not a literary study of a text. As a result, neither the literary content nor the synopses of *Blechtrommel* and *Igbó Olódùmarè* would be develed into. Rather, the focus is on how morphemes were composed, how new words are formed, how existing words yield new meanings. Hence, these newly formed words serve as good materials for morphological exposition.

4.1 Data

The data presented in this section cannot be said to be exhaustive lists of complex verbs in both languages, rather could only be taken as mere representative of complex verbs garnered from the above named literary works. Their grouping is attempted to facilitate easy discussion and analysis.

4.2. Token of German Complex Verbs

Below are the tokens of verbs that are analysed in this study.The rationale for grouping them will become manifest in the discussion.

{1}(a) Prefixed Verbs:	(i)	erschienen
	(ii)	erblicken
	(iii)	versammeln
	(iv)	entdecken
(b) Prefixed Verbs:	(i)	beantragen
	(ii)	beeindrucken
	(iii)	veranlassen

{2} (a) Particle Verbs with prepositional particle	(i)	abraten
	(ii)	aussprechen
	(iii)	auffallen
	(iv)	nachlesen
	(v)	mitbekommen
(b) Particle Verbs with adverbial particle	(i)	hervorziehen
	(ii)	voraussetzten
	(iii)	zusammenlesen
	(iv)	zurücktreiben
(c) Particle Verbs with verbal particle	(i)	kennenlernen
	(ii)	spazierengehen
(d) Particle Verbs with adjective particle	(i)	festhalten
	(ii)	fernbleiben
	(iii)	fortführen
	(iv)	freimachen
(e) Particle Verbs with nominal particle	(i)	handhaben

4.3 Token of Yorùbá Complex Verbs

{3}	(a) Complex verbs with nominal constituent:	(i)	gbàdúrà
		(ii)	borí
		(iii)	gbádùn
		(iv)	gbéyàwó
		(v)	kọrin
		(vi)	rántí
	(b) Complex verbs with verbal constituents	(i)	fàya
		(ii)	pàdé
		(iii)	réjẹ
		(iv)	pajẹ
	(c) Complex verbs with prepoositional constituents	(i)	yẹ́sí
		(ii)	rẹ̀sílẹ̀
		(iii)	bẹ̀rẹ̀sí

4.4. Data Analysis

The above listed data exihibit certain attributes which are germane to the morphological and syntactical analysis of complex verbs in both German and Yorùbá. In this section however, the morpho-syntactic features of each group would be discussed with each having its heading.

5. Decomposition of German Prefix Verbs: Examples from the *Blechtrommel*

All items in one (1a) and (1b) are prefixed verbs. Prefix are monosyllabic bound morphemes joined to a word or verb. Verbal prefixes have abstract meaning as opposed to other monosyllabic morphemes. Prefix verbs are both morphologically and syntactically inseparable. For example, complex verb in (1a) are morphologically and syntactically illustrated below as [6] for convinience:

(4)	Prefix		Verb	
	er	+	scheinen	– to appear
	(-)		(to shine)	
	er	+	blicken	- to behold
	(-)		(to glance)	
	ver	+	sammeln	- to gather
	(-)		(to gather)	

Examples of prefix verbs are illustrated in German sentences (i-iii) below:

(i) *Er wollte mir wie ein von ein Gedanken bewegter Bruno* ***erscheinen***.
He wanted to appear to me as a Bruno moved by thoughts.

(ii) *Wenn sie sich setzte,* ***versammelt*** *sie ihre Röcke um sich*
When she sat down, she gathered her skirt around her.

(iii) Wranka **erblickt** in Tuchel das Licht dieser Welt.
Wranka see the light of this world in tuchel.

All items of verbs in (1b) are repeated as (7) below. These sets of complex verbs are also categorised as prefixed verbs though they have a different morphological constituent from the ones in number (6). As illustrated in (7) below, these class of prefix verbs takes both inseparable prefixes and separable verbal particles, but with the inseparable prefix appearing first.

(5)	Prefix		Particle		Verb	
	be	+	an	+	tragen	- to request/apply
	(-)		(on/at)		(carry)	
	be	+	ein	+	drucken	-to impress
	(-)		(one)		(to print)	
	ver	+	an	+	lassen	- to arrange/induce
	(-)		(on/at)		(to allow)	

Prefix verbs in German are sometimes referred to as inseparable complex verbs. Futhermore, in zu infinitive sentences, *zu-* preceeds the prefixed verbs. Prefix verbs due to their inseparability follow the pattern of simple verbs in their past tense formation. Examples are given in (8 and 9) below:

(6) *Sie versucht ihren Rock um sich zu versammeln*
She tries to gahter her skirt around her. --zu infinitive

(7) *Sie hat ihren Rock um sich versammelt*
She gathered her skirt around herself. --past tense

5.1 Decomposition of German Particle Verbs

All items of complex verbs in (2a)-(2e) are labelled as particle verbs. Particle verbs are morphologically and syntactically separable. The verbal particle of particle verbs are essentially prepositions, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and nouns. While the verb occupies the left sentence bracket, the verbal particle occupies the right sentence bracket in declarative sentences.The position of the particle changes with the sentence type or structure in German sentences.

5.1.1 Particle verbs with prepositional particle

The Complex verbs items in (2a) are repeated here for convinience:

(8)

Prepositional particle		Verb	
ab (from)	+	raten (to advise/guess)	-to discourage/ dissaude
auf (upon/at)	+	fallen (to fall)	- to stand out/notice
aus (from/of)	+	sprechen (to speak)	-to express/pronounce
nach (after)	+	lesen (to read)	- to cross-check

The following (12) are sentences with particle verbs.

(9) (i) *Ich **rate** davon **ab.*** I advised against it.

(ii) *Wir **sprechen** es **aus*** We are pronouncing it.

(iii) *Meinem Großvater **fielen** erst hinter Daischau seine Beschatter **auf***

My grandfather noticed his spy behind the slide show.

(iv) *Der Mann liest sein Antragsformular immer nach.*

The man reads his application form always.

Prepositional verb particles function as the core of verbal lexicon because they freely joined to simple verb inorder to create new verbs. 79.3% of complex verbs examined in the data are made up of prepositional verb particle.

5.1.2 Particle verbs with adverbial particle

(10) The Complex verb items in (2b) are decomposed here

Adverbial particle		Verb	
hervor (out of/from)	+	ziehen (to pull/drag)	- to pull out/remove
voraus (ahead/to the front)	+	setzten (to place/put)	- to require/ demand
zusammen (together)	+	lesen (to read)	-to read together
zurück (back)	+	treiben (to create/do)	- to repel/repluse

Adverbial verb particle are not productive in the formation of complex verbs in German and adverb of place like oben, unter, hinter (above, below, after) do not function as particles of complex verbs. 17% of complex verbs examined in the data are made up of adverbial verb particle.

5.1.3 Particle verbs with verbal particle

(11) Complex verbs in (2c) are decomposed here:

Verb		Verb
kennen	+	lernen - to meet somebody
(to know somebody)		(to learn/study)
spazieren	+	gehen - to stroll/walk
(to stroll)		(to go/ walk)

Particle verbs with verbal particle are considered as product of compostion as against others which are product of derivational processes. They account for 0.2% of the examined verbs for this study.

5.1.4 Particle verb with adjectival paticle

(12) Items in (2d) are decomposeed here:

Adjectiv		Verb	
fest	+	halten	to retain/adhere
(firm/tight)		(to hold/to keep)	
fern	+	bleiben –	to be absent
(far/distant)		(to remain)	
fort	+	führen	to continue
(gone)		(to lead)	
frei	+	machen	to disengage/vacate
(free)		(to do/make)	

Simple adjectives like *fest, fern, weiter* function as verb particle as opposed to complex adjectives like *un, ur* and *miss* which do not function as verb particle. Only 3.6% of complex verbs in this study are made up of adjective verb particle.

5.1.5 Particle verb with nominal particle

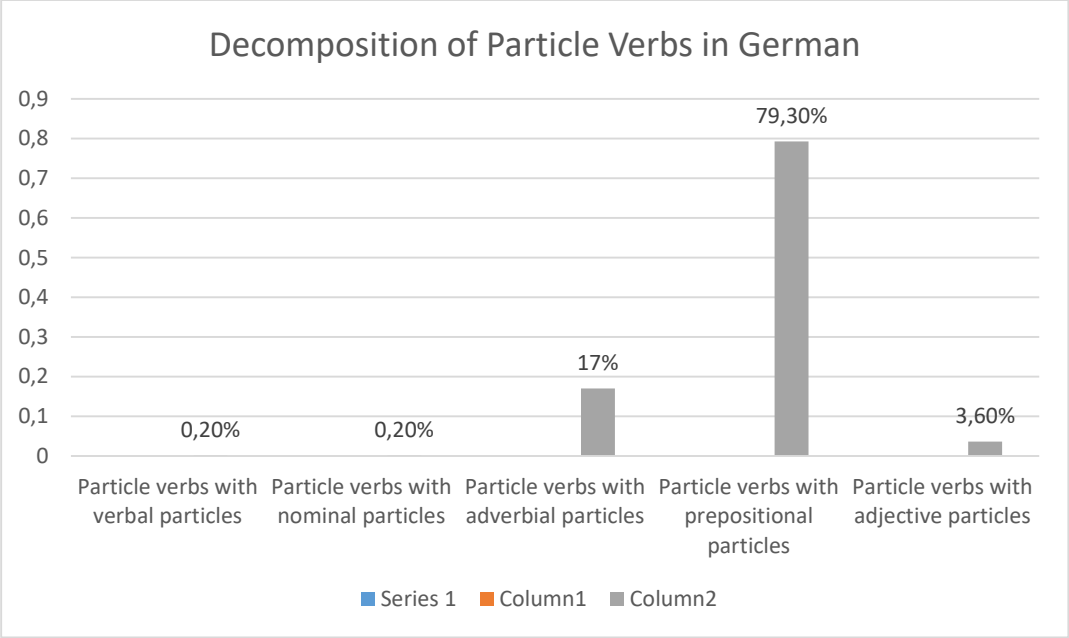
(13)

Noun		Verb
Hand	+	haben - to administer/manage
(Hand)		(to have)

Nominal particles are not productive in complex verb formation in German language though complex verb with nominal constituents can sometimes be derived through other morphological process like conversion. For example, (*Schulmeister/lecturer-schulmeistern/to lecture*), through back formation

(*Schutzimpfung/vaccination- schutzimpfen/ to vaccinate*). Only 0.2% of complex verbs studied have norminal particle.

Finally, in zu-infinitive sentences, particle verbs take a zu in-between the particle and the verb. Examples are: *abtrommeln→abzutrommeln, einschlagen → einzuschlagen, ausfallen→auszufallen.* In addition to this, particle verbs have a *–ge-* added in-between the particle and its verb to form the past tense for example: *abraten → abgeraten, aussprechen→ ausgesprochen, auffallen→ aufgefallen.*



From the above examination of complex verbs in German, prefixed verbs which are synctactically and morphological inseperable constitute a lower number of the database while particle verbs with separable prepositioal particles are more productive due to their numerous occurences in the novel.

6. Decomposition of complex verbs in Yorùbá

Awoyale as cited in Ògúnwálé (2005:319) asserts that verbs in Yorùbá are majorly monosyllabic although there are some simple verbs that have more than one syllable. According to Awobuluyi (2008: 53), complex verbs in Yorùbá are not product of prefixation but product of composition which are most times cases of contractions. The Yorùbá complex verbs identified in this study is discussed below.

6.1 Complex verbs with nominal constituent

(14) Items listed in (3a) are repeated below for decompositon

Verbs		Nouns	
gbà (to receive)	+	adúrà (prayer)	–to pray
gbà (to receive)	+	adùn (sweetness)	-to enjoy
gbé (carry)	+	ìyàwó (bride)	- to marry
kọ (to sing)	+	orin (song)	– to sing
rán (to send)	+	etí (ear)	-to remember

Majority of the complex verbs in this study fall under this category. Nouns are easily combined with simple verbs to form Yorùbá complex verbs. This group of complex verbs make up 66% of the verbs in the data.

6.2 Complex verbs with verbal constituent

(15) Complex verbs items in (3b) are decomposed here.

Verb		Verbs	
fà (to draw)	+	ya (to tear)	– to tear
fà (to draw)	+	yọ (to remove)	- to subtract/ draw out
pa (to kill)	+	dé (to cover)	- to close
rẹ́ (to slice)	+	jẹ (to eat)	-to cheat
pa (to kill)	+	jẹ (to eat)	- to kill animal for food

Complex verbs in Yorùbá are also derived by combining two verbs together. Compex verbs with verbal constituent make up 23% of the verbs studied.

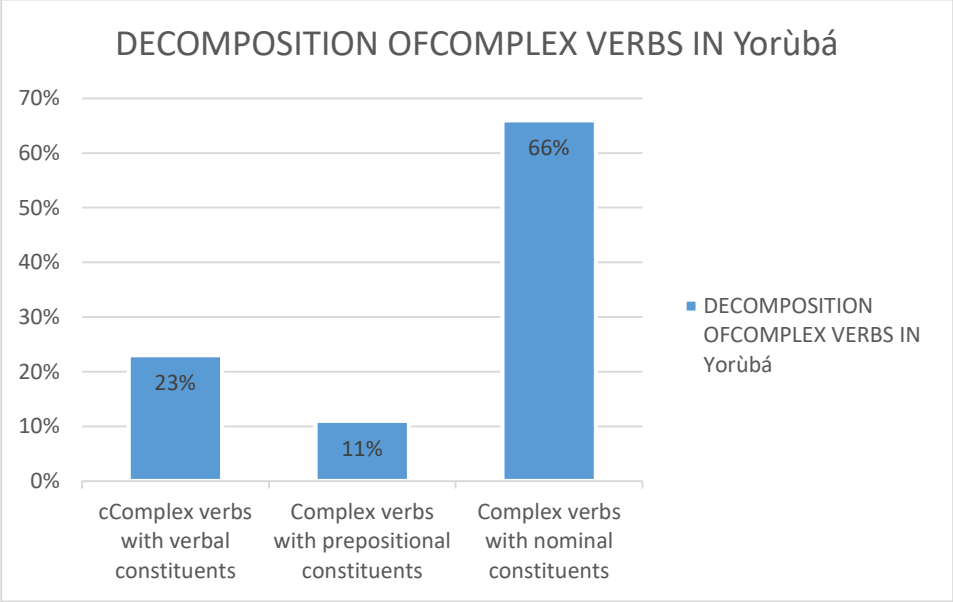
6.3 Complex verbs with prepositional constituents

(16) Complex verbs in (3c) are decomposed here

Verb		*Preposition*
Yẹ́ (honour)	+	sí -*yẹ́sí* ‘to honour/ respect’
rẹ̀ ‘	+	sí + ilê -*rẹ̀sí* ‘to lower/degrade’

(to cast fruits/ to blast')		(to the ground)
bẹ̀rẹ̀	+	sí - to start
(to bend/start)		(-)
dé	+	sí - (to befall
(to come)		(-)

11% of complex verbs in this have prepositional constituents.



Syntactically, Yorùbá complex verbs in this study are divided into three: syntactically inseparable complex verbs, syntactically separable complex verbs and syntactically multi-phased complex verbs i.e verbs whose separability depend on the sentence structure. The examples below illustrate these categorizations. Syntactically inseparable complex verbs include amongst others verbs like, *fẹ́ràn* (to love), *gbàgbé* (to forget), *sọ̀rọ̀* (to speak), *fọhùn (*to speak):

(17) *fẹ́+ràn* *òun àti ìyá mi **fẹ́ràn** ara wọn*
He and my mother love each other.

(18) *gbà+gbé* *Olódùmarè náà kò ní **gbàgbé** òun*
Olódùmarè would not also forget him/her.

(19) *sọ+ọ̀rọ̀* *ó **sọ̀rọ̀** n kò rẹ́rìn-ín*
He/she was speaking but I didn't laugh.

(20) *fọhùn* *Láìjẹ́ pé mo **fohùn** sí i, kò lè wá*
He wouldn't come without me beckoning on him.

(21) *kọrin* *Mò ń kọrin* I am singing.

Syntactically separable complex verbs include the following: *bájà* (to fight with), *bálà* (to continue), *àìlọ́wọ́* (to hinder), *sọlórúkọ* (to name), *wòsàn* (to heal):

(22) *dí+lọ́wọ́*	*n kò fẹ́ kí ènìyàn **dí** mi **lọ́wọ́** rárá*
	I do not want anyone to hinder me at all.
(23) *sọ+ lórúkọ*	*kí wọ́n má ba **sọ** olúwarẹ̀ **lórúkọ***
	So that they do not blacklist one.
(24) *bá+jà*	*ẹni tí ó **bá** Àgbákò **jà** nínú igbó Irúnmọlẹ̀*
	The person that fought with Àgbákò in igbó Irúnmọlẹ̀.
(25) *bá+lọ*	*máa **bá ọ̀rọ̀** rẹ **lọ***
	Continue talking.
(26) *wò +sàn*	*bàbá mi **wo** sòbìyà rẹ̀ **sàn***
	My father healed his Guinea Worm.

Syntactically some complex verbs could be seperable or inseparable depending on the sentence structure, these are refered to as multi-phased verbs and include the following: *bínú* (to be angry), *bàjẹ́* (to spoil/destroy), *rántí* (to remember/be reminded of), *ránsí* (send to):

(27) (i) bínú	*mọ hùwà bí ẹni pé kí ó **bínú** lọ*	(inseparable)
	He was acting as though I should get angry.	
(ii)	***inú bí** mi gidigidi*	(separable)
	I was very angry.	
(28) (i) ránsí	*wọ́n **ránsí** mi láti pa mí*	(inseparable)
	He was sent to kill me.	
(ii)	*Mo ní iṣẹ́ láti **rán sí** àwọn ọmọ aráyé*	(separable)
	I have a message to send you to the inhabitant of the world.	
(29) (i) bàjẹ́	*Àwọn òògùn mi náà **bàjẹ́** pẹ̀lú*	(inseparable)
	My charms were equally destroyed.	
(ii)	*Ó **ba** Àkèrègbè lórúkọ **jẹ́***	(separable)
	He tarnished *Àkèrègbè's* name.	
(30) (i) *fisí*	*Mo **fisí** ara ìkọ̀wé mi*	(inseparable)
	I placed it beside my writing pad.	
(ii)	*Olódùmarè **fi** bọ́tà **sí** búrẹ́dì fún mi*	(separable)
	Olódùmarè buttered my bread.	

Like simple verbs, complex verbs in Yorùbá do not follow a special pattern in their past tense formation. The particle *–ti-* is often written in front of the verb to denote that the event is in the past.

(31) *péjọ (to assemble)* *Àwọn ẹranko àti ẹbọra **ti** péjọ ní ọjọ́ nàà*
The animals and the demons were gathered this particular day.

(32) *gbéwọ̀ (to put on)* *Wọ́n **ti** **gbé** agbára **wọ̀.***
They have been empowered.

From the examined verbs in Yorùbá, it is observed that majority of complex verbs are formed using nominal constituent while prepositional constituent are not productive since there exist only the preposition '*si*' in the language. On the other hand, complex verbs in Yorùbá include syntactically inseparable complex verbs, syntactically separable complex verbs and syntactically multi-phased complex whose seperabilty sometimes depend on the structures of the sentences used.

7. The Morpho-syntactic Roles of Complex Verbs in German and Yorùbá

The morpho-syntactic roles of complex verbs in the study are summarised by highlighting the parallels and contrasts of complex verb in both German and Yorùbá.

7.1 Morpho-syntactic parallels

(i) Simple verbs in both German and Yorùbá function as the base verbs for complex verb formation.
(ii) German seperable complex verbs i.e particle verbs are both morphologically and syntactically separable, this also is the case for separable complex verbs in Yorùbá.
(iii) Majority of complex verbs in both languages could be decomposed into two constituents, while those with three or four constituents are in the minority.
(iv) Nominal and prepositional constituent are added to simple verbs to form complex verbs in both languages.

7.2 Morpho-syntactic Contrast

(i) While German complex verbs are product of derivational word process, complex verbs in Yorùbá are compositional constituents.
(ii) Complex verbs in German are majorly formed by adding prepositional verbal particles while nominal constituents are in the majority with Yorùbá.
(iii) While complex separable verbs in German are syntactically separable, multi-phased complex verbs in Yorùbá are both syntactically separable and inseparable depending on the sentence structures.

(vi) Complex verbs in German form their past tense by addition of a -ge- in between the particle and the verb while complex verbs in Yorùbá only take a *-ti-* before the verb.

(v) While contractions occur between verbs and their constituents in Yorùbá, such cases are absent with complex verbs in German.

8. Conclusion

This study of the parallels and contrast in the morpho-syntactic structures of complex verbs in German and Yorùbá identified complex verbs found in a literary work, *Blechtrommel* of a renowned German, Günter Grass, and *Igbó Olódùmarè*, a Yorùbá classic by D.O Fagunwa. The results of the study show that there are two kinds of German complex verbs: prefixed verbs and particle verbs which are products of derivational process while the Yorùbá complex verbs are compositional constituents. The result shows further that some of the complex verbs in both languages comprised of two or more constituents; while those with more than two constituents are in the minority.

Furthermore, the identified complex verbs of German and Yorùbá were categorised, hence it was discovered that both German (particle verbs) and Yorùbá seperable complex verbs are both morphologically and syntactically separable. Complex verbs wth prepositional verbal particles in German are more productive as against those with nominal, verbal or adjectival verb particles while complex verbs in Yorùbá are most productive with nominal constituents.

The overall inference from the research therefore, is that since no two languages are the same, linguists, translators, interpreters and bilinguals should identify differences and exploit them as areas to be underscored and be emphazised for pedagogical reasons. It is also contented that drawing attention to those areas of differences/similaririties will rightly situate the students to start learning the language concepts from known to unknown in order to ultimately effect desirable learning outcomes.

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