A MORPHO SEMANTIC ANALYSIS ON ONITSHA PERSONAL IGBO NAMES

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Abstract
This study examines Onitsha Personal Names (OPN) from a morpho-semantic perspective. The major objective is to analyse the syntactic and morphological structures of selected OPN. Specifically, the study seeks to identify the morphological processes and internal structural relationships among the morphemes that combine to form these names. A sample of 250 male and female names was used for the analysis. The data were collected from school name lists and from men's and women's religious associations. Oral interviews were also conducted with native speakers to obtain clarifications regarding the meanings of the names. The roots, stems, and affixes of the names were analysed using the descriptive approach, applying relevant word-formation rules. The findings reveal the following: most of the morphological processes involved in the formation of OPN are predominantly clipping, prefixation, and suffixation, occurring in a hierarchical manner such that the meanings of the names are predictable from their structural components; many of the names are derived from clauses through a desententialisation process; the philosophy or deeper meanings behind the names are often lost due to clipping; OPN at the sentential level can function as statements, interrogatives, imperatives, or commands; and the morphological components, in terms of size or structural complexity, can be monomorphemic, dimorphemic, trimorphemic, or polymorphemic. Structurally, the names may be single-stem, compound, or complex
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INTRODUCTION

Language is not merely a system of grammar and vocabulary; it is also a repository of culture, values, and traditions. Ofoegbu (2021) posits that the human language is very unique because it has its own structure and its own system of organizing its component units into meaningful patterns. This simply means that there are rules governing the organization of sentences in a language. Ofoegbu (2012), building on his earlier works, defines language as "the human system of communication. It is a means by which humans alone communicate." He further emphasizes that "language is man and man is language. Ofoegbu and Usar (2018) repeat and expand this definition, stressing that language is not only a system of communication but also a fundamental tool for expressing human experiences. The emphasis here remains on the exclusivity of language to humans and its indispensability in social life. Among the most striking features of natural language is the use of idiomatic expressions. According to Ofoegbu (2024) "language is man and man is language ". Life has no meaning without language. Language is a means of interaction among people of the same community. Ofoegbu and Ishima (2024) reaffirm earlier views, calling language "the human system of communication … man and man is language … man uses language for his everyday interaction."

Names are given in particular languages whose morphology, syntax and semantic inform their meaning to great extent (Batoma, 2017). This implies that understanding personal names hinges on taking a critical look at the internal structures of the word(s) and the syntactic structure that constitute the name besides sociolinguistic, sociocultural, historical and ethno-linguistic domains. The study of personal name is important in understanding the culture, norms, and values, and circumstances behind the birth of individuals. It further foregrounds the place of proper names as a major etiquette of the society and understanding of this is necessary for a peaceful co-existence in the society.

Onomastics is an area that studies names in all aspects. In the most precise terminology; a set of personal names is called anthroponyms and its study is called anthroponymy. Onitsha indigenes attached much importance to names and naming practices. The knowledge about Onitsha names give insight into Onitsha, culture, philosophy, thoughts, environment, religion, language and culture. Many scholars have written on the social, cultural importance of names (see Onukawa, 2016; Agyekum, 2016; Ahamefula et al. 2019; Akinola, 2019) but little attention is given to the morphosyntactic analysis of Onitsha personal names to the best of the researchers' knowledge. A related linguistic structural analysis of personal names is Eze, Aboh and Eze's (2020) research where they explored the linguistic formation patterns of anglcised traditional Yorùbá anthroponyms. Their research focused mainly on phonological features of anglicised Yorùbá personal names. This study therefore seeks to add another dimension to the study of names by using a morphosyntactic approach to analyse Onitsha personal

names, which is a variety of the Standard Igbo language. This study is important because since the philosophy behind some names are lost due to truncation, studying Onitsha personal names (henceforth, OPN) from a morphosyntactic perspective helps to trace back the initial structures of OPN.

Folklores on the origin of Onitsha reveal that Onitsha has a close contact with Igala and Edo through Igweze Chima. This necessitated the borrowing of a list of names from the town. Linguists use the term borrowing and loanword to refer to instances in which one language takes a lexical expression from another language (Haspelmath, 2018). Onitsha is a town in Anambra State, Nigeria.

The objectives of this study are to identify the morphological components of Onitsha personl names and to analyse the syntactic functions and structures of OPN. This is a qualitative study which involves the morphosyntactic analysis of Onitsha personal names. Insights from morphological and syntactic principles are used to interrogate the data. Here, morphological analysis is seen as the syntax of morpheme, and a complex word is seen as a concatenation of morphemes. (Yule,2020). Onomastics has influenced the recovering and reconstruction of many heritages. In the words of Batoma (2017), "a major trend in African studies today consists of using traces of African culture embedded in African names and naming practices to recover or reconstruct Africa heritage". In addition to this, personal names can be grouped with reference to their formation which include those of one word or element and those made up of two elements; compounds. This classification has linguistic underpinning. The type of classification crucial to the study is the one with linguistic orientation.

The study of the rules governing the proper construction of sentences in a language is known as syntax.
Semantics is the study and analysis of meaning and the meaning of a word is the idea a word conveys in the heart or mind of the speaker of hearer.
Meaning is an end product in every instance of language use. Syntax can only perform and function, if there is semantics to checkmate it. The role of syntax is to generate grammatical sentences while it remains the duty of semantics to ascribe meaning to those sentences.

The data for the study were obtained from a list of names in schools, men and women religious associations who are of Onitsha origin. In all, the researchers randomly sampled 250 personal names over a period of four months. After collecting the names, the researchers used inductive and creative synthesis approach to data analysis to categorise and code the personal names under the right morphological and syntactic divisions. The researcher also interacted with the elders, youths of Onitsha indigenes to gather the story that portrays the philosophy behind the names. This was useful because it helped the researcher to get the underlying personal morphological and syntactic structures of the names since they are no more in their original form due to the short forms that are used in this contemporary time. Ofoegbu (2022) defines language is man's most important tool, his most important asset with which he interacts. He further says that man uses language to communicate his individual thoughts, inner feelings and personal psychological experiences. He defines language as a creative and productive phenomenon. That is speakers and writers of a language are at liberty to be creative and flexible in their language.
Ofoegbu (2021) argues further that language is used for effective communication and Chuma-Udeh has communicated her feelings effectively to her audience. This paper focuses on the discourse techniques used by Ngozi Chuma-Udeh in her Chants of Despair, to express her innermost feeling of the sufferings of Nigerians in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Ofoegbu (2022) defines Semantics as the study and analysis of meaning and the meaning of a word is the idea a word conveys in the heart or mind of the speaker of hearer. Ofoegbu (2011) posits that semantics covers such areas like idioms, figurative language, euphemisms and many other aspects of language related to semantics. More recent studies, such as Ofoegbu (2018) on euphemistic expressions in Igbo, show that semantics covers other areas of language associated with meaning. Ofoegbu and Usar (2017), in their Stylistic Analysis of the Language of Politics of General Muhammadu Buhari's Campaign Speech of 2011, demonstrate how Nigerian political discourse is structured around lexical, semantic, and graphological choices that are carefully selected to achieve rhetorical ends.Onukawa (2018) maintains that the core values of a people are better propagated in the native language. He further explains that the Igbo values are seriously threatened and an achievement on its propagation should be made more and better via a very important component of the language, therefore, Igbo should return to the traditional Igbo personal names, and let the names serves as vehicles for the propagation of Igbo core values since the traditional names are very rich in culture content.

In line with the above, Batoma (2017) opines that names are given in particular languages whose morphology, syntax and semantics inform their meaning to a great extent. This implies that understanding names (personal names) hinges on taking a critical look at the internal structure of the word(s) and the syntactic structure that constitute the name besides sociolinguistics, sociocultural, historical and ethno-linguistics domain.

Mbhele (2016) argues that names convey important socio-cultural information, they are analysable into syntactic components such as phrase types and sentence types she studies Sesotho names. According to Anderson (2015), the ideas of morpheme are as follows: Morpheme are homogeneous and indivisible atomic units of linguistic form; each morpheme in a given phonological represented by exactly one morph and each morph represents exactly one morpheme and they are arranged into a structure of immediate constituent, which yields a sort of phrase marker as the analysis of a word structure. In addition, Anderson notes that since the function of derivation is to construct new words of this sort, it follows all derivation must take place prior lexical interpretation. On the other hand, inflectional operation refers to a morphosyntactic representation as well as to a stem, so all genuinely inflectional operation must take place after lexical interpretation. In the word of Halle (2019) word formation Rules (WFRs) are therefore necessary to specify how morphemes are to be arranged.

The paper analyses Onitsha personal names by looking at their morphological and syntactic components. The morphological component deals with the internal structure of the individual morphemes that constitute the names. This helped to identify the word formation processes involved. The syntactic components deal with functional and structural nature of Onitsha personal names at the sentential level. It indicates whether a particular name is functionally a declarative, interrogative or imperative sentence or structurally a simple, compound or complex sentence.

SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF ONITSHA PERSONAL NAME
This section looks at the syntactic structure of some OPN. It looks at OPN and sentential level analysis. The names will be analysed into two broad categories: sentence function and sentence structure.
A. Sentential OPN and Sentence Function
Sentence by function is divided into declaratives, commands and questions (interrogation). The analysis of the data indicates that some OPN can be declaratives, commands, or a question.

TABLE 1
SENTENTIAL OPN WITH INTERROGATIVE FUNCTION

	Formed names	Original names	Gloss
1	*Àkàmụ̀ònyé?*	*Àkàmụ̀ònyémma ?*	*Am I better than others?*
2	*Áfụ̀lụ̀enū?*	*Áfụ̀lụ̀enūányá?*	*Who knows tomorrow?*
3	*Àjụ̀lụ̀?*	*Àjụ̀lụ̀chúkwúajụ̀jụ̀?*	*Was God questioned?*
4	*Ènwèọ́nwụ́?*	*Ònyénwèònwú?*	*Who owns death?*
5	*Ìbụ́zọ̀?*	*Ìbùchúkwúụ́zọ̀?*	*Are you above God?*

The data in Table 1 show that many of the Onitsha Personal Name are in interrogative sentences. The names formed are also rhetorical questions. The formed names in table 1 changed their inherent tone patterns and some segments are clipped to have the short forms. It is observed that some meanings of these names are lost after the formation.

TABLE 2
SENTENTIAL OPN WITH DECLARATIVE FUNCTION

	Formed names	Original names	Gloss
6	*Ùdèmúézùè*	*Ùdèmúézùègó*	*My fame is complete*
7	**Táàgbó**	*Táábùgbóó*	*It is still early*
8	*Ọ́nwụ́ghàlụ́*	*Ọ́nwụ́ghàlụ́ m*	*Death spare me*
9	*Ńkèchí*	*Ńkèchúkwúnyèrè*	*God's gift to me.*
10	*Éńùùmà*	*Éńùùmàíjèm*	*God knows my journey.*

The names in table 2 above are instances of OPN that have declarative structure. Placing the formed and original names side by side, it is observed that the formed names are derived through the process of truncation. In respect to the original names, the names are formed through desententialisation where sentences as observable in the gloss (egs 6-10) are compressed to serve as personal names.

TABLE 3
OPN FORMED ACCORDING TO THEIR PARTS OF SPEECH

	Names	Formed names	Parts of speech	Gloss
11	*Àkụ̀ + ńné*	*Àkụ̀ńnē*	*Noun +Noun*	*Mothers wealth*
12	*Àkụ̀ + ńwátà*	*Àkụ̀ńwátà*	*Noun + Noun*	*Young rich man*
13	*Àkụ̀ + nwááfõr*	*Àkụnwááfõr*	*Noun +Noun*	*Son of the soil*
14	*Òfú + ńné*	*Òfúńnē*	*Nominal + Noun*	*Siblings*
15	*Ònyé+ ọ́má*	*Ònyéọ́má*	*Participle + Adjective*	*Good person*

The above examples show OPN formed with noun + noun and participle + adjective. The lexical class of the realised name is a noun. There are some names formed by compounding. Compounding is the addition of one base to another to form a new word. It is a situation where two words are combined into a morphological unit.

TABLE 4

OPN FORMED BY COMPOUNDING

	Names	Compound names	Parts of speech	Gloss
16	*Chỉnwè + Okwu*	*Chỉnwèokwu*	*Noun + Noun*	*God decides*
17	*Àmàlà+ chukwu*	*Àmàlàchukwu*	*Noun + Noun*	*God's grace*
18	*Òlìsà+ égbòó*	*Òlìsàegbò*	*Noun + Adjective*	*God intervene*
19	*Àjụ̀lụ̀ +chukwu*	*Àjụ̀lụchukwu*	*Adjective + Noun*	*Did you ask God*

The OPN by compounding retain then inherent tones when combined. Semantically, compound words have meanings and at times, their meaning, cannot be inferred from their individual meaning. The names that were formed by compounding retain their inherent tone after combination. The compound names did not affect the inherent tone of the different names combined. The analysis also identified that the compound names are exocentric compounds because they indicate a hyponym of some unexpressed semantic heads (it has no relation with each other). This shows the internal stability of the morphemes in the construction.

OPN formed from participle phrases

*Òménàzụ̀* – Born after the death of his father.
Ókwúézè– Born during the period of kingship.
Òbɪnwè– Belonging to the monarch.
Ónyéọ́má– Good person.

The above subset of data shows de-verbal Onitsha Personal Name showing the internal stability of the morphemes in the construction.

Chomsky and Halle (2018) assume that the internal structure of words is to be labeled, bracketing much like the internal structure of sentence. Morphemes are organized into a hierarchical, systematic, immediate constituent structure.
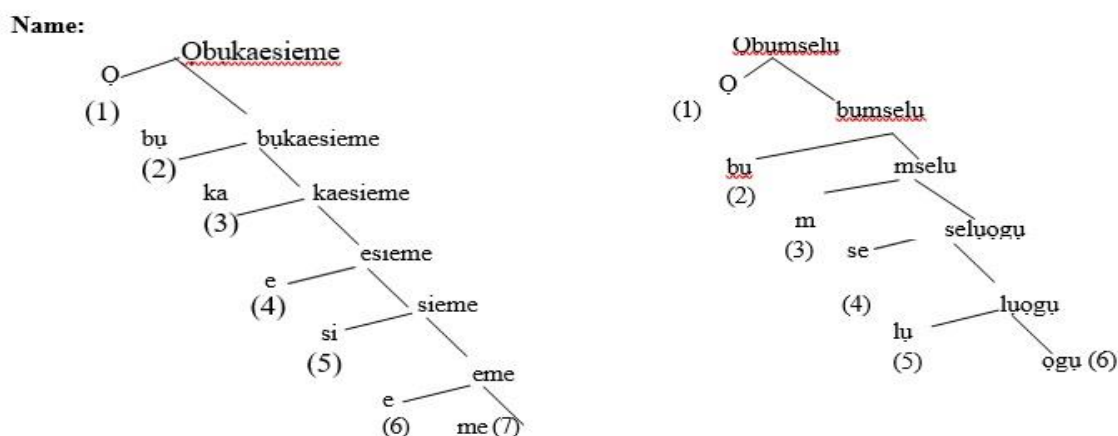
The data indicate that the arrangement of the phonemes and morphemes are fixed and compatible. Since there is a strong interface between morphology and phonology, there are some phonological processes that are involved in the formation of some OPN.

TABLE 5
PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE FORMATION OF SOME OPN

	Name	Phonological processes/type	Output	Gloss
20	Olisa + egboo	Regressive assimilation	Oseegbo	God has intervened
21	Olisa + emeka	Regressive assimilation	Oseemeka	God is great
22	Chibụike	Elision	Chiike	God is my strength
23	Emeeọdị	Regressive assimilation	Émódị¯	You shall reap what you sow

Table 5 shows that there are instances of phonological process in the word formation of OPN. Some of the morphemes undergo some phonological processes: assimilation and elision. Assimilation and possible elision are obtainable during fast speech. In many cases, Igbo people in general and Onitsha indigenes in particular elide some phonemes in names for convenience. The rationale is that it is easier to pronounce abridged version of a name than its complete form.

B.   Morphological Analysis of Onitsha Personal Names

Morphology is the beginning of syntax indeed; all levels of linguistic are interconnected. Morphosyntax links morphology and syntax through morphosyntactic or simply morphological processes. It is through these interfaces that all issues about derivation, extension, and inflation are handled in human communication. This section will treat the morphological analysis of OPN; beginning with the types of morpheme and number of syllable structure of OPN.

TABLE 6 MORPHOLOGICAL ORGANISATION

	Complete name (COPN)	No of morphemes	No of Syllable	Short forms names (SFN)	Gloss
24	*Énúélūáká*	*3*	*6*	*Èlùaka*	*Life is not easy*
25	*Ónyémééọ́ dị̀lị́ ā*	*6*	*8*	*Émódī*	*You will reap whatever you sow*
26	*Mmádụ̀àdị́chié*	*4*	*7*	**Àdíchíé**	*Compensation by god*
27	*Íwéyíràzìán'òfú*	*5*	*8*	*Íwénòfú*	*Mellow down your anger*

1.   Morphological Structure

In terms of Igbo tonology, morphology and syntax, Igbo nouns and verbs and nouns are better more economically classified as simple and complex. Simple nouns are – mono – morphemic, while complex nouns are bi – morphemic, tri-morphemic and multi-mophemic.

Poly-morphemic OPN - Uyanne, Anịonwu, Adaiba , Afuanya, Bio-morphemic OPN - Chịma, Eneanya

Tri-morphemic OPN - Egodigbo, Nwadiogbu, Nwaonyeugbo

Multi - morphemic OPN - Oguejiofor, Okwuegbunam, Onyeachonam Onyeachonam

Mono – morphemic OPN - Udo, Ubili, Agụ, Agha EluIyom Ebo, Offiah, Obi. Monomorphemic are also referred to as single structures and polymorphemic as complex structures.

Generally, according to Onukawa (2016) Igbo personal names are derived from nouns Onitsha, beginning a dialect of Igbo language have their personal names are sentential before the application of morphological, synthactic and phonological rules that gives rise to the short forms. Most of OPN are polymorphemic and segmented. Sentential nominalization in the analysis of the data indicates that there are varieties of morphological components in their internal structure.

2.   The Morphological Rules Applied in Formation of Oonitsha Personal Name

The morphological rules applied in forming OPN are as: clipping, compounding, vowel alteration (internal structure) affixation. In linguistics, clipping is the word formation process that consists in the reduction of a word to one part. The types of clipping in the formation of OPN are as follows:

TABLE 7
OPN THAT ARE FORMED BY FRONT CLIPPING (APHRESIS)

	Full name	Front clipping	Formed names	Gloss
28	*Nwando*	*Ndo*	*Ndo*	*A Calm child*
29	*Ejiroikeeme*	*Ejiro*	*Ikeme*	*You don't survive by struggling*
30	*Chibuike*	*Chi*	*Buike*	*God is great*
31	*Chikamma*	*Chi*	*Kamma*	*God is great*

In this construction, the subject in the sentence that is combined to be a proper name is deleted. The syntactic nature of the names is formed on deletion of the front part segment. The philosophy behind the meaning of the name after the clipping process is partially or completely distorted.

TABLE 8
OPN FORMED BY BACK CLIPPING (APOCOPATION)

	Name	Clipped segments	Short forms	Gloss
32	*Étúkáókwú*	*Ókwú*	*Étúká*	*Stressed argument*
33	*Òbùmsèlùògù*	*Lùògù*	*Òbùmsè*	*Am not the cause of the fight*
34	*Mmásíchúkwú*	*Chúkwú*	**Mmásí**	*Gods whish*
35	*Sópúrúchúkwú*	*Chúkwú*	*Sópúrú*	*Honour God*

The compliment and some subjects in the construction are often deleted by front clipping process. Both of them result in word reduction because a shorter word is derived or made from a longer one. In the formation of OPN names (short forms) clipping is used. Clipping as a morphological process, involves the shortening of polysyllabic words without necessary regard to derivational analogy, the shortening of personal names exemplify clipping as a synchrony one.

TABLE 9
OPN FORMED BY MEDIAL CLIPPING OR (SYNCOPE)

	Name	Clipped segments	Short forms	Gloss
36	*Obi/nwere/ozo*	*Nwere*	*Obiozo*	*Royal palace*
37	*Ani/nwe/onwu*	*New*	*Anionwu*	*All flesh must die*
38	*A/ni/chebe*	*nị*	*Achebe*	*The land will protect m*

TABLE 10
MIXED CLIPPING/COMPLEX

	Name	Deleted segments	Formed names	Gloss
39	*Chukwukadibia/kwu, dibia/*	*Kwu/dibia/kwu, dibia/*	*chuka*	*God is greater*
40	*Chimeeremchi*	*Chi/remchi*	*mmee*	*God did it for me*
41	*Chukwudumaka*	*Chuk/wum*	*duaka*	*God holds me*

3. Desententialisation Process in Forming OPN

The process of desententialisation is a morphological process where the subject, verb, and compliments of a clause are fused resulting in a nominal (Onukawa 2016).

TABLE 11
DESENTENTIALISATION PROCESS IN FORMING OPN (S+V+C)

	Subject	Verb	Compliment	Fused names	Word order
42	*Azi*	*Ka*	*Iwe*	*Azikiwe*	SVO
43	*Mba*	*Na*	*Efo*	*Mbanefo*	SVO
44	*Ofor*	*Di*	*Ile*	*Ofordile*	SVO
45	*Okwu*	*dị*	*Nka*	*okwudịnka*	SVO
46	*Nwa*	*Ka*	*Ego*	*Nwakaego*	SVO
47	*Azu*	*bụ*	*Ogu*	*Azubuogu*	SVO
48	*Nwa*	*dị*	*ọgwa*	*Nwadiọgwa*	SVO

C. General Analysis of the Formation of Onitsha Personal Name

Declaratives
i.   full OPN   Formed OPN (FOPN)   Gloss
Òlìsàjìńdụ̀   Ọsájì   (SVO)   God is in charge of my life
N   V N
Ólɨ̀sà– jì-ńdù   →   3morphemes o-li –sa-ji-n – du →   5syllables
Here, there is one-word morpheme, the deletion of 'li', clipping of 'ndụ' and a change in tone.
ii.   Bèlúsò Òlɨ̀à   Bòósà– Bŏsa Only God knows Adv   N
belụsọ -   Olisa→   2morphemes be-lụ-sọ-o-li-sa →   6syllables
The production involves deletion and we have a gliding tone after the deletion.
iii.   Énwèlụ̀múzò   -Énwēzò   (SVO)   Do I have another one
V pro N
e-nwe-lụ-ụzọ   →   4 morphemes
e-nwe-lụ-ụ-zọ   →   5syllables
In 'enwelu', we have 3 morphemes with 'nwe' as the root, 'e', as the participle maker and 'lụ' as past tense marker, hierarchically arranged. In 'Enwezọ' we have changed in tone involving deletion of 'lụ' and 'ụ'

Commands   Formed OPN   Gloss
iv. Ùméɓɨ̀élúm   Ùmébèé   Death cease N V pro
ume-be-e-lụ-m   →   5morphemes
u-me-be-e-lụ-m   →   6syllables
The production of 'Umebee' involves the deletion of 'lụ' and 'm' and the words that formed. It also retains its inherent tones.
v.   Ábādōzìnālū   m –   Àbádóm   Stop scolding me.
V   pro
A – bado - zi - na - lụ - m   →   6morphemes A – ba – do - zị - na - lụ - m   →   7syllables
The formation of 'Abadom', it involves the deletion of "zinalụ' and change in tone. The morphemes in

'abadozịnalụ' are six and they are hierarchically arranged.

OPN in a complex sentence structure.

vi.   Ọdị´rọ¯ mmātáàọ`dị´échi   Ọdị´tà   Bad times will turn good tomorrow Pro V neg adj   adv pro v adv

ọ - di - rọ - mma – taata - ọ - dị - echi   → 8morphemes

ọ - di - rọ - m – ma – ta – a – ta - ọ - di – e – chi   → 12syllables

'Ọdịta' is formed by the deletion/elision of morphemes 'rọ, mma, ọ, dị and echi and the clipping of 'taa' and it involves change in tone. The verb 'dịrọ', 'ro' is a negative marker. The new formed name lost some important information about the name from the deleted segments.

OPN in the form of simple sentences   GLOSS

vii. Ázị`kà/ ka   n̄wé   Youths are easily enraged.

            N   V(couplar) N

                viii. Ọfọ´dị´   n̄e

                Equity is justice N V(copular)

                                    N

ix. Ńwádị`   ọ´gwá   It is good to have

                different sex N   V(copular)   Adj

Complex Sentence   Gloss

x. [Ọ bụrụnaụwaekwe, m ga-adị],   ndụ   I will survive despite tribulation

                    mma   paragmatic relationship

The name contains two verbs; hence, it is a complex relationship structure and can take various complements which are in a paradigmatic relationship. The parenthesised sentence is the conditional sentence while the other part is the subordinate clause. The name shows some elements of persecution around the bearer of the name.

xi. Name   **Formed OPN**   **Glosses**
Ó on n̄yanwà nà– én n̄úón wé/yā - Ón n̄wà   Who digs a pit will

fall inside it Pro v   n   aux part.

reflexive pro.

Complex sentence involves the deletion of the subordinate clause for the production of 'Óníanwà. The meaning of the subordinate clause depends on the main clause.
É mèé, ọ¯ dī - Emeeọdị - Emoodi – Ém ód ị¯

Pro v   pro V

This is also a complex sentence and the end product 'Emodi', was formed by the assimilation (Regressive) and deletion with tone change.

Compounds

                    xii. Chí + nwé + ókwú Chínwèókwú Chínwŏkwú

It involves compounding, regressive assimilation and finally, deletion and the end product Chinwokwu has a gliding tone.

                    xiii. Òlī ā+ égbògó+ ògù- Olisaegbo (ọgụ) – Oliseeegbo – Òlī égbò

Here, 3 words were joined – 2 noun and 1 verb. 'Ọgụ' was clipped with Olisaegbo left. 'e' assimilated 'a' and finally, one 'e' was deleted.

TABLE 12
OPN NAME FORMED FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF SPEECH

From nouns		Verb	Adjective in function	Numerals
a.	Ubuni	Obanye	Ụzọamaka	Ofunne
b.	Uyanne	Ojekwu	Okechukwu	Adịbụa
c.	Uzọnịcha	Onyalụ	Obinwa	

Most OPN that are formed from verb roots have affixes attached to them. Ọbanye — ọ/ba/nye. o is the prefix, -ba is the verb root and nye is the suffix. Ojekwe — o/je/kwe. o- is prefix,-je is the verb root and kwe is the suffix.

CONCLUSION

This study has examined the morphological and syntactic structure of Onitsha Personal Names (OPN). From the data analysis and discussion, it has been observed that some names change their inherent tones when the rules of word formation are applied, while others drop the subject in their construction when the front-clipping rule is applied to sentential names. This clipping removes important information from the name, resulting in the loss of the philosophy behind it. In addition, the internal structures of the names analysed show that the arrangement of phonemes and morphemes is fixed and compatible. The hierarchical organization of the morphemes that are segmented to form the names is also revealed in the analysis. Some OPN syntactically function as declaratives, commands, or interrogatives. In terms of size, length, or shape, the names are mostly polymorphemic and polysyllabic, showing a variety of morphological components in their internal structure. Most derivations occur with verbal roots, while some names undergo phonological processes that alter their forms.

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