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# The Structural Analysis of Adverbial of Manner in Ibibio

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A B S T R A C T

*This paper explores the structural analysis of adverbials of manner in Ibibio. In view of the fact that adverb or adverbial phrase of manner is an expression that supplies more information which qualifies the verb and answers the question 'how' and 'in what way' the action of the said verb is executed. It is pertinent to note that Ibibio is a growing language, spoken in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. The data used in this research were sourced from the Library, communication and interaction with the indigenous speakers of the speech form characterized as the Central Ibibio and recordings of special Ibibio programmes on radio and television, such programmes include Ntia-Ntia asakka, Akpan Mma Udobot and mbʌk mfin. The data so collected were carefully categorized based on my intuition as a native speaker of the speech form in focus. These were then classified and analyzed under the Eclectic Model consisting of a descriptive theory and the extended standard theory. The structural components of the analysis reveal that adverbials of manner are highly productive and can be systematically grouped based on their meanings, the sound associated with the word to a comparison process with appropriate scenarios. It is germane to point out that at the phrasal level the combination of adverbials of manner with either adjective or noun does not lead to any sematic ambiguity. Besides, like in some other African Languages, there are no adverbial affixes in Ibibio, as their inherent functions are subsumed by ideophones or reduplication. The existence of ideophones and onomatopoeic words in the lexicon indubitably confirms the claim that Ibibio is a creative and has the potential of rapid and consistent growth if empowered.*

A R T I C L E I N F O

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## 1. Introduction

In every human language, adverbials are adjudged to perform both syntactic as well as semantic roles of modifying verbal constituents in a sentence. Even though there are many types of adverbials in Ibibio, this paper will focus on adverbials of manner. The choice of this unit of adverbials is informed because of its intrinsic characteristic in the development of Ibibio which is still in its embryonic stage. Adverbs or adverbials of manner constitute a very important morphological, syntactic/ semantic category that

explicates the WH-word or how an action is executed or shall be performed. Since Ibibio is an agglutinating language, adverbials of manner are normally construed as a morphological and syntactic function that specifies the manner or circumstances of either a covert or overt meaning of a verbal constituent in any phrasal or clausal expression.

### 1.1 Ibibio Language and Its Linguistic Classification

The name Ibibio is not only a mark of identify for one of the largest ethnic group in Nigeria but also a language spoken by this ethnic group (Essien, 1990). According to Connel (1994) classification, Ibibio is recognized as a member of the lower-cross group of expanded Niger Congo family of languages. This classification is confirmed by Essien (1990) who asserts that Ibibio belongs to the Benue- Congo sub-family which in turn belongs to the Niger- Congo phylum of African Languages.

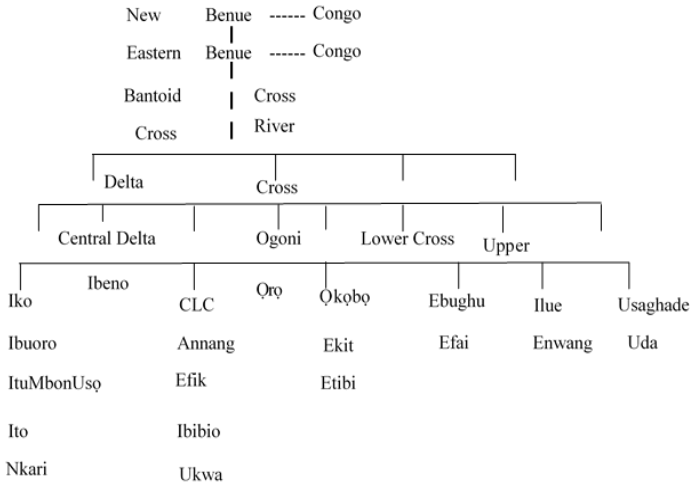



**Fig. 1.1** This classification of the lower-cross languages is adapted from Connel (1994)

### Aims/Objective

The aim of this paper is to discuss the structural analysis of adverbials of manner in Ibibio. Specific objectives include among others:

1. To categories adverbials of manner based on their different structures.
2. To show the difference or otherwise in meanings of the adverbials of manner depending on their order of occurrence in any construction.

### Scope

This paper is restricted to the adverbials of manner in Ibibio. The analysis is limited to the speech form referred to as central Ibibio. Spoken in Uyo and its environs in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. The analysis is based on an eclectic approval.

### Literature Review

Adverbial is usually construed as a grammatical classification of a class of words and linguists appear to converge on their conception of its notion. Quirk et al (1972) refers to adverbial as a module of grammar that is extremely complex because of its great heterogeneity. Lech and Startvik (1975) classify adverbials as a unique group of words that can denote either definite and indefinite frequency of an event. Bartsch (1976) on the other hand advocates that in a natural language, the function of an adverbial is to determine the truth conditions of the construction in which it occurs. Huddleston (1989) in his traditional approach conjectured adverbials as a set of words that modifies a verb, adjective or an adverb. Crystal (2007;113) adduced that many syntactic roles have been identified of which verb modification has been naturally highlighted as central. Furthermore, in the research Maienborn and Schafer (2010;2) regards adverbial as a specific syntactic function within a sentence that contrast with other syntactic functions such as subject, objects and predicate. They further assert that adverbial element differs considerably from the other element of a clause structure. In his contribution, Ndimele (1996) proffered the homogeneity in form and position of adverbials as a single lexical item or a group of words which function as an adverb. This

notion was partially endorsed by Tomori (2005) who views adverbials in term of the intensifiers plus the head word. Murthy and Larence (2007) agree with this view. Remarkably, Fisher (2007) extends the concept of adverbials to include prepositional phrases of time and place as well as lexicalized prepositional phrases or clauses. Radford (2004) in his expos*é* avers that adverbs can independently be merged with prepositional phrase complement (like of me) to create and adverbial expression (like independently of me). Essien (2008) posits that adverbs in Ibibio modify verbs and describe the manner, time or place in which an event or action occurs. In Connel (1994) classification, Ibibio is recognized as a member of the Lower-Cross group of expanded Niger-Congo family of languages. This classification is confirmed by Essien (1990) who assert that Ibibio belongs to the Benue-Congo sub-family which in turn belongs to the Niger-Congo phylum of African Languages.

**Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework used in this paper is an eclectic model. This consists of a descriptive theory and the syntactic component theory embedded in extended standard theory as proposed by Chomsky (1965). This eclectic approach is preferred because the descriptive analysis has the propensity to adequately describe the native speakers comprehension of the structures of adverbials of manner even though they have no pre-knowledge of any rule of grammar while the syntactic component theory is concerned with the relevant rules of grammar in the analysis and also serves as a check to justify the adequacy of the descriptive analysis.

**Data Collection/Analysis Technique**

The data used in this paper were sourced from the library and communication via direct interaction with the indigenous speakers of the speech form characterized as central Ibibio programmes on radio and television, such as Ntia – ntia asakka, Akpan Mma Udobot and MbΛk mfin were also considered. The data so gathered were categorized into six identified classes together with their inherent variants based on my intuition as a competent native speaker and the input of some elders who are usually adjudged to be the custodian of the language. An eclectic model was then used to analyses the data.

**Data Analysis**

**Adverbials of Manner in Ibibio**

Different languages have different but not necessarily exclusive, technique of expressing adverbial of manner. The notion adverbials of manner in Ibibio avers to ways and how certain activities are either performed or executed. In this paper, adverbials of manner shall be analyzed under six major modules; vis-à-vis lexical reduplicative, idiophonic, phrasal, clausal and technique of comparison processes.

**Lexical Process**

Structurally, lexical items in Ibibio have the propensity of expressing adverbials of manner in any syntactic expression. For examples

1a ófòn (well)

b sọp (hastily)

ánuòmmó (glaringly) look

The following sentences illustrate the ease of using lexical words as adverbials in Ibibio.

2a. Ídiòngó á Nàm Ófòn (post verbal)

S 3rdpsing Do Well

Ídiòngó does well.

b. Ófòn náñã Ídiòngó Á Nàm (pre verbal)

well as N $3^{rd}$ do

It is well as Ídiòngó does it.

c ámàófòn nana Ídiòngó à kénàm (pre verbal)

pst well as Ídiòngó 3rdpst do

it was good/well as Ídiòngó did it.

d á mànàm <u>ófòn</u> ké mbúbà (post verbal)

3rd pst do well in competition

He/She did well in the competition.

e ányè ámà nàm útọm ammo <u>ófòn</u>

He/She3rdppst do work his/her well

3a <u>sọp</u> tém dìkàn íkọñ ñọ isen owo

Hastily cook dry vegetable for visitors

Quickly cook vegetable soup for visitor.

b n ké tèm édìkàn íkọñ <u>usọp-usọp</u> ñọ isenowo

1stp pst cook dry vegetable in a haste for visitor

I hastily cooked the vegetable soup for the visitors.

4a Nse <u>ánuọmmọ</u> ányìn ásè Úduàk.

Nse glare eye 3pst see Úduàk

Nse glare at Uduak.

b <u>nkenuommo</u> anyin nse anye ke ufokabasis

1stp pst glare eye 1st see him in church

I glared at him in the Church.

The sentences labelled 2(a-e), 3(a-b) and 4 (a-b) illustrate the functions of adverbial of manner by telling us how the different activities were performed. It is insightful to observe that all the underlined adverbs of manner modify the main verbs in the sentences. It is equally important to note that *ofon* (well) in 2 (a-e) can conveniently appear either at the initial or medial or final positions in the construction without creating any semantic ambiguity. Besides, in 2(a), the adverbial of manner *ofon* (well) is post-verbal while in 2(b), it is pre-verbal. Semantically, in Ibibio both *sọp* and *usọp-usọp* (quickly) have the same meaning despite the fact that *sọp* is an verb that modifies another verb. Even though the adverb a*uòmmó* (glare) is a variant of se (look), unlike se, it tells us exactly how Nse looked at Úduàk in an unfriendly manner. Decidedly, as confirmed in 4(b), *nuòmmó* is a more effective and experiensive adverb of manner than se (look). Generally, as exemplified in examples (2-4) the adverbs of manner *ofon, sọp* and *nuòmmó*, modify or change the sentences to tell us how well or quickly or glaringly the activities occurred. Consequently, they can conveniently serve as adverbials of manner. Furthermore, these sentences can be represented diagrammatically as shown below:

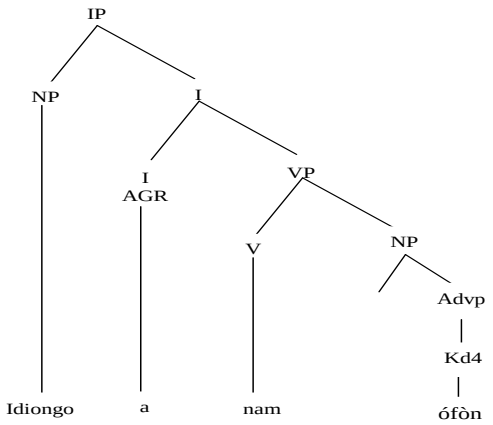



**Fig. 1.2**

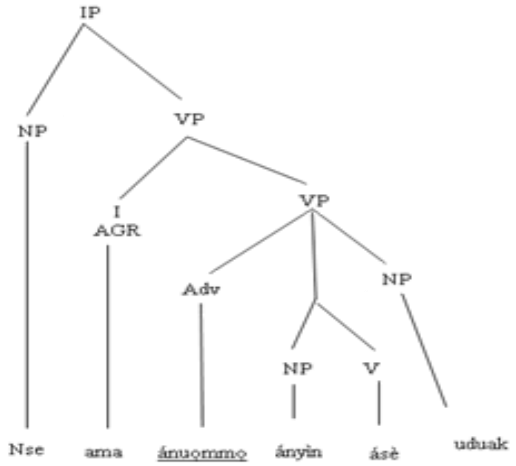



**Fig. 1.3**

**Idiophone Category**

This is a class of words typically associated with African and Asian languages that evoke certain ideas or impression in consonant with sounds. Often obtained through duplication. In view of the fact that Ibibio is adjudged to be a tonal language, adverbials of manner are easily generated through this process. For examples, kpûûm, kpọk, kprim, wââ and sââm., when used in sentences, justify how these idiophones perform the roles of adverbials of manner in Ibibio;

5a Ífèèn áyòp ákèdûò **kpûûm**

Bunch palm fruit 3rdppast heavy sound

The bunch of palm fruit fell heavily.

b Éyò ékìm **kpọk**

Sunlight dark sudden imagery

Darkness envelopes the area suddenly and totally.

c Ídèm mì an-nam kprim

body my do shocking reaction

I felt a certain electric sensation in my body

6a annam kprim kprim ke idem

3rd p do lightening in body

I feel a lightening sensation in my body

6b Ékpò á tuàwââ-wââ

Masquerade 3rd p cry frighten sound

The Masquerade crys frightenly

6c Ndítò áñwà etamma sââm sââm

Children cat 3rdpl jump stressless

Kiten jump stresslessly at ease

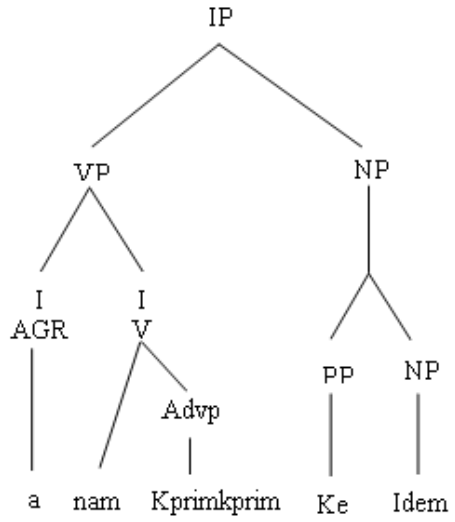



**Fig 1.4:**

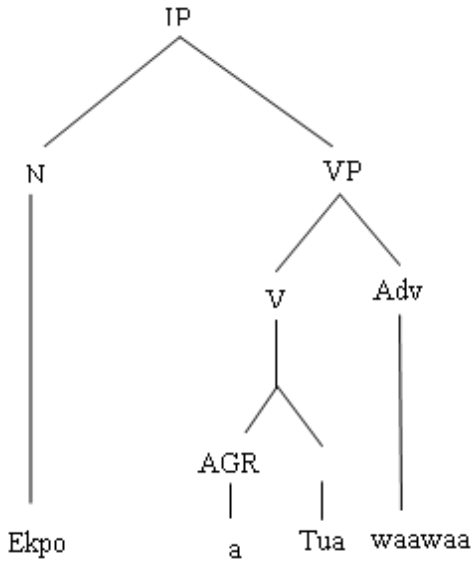



**Fig 1.5:**

It is interesting to note that these Ibibio idiophones, kpûûm, kpǫk, kprim, wââ and sââm clearly and exclusively show with exactitude, the situation as envisaged by the speaker. However, when these onomatopoeic words are doubled within a sentence structure, they describe more intensively the situation or circumstances of the activities as seen in 6 (a-c). Besides, irrespective of the existence of Ibibio Idiophones as single or reduplicated words, they naturally portray the same meaning as seen in 5(c) and 6(a). The sentences in 6(a,b) can be represented by the tree diagram as show in fig 4 and fig 5.

**2. Reduplicative Process of Adverbial of Manner**

Reduplication, as a morphological process is a technique of creating new words by simply replicating the root morphemes. In Ibibio, the notion of reduplication has been un refutably accepted as linguistic instrument in the derivation of adverbials of manner from simple root, nouns or adjectives for instance:

| | Root | | Reduplication | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7a | UsΛk | (noun), | usʌkUsʌk | (slowly) |
| 7b | Usop | (noun) | usopusop | quickly |
| 7c. | Idad | (noun) | idadidad | Madly |
| 7d. | Ntaha | (adj) | Ntahantaha | (unethically) |

7e. afid (adj) Afidafid completely

7f. nsọn (adj) Nsonnson hardly

We can analyse the above reduplicated words as adverbials of manner syntactically for examples:

8a. Abasifreke a sañ̄a usʌkusʌk post-verbal

3sg walk slow slow

Abasifreke walks slowly.

8b. UsʌkUsʌk ke nkesañ̄a nka urua (pre-verbal)

Slow slow in pst walk 1stp go market

Slowly I walked to the market.

8c. Anye akesañ̄a usʌkusʌk aka ufokAbasi ntak ado anye mibakka, - post verbal

He/she 3sgpst walk slowly 3sggo church person is he/she late

He/she walked slowly to the church that is why he/she was late.

9a. Uduak anam nkpọ idaidad. Post verbial (final)

Uduak 3sg do thing madly

Uduak behaves madly

9b. Idaidad edu-uwem isi fonọ Pre verbal (initial)

Madly style life continually good (pre-verbal)

10(a) Mboñ̄ amidionoke idem asinam mkpọ mmọ ntahantaha (post verbal)

The foolish people have been behaving unethically.

10b) Unam nkpo ntahantaha idoho eti uwem pre verbal (initial)

Do thing roughly is not good life.

Doing things unethically is not a good life.

10c. Ntahantaha ido ke nsua. Pre-verbal (initial)

Roughly behaviour that Isg hate

It is unethical behaviour that I hate.

11a. Emaamademe ndidia afidafid

Ema 3sg psts hare food completely

Ema shared the food completely

The underline reduplicated adverbial of manner express the way in which the activities were performed or carried out. Principally, they modify the main verbs irrespective of their position/occurrence either before or after the said verbs. In sentences 8 (a-c), the adverbial of manner usʌkusʌk, simply demonstrates the mode of walking by the subjects. In 9 (a-b), the adverbial idiaidad, which appears in post verbal and preverbal positions respectively, portrays how uduak behave in 9 (a) and the unacceptability of such behaviour in 9(b). Besides, the adverbial, Ntahantaha, despite the order of their occurrence as post-verbal, medial verbal and pre verbal in 10(a –c) respectively, does not void the unethicality of the subjects mannerism. The sentences in this class can be represented diagrammatically as in fig 6 and fig 7

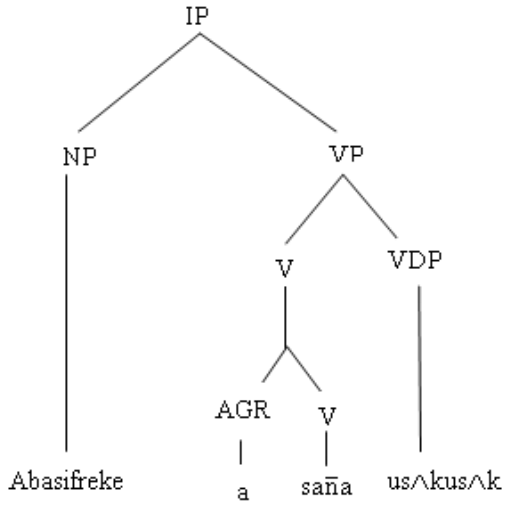



**Fig 1.6:**

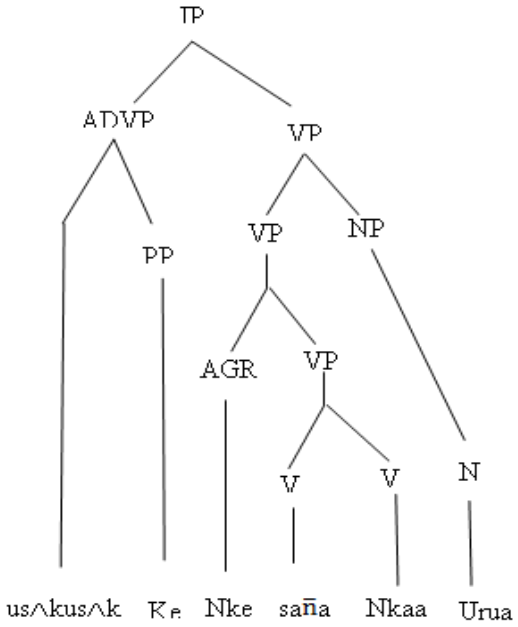



**Fig 1.7:**

**Phrasal Category**

Adverbial phrases of manner usually profer answers to questions about how and in what way or manner some events or action were done or shall be performed. In their contribution, Pence and Emery (1971:12) posit a phrase as a group of related words devoid of subject and predicate. However, Kuiper and Allens (1999) adduce that a phrase is a unit intermediate between words and sentences. In Ibibio prepositional phrases constitute the major ways of creating adverbials of manner.

The following examples illustrate some structural variants of their occurrences in Ibibio lexicon.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12(a) | Ke (in) | + | adjective | + | Way/manner |
| 12(b) | Ke (in) | + | noun | + | Way/manner |
| 12(c) | ye (with) | + | noun | + | Way/manner |

The functionality of these structures are easily discernable based on their roles as shown in examples 12(a – e).

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13a. | Andikan | akebọrọ | eka-Ọmmọ | ke iyatesit usΛn |
| | Andikan | 3rdp pst Answer | mother his | in |

Andikan answered his mother in anger way

Andikan reply in An angry manner.

13b) Andikan akeboro eka ammo ke usΛn iyatesit

Andikan 3rdp pst answer in way anger

Andikan answered in an angry manner

13(c) Akeboro ke iyatesit

He 3rdp pst answer with anger

He replied with anger

13(d) Anye akeboro Kembrembre usΛn

He 3rdp pst answer in playplay way

He replied playfully.

13(e) Kpegheke mbai ke mbai inaⁿ

Cut in piece in piece four

Cut into four pieces.

In sentences 13(a –c), the underlined adverbial phrases of manner modify the root verb bọrọ (answer). Syntactically, ke Iyatesit or ye iyatesit, are prepositional phrases indicating manner and semantically, they describe the same situation. Specifically, it shows that the communications were not amicable.

However, in 13(d), there was a change in attitude as he replied jovially and playfully. 13(e) presents a different scenario of how the object was shared into four and not necessarily equal pieces. The tree diagrams showing sentences 13(a) and 13(b) are illustrated below.

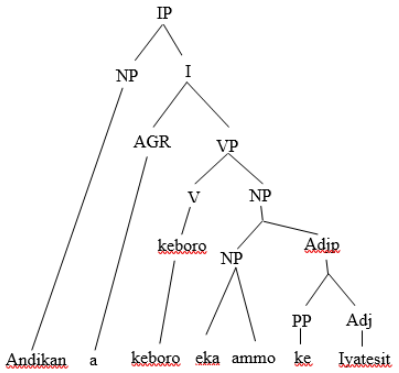
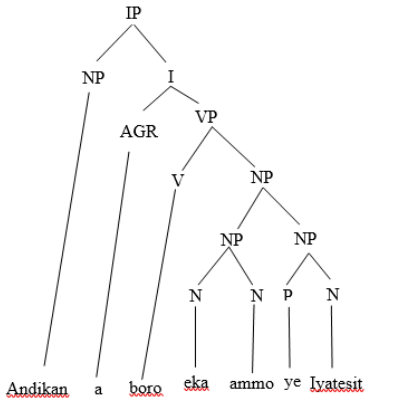



**Fig 1.8**




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**Fig 1.9:**

**Clausal Category**

The concept of a clause has been discussed severally by many linguistic. According to Crystal (1992: 65), a clause is regarded as a type of grammatical construction containing major functional elements such as subject and a verb that can be sandwiched between a phrase and a sentence. On the other hand, Kuiper and Allen (1996:287) construed a clause as a unit with basic structure of a sentence. In this paper, any clausal expression that performs the function of an adverb is known as adverbial clause. In Ibibio an adverbial clause of manner is any dependent clause that modifies the main verb and specifies how the action/event was or is performed. For examples:

14a. Ekaette ake tuayet nte akpedoho ebe ammo
sub 3rdPst verb as if husband her
Ikpọn akeba
alone was there
Ekaette cried as if her husband was the only person who was there for her.

14b. Mbọk yet anye ukem ukem nana nkuwot
Please wash it exactly as how I show you.
Please do it exactly as I showed you.

14c. Ubaaka oh!,nte akpe doho edim ibikdep mfin
How I wish oh as though the rain will not fall today.

14d. Naña nte-Abasi odionke afid kpa ntro ke uboñ ammo akpọn
just as God know all person so glory his great
just as God knows all human so his glory is great.

14e. Ukpono ama yem, usɅn Ọdiọnọ naña eyam ibọk ayin.
Ukpono 1stpst find way know how sell medicine baby
Ukpono found out how the medicine for the child cost.

14f. Yem us∧n diọnọ naña idem ammọ aba
Find way know how body his is
Find out how she/his is faring.

The underlisted adverbial clause of manner in examples 14 (a –f) describe precisely how the actions were carried out. In 14 (a), Ekaette cried despondently as if her life depended entirely on her husband. Whereas 14(b), Ukemukemnaña nkuwot, enjoins the use of a special method of washing and nothing else, 14 (c), clearly expresses a definite desire for a particular situation to prevail. On the other hand, 14 (d-f) portray vividly how the actions ended.

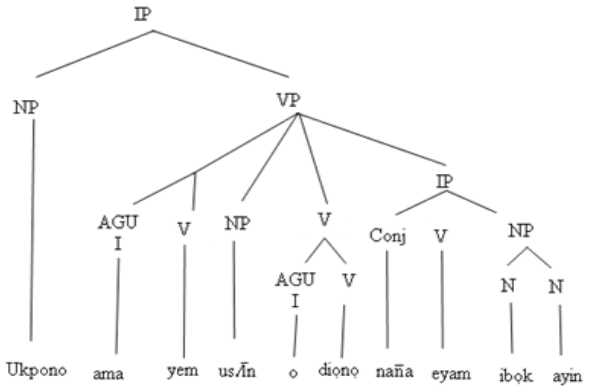



**Fig 1.10:**

**Adverbials of Manner by Comparison**

In Ibibio, it is an acceptable means of communication to express the way certain activity is/was done by comparing it with something well known or easily imagined by the listener or targeted audience. For example

Invariably, the following structures have been established in Ibibio.

15(a) Nte + Noun phrase

15(b) Nte/naña + clause

The following sentence illustrates how an adverb by comparison with obvious scenario can performs the functions of adverbial of manner.

16(a). Tono ini mkpa eka ammo, ufan mmi asie asana nte akananwan.

Since time death mother his/her friend me use to walk as old woman.

Since the time of her mother's death my friend used to walk like an old woman.

16(a) Ufan mmi asana isam nana akan anwan asisanan.

Friend my walk walk as old woman walk.

My friend walks as an old woman.

16(c) Ufan mmi asana isan nte anye akpedoho akananwan.

Friend my walk walk as she should be old woman.

My friend walks as if she is an old woman.

17. Although structurally example 16 (a –c) are syntactically different, but semantically, they have the same meanings. Interestingly, in 16(a), the comparison take the form Nte(as) + noun phrase to become nte akananwan, (like an old woman) while in 16 (b – c), the structure is naña + clause combine to become naña akan anwan asana and Nte anye akpedoho akan anwan respectively.

**Summary/Conclusion**

This paper explores the structural analysis of adverbials of manner in Ibibio. Adverbs or adverbials of manner constitute a very important morphological, syntactic and semantic categories that explicate the WH-word or how an action is executed or shall be performed. The adverbials of manner are structured into six modules namely lexical, idiophones, reduplication, phrases, clauses and comparison technique. There is a slight distinction between an adverb and adverbial of manner. Whereas adverb of manner is a single word that modifies the verb, adverbial of manner can be a group of words that modifies either the main verb or the entire sentence.

It is insightful to opine that in Ibibio, adverbials of manner can be structured and analysed, morphologically, syntactically and semantically.

It is germane to state that adverbial of manner can occupy the initial, medical or final position in any construction without systemic voidness of the original meaning.

In Ibibio, while nana (how) introduces adverbial of manner at the clausal level, ke (in) and ye (with) are used to describe adverbial of manner at the phrasal level.

It is also pertinent to point out that at the phrasal level, the combination of adverbial of manner with either adjective or noun does not lead to any semantic ambiguity.

Specifically, the adverbial of manner in Ibibio can be expressed in the light of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. Besides, there is a strong relationship among them at these levels which project the patterned system of communication.

Didactically, just as in some other African languages, there are no adverbial affixes in Ibibio. The functions of these affixes in a sentence are subsumed by ideophones or reduplications processes.

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