

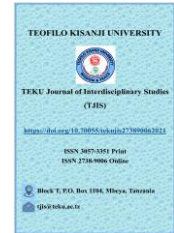


TEOFILO KISANJI UNIVERSITY

TEKU Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (TJIS)


ISSN 3057-3351 (Print) & ISSN 2738-9006 (Online)

Journal Homepage: <https://www.teku.ac.tz/tjis.php>




Research Paper

The Semantics of Kisukuma Affixes

Chipanda Simon 

Department of Languages and Literature, Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Correspondence: drchipandasimon@gmail.com

ARTICLE DETAILS	ABSTRACT
<p>Received: 14-Sep-24 Revised: 17-Dec-24 Accepted: 20-Feb-25 Published online: 30-Mar-25</p> <p>DOI: 10.70055/TJISV4I2A05</p> <p>Copyright: The Author(s) (2025) Publisher: Teofilo Kisanji University License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0</p> 	<p>The article dwells the semantic domains of noun affixes in Kisukuma language. The lack of comprehensive study on the topic motivates the study. Lexica morphology and prototype theories were applied in data analysis. For example, tema 'cut' to <i>n-teng'-w-a</i> can fit in the lexical morphology as in 'the one who has been cut' or the one who is lead under the prototype model. Sukuma population was used in which 10 informants were selected in the study. Sukuma informants were selected because they know Kisukuma language which is the focus of the study. Sukuma people made full availability of the data pertinent to Kisukuma Interview, critical documentary analysis and intuition knowledge were tools of data gathering. Interview explored different structures on suffixes and suffixes and their roles in both denotative and connotative meaning, critical documentary analysis made to explore secondary information on the topic under discussion, and that the intuition knowledge helped to judge and conclude the phonotactics of Kisukuma affixes. The study revealed inflectional and derivational affixes, the former are prefixes as in diminutive {<i>ka, tu</i>}, hugeness {<i>ma, li, mi</i>}, locative {<i>ku, mu, ha</i>}, adjective and deverbal {<i>i, ma, n</i>} while the later are suffixes as in causative {<i>j, ch, sh, y</i>}, passive {<i>w, ng'w, v</i>}, adjective prefix {<i>n, ß</i>} and applied {<i>ig, ij, eg, a or i</i>}. The prefixes are ordered in three maximally in a single noun while this is true the derivational suffixes trigger numerous senses. Basing on the findings, further study was recommended on noun incorporations.</p>

Keywords: Semantics; Noun; Prefixes; Suffixes; Kisukuma; Bantu Languages

1. Introduction

Kisukuma language has rich noun morphology compared to other Bantu languages. Many if not most of the Sukuma linguists have investigated on tonal transfer, phonology and verb extensions (Cf. Batibo, 1985; Richardson, 1966; Matondo, Simon, 2018, 2021; 2006; Muhdhar, 2006) but less is done in noun affixes and their semantic functions. The peculiarities found in Kisukuma language affixes and prefixes in specific desire investigation, to be specific Kisukuma orders up to three (3) number of prefixes in a noun or word something which has not been investigated. Therefore, the current investigation emanates investigation on the semantic functions of Kisukuma affixes which would contribute to the development of linguistics theories.

2. Literature review

Bantu languages' noun Morphology has been presented and analyzed by different scholars such Schadeberg (1990), Rugemalira (2007), Malande (2010), Manus (2010), Appah & Amfo (2007), Muhirwe, (2007) to mention just but a few.

Rugemalira (2007) researched on the noun phrase structures of Bantu languages such as Igiha spoken in Kigoma Tanzania, Runyambo spoken in Karagwe Tanzania, Kinyakyusa spoken in Mbeya and Kiswahili spoken in Tanzania. In analysis of noun phrase Rugemalira presented the data that can be helpful to the current study due to their formation. The data presented seems to be formed in both derivational as well as inflectional morphology. Therefore, Rugemalira argued that the nouns in most Bantu languages are formed through affixes as well as suffixes. Rugemalira's study did not touch on the context of affix ordering that informs the current study's investigation.

Malande (2010) investigated on the noun formation of names from verbs that is nominalization in Lulogooli language spoken by Maragoli people in Uganda. Malande argued that in Lulogooli language the noun formation involve the use of compound and simple noun prefixes in the derivation of names from nouns, verbs and adjectives. In other words, nouns, verbs and adjectives act as bases, which maintain their semantic components on the newly derived personal names. For that matter, new words are then formed through class maintaining processes or class changing process in the cases of names derived from adjective. Malande's investigation did not count for pre-prefixes and infixes relating to noun formation from the verbs. This leads to provide a new Kisukuma insight following its behavior of pre-prefixes and infixation as opposite from Lulogooli language of Uganda.

Maganga and Schadeberg (1992) wrote on the grammar of Nyamwezi focusing on Jidakama dialect of Kisukuma language. These scholars presented different word classes including verb but not on noun morphology. The current study presents the semantics of noun affixes including prefixes and suffixes in Kisukuma language. Maganga and Schadeberg's study is helpful in the current analysis because they presented six verbal suffixes including *-w-*, *-iw-*, *-el-*, *-il-*, *-y-*, *-ch-*, *-j-*, *-ish-* to mention just but a few which would help the current study in changing verbs into nouns.

Noun morphology in Bantu languages has been investigated with reference to *diminutive*. Thus, Al-Azzaawi (2006) links the term *diminutive* to morphology and argued that it is an affix with the general meaning of small, little, or a particular form of a noun indicating that the person or thing referred to is small in size. Al-Azzaawi argues that diminutive affixes perform the function of meaning modification and usually add a semantic feature of quantitative and/or qualitative nature. The author calls for a deeper language specific research to discover whether the affixes are morphologically realized as prefixes, infixes, or suffixes. The current study provides answers of that call.

Kisukuma noun morphology has been studied in passing as in Batibo (1985: 181-212) investigated on Kisukuma phonology and morphology, in part of morphology he described noun morphology in passing especially noun classes. His study analyzed the syntactic structure of Kisukuma as well as the typological classification of the language. Along with other things, he gave us the following examples:

1. Kilezu mustache šilezu 'mustaches'

The data in 1 above shows singularity and plurality in Kisukuma language. Batibo's study is very significance to our current study because it has informed as the base on which re-analysis desires. In turn, the study by Batibo needs re-analysis following the fact that there is incomplete understanding on the topic under discussion because *kekoome* is not the plural of *šikoome*. The phoneme /k/ is not a variant of /š/. All Sukuma native speakers use /š/ and not /k/. Batibo's study informs the current study that there is misconception or incomplete understanding on Kisukuma formation pertinent to singularity and plurality; as such it needs re-analysis in both morphological contexts as well as phonotactic considerations.

Richardson (1966) investigated on the role of tone in the structure of Kisukuma. He discussed on how the high and low tones in Kisukuma are marked. Richard's work gave us the phonology of

Kisukuma as well some historical background of Kisukuma. On the matter of facts, this study informs the current analysis that tones can manifest noun formation, but the current study uses morphology i: e prefixes and suffixes to see how nouns are formed.

Matondo (2006) investigated on the matter of tonal transfer in Kisukuma language. He carried out the analysis about the interaction of verb stem reduplication and tone in Jinakiiya, a dialect of Kisukuma language. Matondo managed to analyze noun reduplications patient to tonal transfer but not on the noun morphology as per current study. His study gives us the understanding on how Kisukuma tones can influence noun formation; this is against the current study which appeals to noun affixes' formation as per excellence to linguistics morphology.

Muhdhar (2006) described five verbal extensions in Kemunakiya dialect of Kisukuma language. His analysis of verbal morphemes as Applicative morph *-il/-el-*, Causative morph *-ij-* (*-ej-*), *-ish/-ish-*, Reciprocal verb suffix *-i-*, Passive verb suffix *-w/-iw/-ng 'w-*, *-nv-* were not correlated or connected with noun morphology. Muhdhar (2006)'s investigation has provided the current study with some verb affixes; in turn these affixes can be helpful in conjugating them into noun affixes.

2.1 The Guiding Theories

2.1.1 Lexical Morphology Theory

The study applied Lexical Morphology theory which was propounded by Katamba (1986, 1993). The theory justifies that morphological analysis which is done by breaking down words into functionally meaningful lexical units they are grammatical meanings are comprehensible. In other words, a word is or noun is made up of root or stem together with morpheme(s), these morphemes contribute to the meaning of the noun or word. Lexical morphology theory delineates rules which capture generalization and that one rule accounts for all alternatives. One of these rules is word formation process which is a core to this investigation i: e inflection of numbers, attribute, deverbal and diminutive nouns. The formation of these noun forms are done in different levels as in phonological, morphological or syntactical aspects. In this respect, a theory of word formation was deemed adequate as a basis for the study of the noun morphology in Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language.

In turn noun morphology that takes the suffixes extension in this language cannot be accounted for within the lexical morphology theory pertinent to their semantics. In other words, nouns which are being embedded by suffixes extension have different meanings of which other theory is devised to handle. Thus, the study opted on prototype theory.

2.2 Prototype Theory

This was the theory pioneered by a cognitive psychologist known as Rosch (1978). Her research findings showed that membership of categories is in most cases matters of degree. Therefore, Rosch (1978) argues that categories, in general, have central or best examples which she calls '*prototypes*.' It must be noted that within this model, categories are understood as having a 'core' and a 'periphery'. In other angle, prototype theory is "a mental representation of a typical instance of a category, such that entities get assimilated to the category on the basis of perceived similarity to the prototype" (Taylor (1990, p. 529).

This theory fit to delineate noun morphology and the semantics of noun suffixes in Kisukuma derivational morphology. That is to say when a verb is derived into noun its meaning becomes multiple compared to the original ones. Thus, the fact that a member does not have one property possessed by other members of the category does not necessarily disqualify it from being a member of that category or another property.

3. Methodology

3.1 Design

Research design is the structure of research which is used to hold all the elements in a research project together (Kombo and Tromp, 2006). The study used a case study design whereby the author attended in Geita region and Geita rural district in specific whereby Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language was a case study. This means that Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma is spoken in the region, this made the region choices.

3.2 Population of the Study

Enon (1998:13) points out that 'the people that a researcher has in mind from whom he or she can obtain information are called *population*.' The target population is, therefore, part of the case from which 'accessible sample' is drawn. In other words, population can be regarded as all members of any defined group of people, events and objects from possible information about the study that can be obtained. Therefore, Sukuma people were the population under discussion.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Procedure

A sample can be defined as a small group obtained from accessible population while sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent a large group from which they were selected (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). There are two types of sampling procedures namely: probability and non-probability, the former involves selecting of random samples of subjects from a given population and the later refers to a selection of informants purposively.

The present study applied both types of sampling in the sense that, Njingani village was selected randomly among the villages of Sukuma native speakers found in Geita rural district, there after within the village purposive sampling was applied to sample few people who could engage and participate the discussion in which the researcher had interest in the representativeness of a small group for purposes of explanations pertinent to noun affixes. This is sometimes known as purposive sampling which means the researcher selects purposively individuals or objects that fit in his or her study (Gray, 2014). Thus, the study used 10 informants whose native language was Kisukuma, 4 male and 6 female under the age of 40-70.

3.4 Methods of Data Collection

The current study used three instruments namely: interview, critical documentary analysis and intuition knowledge.

3.4.1 Interview

The study used unstructured interview question which was asked to the respondents in order to get data concerning with the noun morphology in Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language.

Questions were based on identifying the morphological bases that are accounted in the formation of nouns in Kemunang'weli dialect such as singular and plural formation, nominalization from verbs and adjective and noun extension.

3.4.2 Documentary Analysis

Critical documentary analysis refers to the collection of data from different written materials such as books, magazine, newspapers and dictionary. In reviewing documents, researchers analyze contents of documentary materials for the purpose of identifying patterns, themes or biases (Gray, 2014). The researcher used some of the written materials such as "*Le Kesukuma: Langue Bantu de Tanzanie: Morphologie & Phonologie*", and *Kisukuma bible*. The aim was to get different vocabularies in formation of noun. The purpose of using documentary data was intended to get different nouns so that to see their formation in the written document.

3.4.3 Intuition Knowledge

The research also applied intuition method following the fact that the researcher was the native speaker of Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language coming from the entire place where the Kemunang'weli dialect is spoken. Therefore, the researcher housed different nouns from Kisukuma language and then was proved by other Sukuma native speakers.

3.5 Data Analysis

The process of breaking down data into smaller units to reveal their characteristic elements and structure as well as interpretation, understanding and explaining for getting new insights from data is known as data analysis (Gray, 2014). Therefore, the study used content analysis in which the data were coded and recorded in tabular forms by using descriptive words. This was employed to determine the different morphemes which are used to form noun classes in Kemunang'weli dialect.

3.6 Validity and Reliability

Validity is the extent to which an instrument measures a particular trait of something or somebody. This is useful for insuring cooperation of people who are participating in the study. In qualitative approach, internal validity is the match between the researchers' categories and interpretation and what is actually true and real. Therefore, the instruments selected were useful and brought cooperation among the native speakers and the researcher. Reliability measures accuracy, therefore, what is recorded as a data is what is actually occurred in the setting that was studied during the data collection. Hence the approach got the data which were accurate and were used in the area of study.

4. Discussion of the Findings

This section discusses the findings obtained from the field. Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language exhibits various prefixes and each presents a different semantics. The study revealed diminutive, locative, adjective and deverbal prefixes. Additionally, the language under discussion exhibits the character of more than one prefixes in a single word, this is known as pre-prefixes.

4.1 Noun Prefixes

Diminutive prefixes: These are forms of affixes in linguistics context; such affix is added before the word which is semantically

indicates something small, thin or short. The Kisukuma diminutive prefixes have different characteristics; they can semantically function to show small less, hugeness, singular and plurals to mention just but a few. However, Kemunang'weli dialect of

Kisukuma language has been observed possessing behaviors of all these forms of prefixes. In turn the study came up with the noun being formed from adjectives, adverbs of diminutive when added to the noun.

Table 1: Diminutive prefixes

Prefixes	Features	Numbers	Examples	English Gloss
[-ka-]	Small or thin	Singular	Kagup ^{hi}	Is (small/thin)short
[-tu-]	Small or many	Plural	Tugup ^{hi}	Are(many/thin) short

The data in Table 1 above shows that that the noun in Kemunang'weli dialect can be formed by the addition of one prefix at the root to show degree or size of the noun, that is to say such degree can be smallness, shortness or thinness.

Hugeness prefixes: these are other types of prefixes found in the language under discussion. Semantically, these are prefixes which indicate vastness, immensity, enormity, massive, gigantic, and giant. Vast or mammoth prefixes are of different shape, in other words are formed using different morphemes such as -li-, -mi-and -ma-. Consider the below data in Table 2:

Table 2: Hugeness prefixes

Prefixes	Features	Numbers	Examples	English Gloss
[-li-]	Big/fat	Singular	Ligup ^{hi}	Is (big/fat) short
[-ma-]	Big/ many	Plural	magup ^{hi}	Are (fat/big) short
[-mi-]	Many/many	Plural	Migup ^{hi}	Are (many/fat) short

The data in Table 2 shows hugeness, toughness, or bigness forms of prefixes in Kisukuma language. While Kisukuma language speakers use prefix -ma- for plural formation, other Bantu language use different prefixes, this can be served in Runyakitara noun plural formation (Cf. Ndoleriire & Oriikiriza, 1990). Runyakitara language uses -a- and -bha- prefixes for plural formation as in *a bhantu* 'persons' from -o- and -mu-'single prefixes' as in *Omuntu* and *Muntu* 'person'. Kisukuma language also use -mu- as a neutral prefix, this can be observed in a noun like *munhúú* 'person'.

Locative prefixes: These are forms of affixes which show places, location or direction of different linguistic contexts. In Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma, adverbs are derived to noun particularly the adverb of place by using prefix morphemes namely: mu-, mwi, ha- marks near place and ku- that marks remote place and m-/mu- indicates within a place. Therefore, the noun is formed through the omission of the prefixes that mark remote, within and near in the adverb. The following analysis shows this interpretation:

Table 3: Locative prefixes

Prefixes	English	Pr+Noun	Structure	English gloss
[-mu-]	[-in-]	Mu+numba	Munumba	In the house
[-ku-]	[-to-]	Ku+numba	Kunumba	To the house
[-ha-]	[-at-]	Ha+numba	Hanumba	At the house

In Table 3 above, it is observed that Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language the adverbs especially the adverb of place can be used to form the noun indicating within, remote and near. Note that each prefix is determined by grammatical intricacies. That is why researchers in Bantu languages agree that that noun class features are determined by grammatical number, semantics, (that is, whether they are human/animal/non-living things); and in other cases, arbitrarily (Katamba, 2003).

Adjective prefixes: These are noun prefixes which indicate adjectives. In Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language, the investigator observed that the adjectives are used in forming nouns through the use of prefixes that replace the prefixes morpheme of adjective. Consider the following data in table 4:

Table 4: Adjective prefixes

Prefixes	Nouns	English Gloss	Structure	Nouns	English Gloss
[-n-]	Simba	dig	N+simbi	Nsimbi	Digger
[-β-]	Sebhu	Hot	βu+Sebhu	βulembi	Hotness
[-β-]	Nginu	Fat	βu+uginu	βuginu	Fatness

From table 4 above, it is observed that adjectives can be used to form nouns in noun morphology. The adjectives which begin with prefix -β- can be replaced with prefix -n- to form noun in the language under discussion.

Deverbal prefixes: Deverbal prefixes are forms of affixes which change verbs into nouns. This behavior was observed in Kisukuma language where Sukuma disyllabic verbs changed into Noun class. Consider the following data in table 5:

Table 5: Deverbal prefixes

Verbs	Gloss	Noun	Gloss	Prefixes
Dima	Catch	Ndim	Catcher	-n-
Teja	Make loose	Nteja	Looser	-n-
Lya	Eat	Ilya	Eating	-i-
Lya	Eat	Malya	Those who eat	-ma-
Sumba	Create	Nsumbi	Creator	-n-
Loga	Witch	Nogi	The witch one	-no-
Tema	Cut	Ntemi	Leaders	-n-
Lema	Reject	Nemi	Rejecter	-n-

The table in 5 shows Kisukuma deverbal prefixes namely: -n-, -no- and -ma-. When these prefixes are added to the verb they change into noun. It must be noted that sometimes the derived verb into noun changes its meaning into multiple semantic scopes.

4.2 The maximum number of prefixes in a single noun

The study revealed more than one prefixes being ordered in a single noun. This phenomenon is known *pre-prefixation* in linguistics morphology. In other words, these are affixes which are more than one and they can co-occur together before the root or stem of words. Therefore, pre-prefixation is the phenomenon in natural languages whereby more than one prefixes (three maximally for the current

study) is ordered in a single noun. It was revealed that, the maximum number of prefixes in Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language is three prefixes. We start with two lined up prefixes.

Two prefixes: This is the ability of the two affixes of different qualities or characteristics to line up together in a single noun. In Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language, it was observed that two groups of prefixes can line up, the first group includes -ka-, -u-, and -a-, the second group includes -ku-, -lu-, -tu- and -ma-. However, the two groups of prefixes are lined starting with the first group then followed by the second group. See the data in table 6 below:

Table 6: Pre-prefixes of two affixes

P1	P2	P1+p2	Structure	Words	English gloss
[-ka-]	[-ku-]	[-ka+ku-]	Kaku+gulu	kakugulu	Small (short) leg
[-ka-]	[-lu-]	[-ka+lu-]	Kalu+gulu	Kalugulu	Small (thin)hill
[-u-]	[-β-]	[-u+β-]	Ubhu+do	Ubhudo	Smallness (single)
[-u-]	[-tu-]	[-u+tu-]	Utu+do	Utudo	Small (many)
[-a-]	[-ma-]	[-ma+ku-]	Ama+do	Amado	Small (big, fat tall)

The Table 6 above shows Kisukuma pre-prefixes which are two maxima in number. All the pre-prefixes are inserted at the beginning of noun to mark degree of size which adds the meaning of the noun in Kemunang'weli dialect of Sukuma language. Prefixes of degree are the prefix morphemes in which nouns are formed from different prefixes that show size of the noun whether is small, big or huge.

Three prefixes; In turn it was also observed that Kemunang'weli dialect of Sukuma language has peculiarities of ordering up to three prefixes namely pre-prefixes. Each of these prefixes has its own semantic meaning. The data in Table 7 exemplified:

Table 7: Pre-prefixes of three affixes

Pr1	Pr2	Pr3	Pr1 +pr2+pr3	Root	Structure	English Gloss
[-a-]	[-ma-]	[-mi-]	a+ma+mi	ti	amamiti	Many (big, thick) trees
[-u-]	[-tu-]	[-mi-]	u+tu+mi	ti	Utumiti	Many (small, short) trees
[-a-]	[-ka-]	[-βu-]	a+ka+βu	ti	akaβuti	One (short, small) medicine
[-u-]	[-tu-]	[-βu-]	u+tu+βu	ti	Utuβuti	Many (small) medicines
[-a-]	[-ma-]	[-βu-]	a+ma+βu	ti	amaβuti	Many (big) medicines

The data in 7 shows three prefixes in Kemunang'weli dialect of Sukuma language which can be ordered before the word root or stem. In these prefixes, there are concordia agreements that exhibit their lining up, for example prefix -a- occurs with prefix -ma-, -mi-βu- and -ka- in some ways, prefix -u- lines up with prefix -tu- as well as -βu-. Thus prefix -a-, can co-occur with -ma- and -βu-. In other words, the prefix -a- is a flexible prefix which goes together with diminutive prefix -ka- as well -ma- prefix but the prefix -u- does not line up with the prefix -ma- and -ka-. The third prefix -mi- lined up with the second prefix -tu- and -ma-.

This situation of pre-prefixation in Kisukuma language dwells different peculiarities and that such significance features contribute to the modification of linguistics theories at length. For example, the ordering up to three prefixes in a single noun (cf. 7) is envisioning in the Lexical Morphology theory (Katamba, 1993), the theory argues that morphological analysis in which words are broken down into functionally meaningful lexical units whose grammatical meanings are decipherable. That is to say each prefix attached to noun has clear semantic scopes. With this regard prefixes one follow prefixes two and not the vice versa.

However, the ordering of these prefixes follows grammatical rules accordance to the specific prefix attached. To put in a different way, a certain prefix selects specific prefixes to follow for quenching the phonotactics of language under discussion; this can be justified as in the prefix -u- is scoped in {+tu}, {-m}, {+mi} but the prefix -a- follows {+m}, {-tu} and {+ka}.

4. 3. Noun suffixes

Kisukuma language as one among Bantu languages has the character of combining noun prefixes and noun suffixes as the result of noun phrase. It must be noted that extension of words is one of the most

prolific methods of word formation in many languages (Gathenji, 1981). In Kemunang'weli dialect of Kisukuma language, prefixes and suffixes are used to change either the word class or thematic roles or theta roles of the noun. It was observed that the noun can be the result of verb extension through both prefixes and suffixes.

Nominalizing suffix -i-: This is one among the noun suffix in Kisukuma language which changes a verb into a noun. It is called nominalizing suffix as it changes a verb into a nominal class. Consider the following data in Table 8 below:

Table 8: Nominalizing suffix -i-

Prefix	Verbs	Gloss	Suffixes	Noun extension	English Gloss
[-m-]	Beha	Smoke	-i-	m-beh-i	The smoker (one)
[-n-]	Lemba	Cheat	-i-	n-emb-i	The cheater (one)
[-n-]	Gubha	Rape	-i-	n-gubh-i	The one who rapes
[-n-]	Seka	Laugh	-i-	n-sek-i	The one who laughs
[-n-]	Loga	Witch	-i-	n-g-i	The witch person
[-n-]	Lya	Eat	-y-	n-y-i (n-i-i)	The eater

In Kisukuma language, when -i- nominalizing suffix is added to the lexeme, it results into different interpretations. This reflects the semantic structure which is central to cognitive grammar's

conception of language in which meanings are organized in terms of complex constructions (see, for Taylor 2002, Cruse 2000). These semantic gradients can be evidenced in Table 9:

Table 9: Prototype senses of nominalizing -i-

Nouns	Core Meaning	Peripheral Meaning
Mbehi	The smoker (one)	The minder person
Nembi	The cheater (one)	The slower person
Nogi	The witch person	Action of witching
Nseki	The one who laughs	The one who makes butter

Each of the derived verbs into noun has core and peripheral assumption of meaning. Such senses are contextualized in both semantics and pragmatic contexts. That is to say semantics is usually characterized as primarily concerned with the linguistically determined meanings of an expression whilst pragmatics is thought to be concerned with the contextually conditioned interpretation(s) of an expression (Chabata, 2007, p. 191). This is reciprocal to prototype theory of meaning conceptualization whose idea is that

words are elastic in by nature following the fact that the language users construe variants depending on the contextual satisfaction.

Passive noun suffixes: These are suffixes which indicate the noun in which the action is done upon. Thus, passive morph shows the action being acted upon the subject. In other words, a verb is said to be in the passive voice when the subject is not active, its role and that of the object are reversed (Spencer, 1991). The study revealed three forms of Passive suffixes in Kisukumaas illustrated in (10).

Table 10: Passive noun suffixes

Prefix	Verbs	Gloss	Suffixes	Noun extension	English Gloss
[-m-]	Beha	Smoke	-w-	m-beh-w-a	The smoked (one)
[-n-]	Tema	Cut	-ng'w-	n-te-ng'w-a	The cut one
[-n-]	Simba	Uproot	-v-	Simv-a	The uprooted (one)
[-n-]	ng'wa	Drink	-iw-	ng'-iw-a	The one who is drunk
[-n-]	Lemba	Cheat	-v-	Nem-v-a	The cheated one

In Table (10) three passive allomorphs -v-, -ng'w- and -w- are observed in Kisukuma. It must be noted that each noun root in the above cannot take any of the three forms without altering the interpretive index of the respective verb. That is to say there are verbs that take -v-, ng'w and others -w-. This situation is triggered by phonotactics of Kisukuma language. However, it must be noted that the derived nouns from the verb house different semantics something which is counted for within the prototype model of

cognitive semantics. Consider see in Table 11. The nouns in table 11 show two interpretations, this is reciprocally figured in Rosch(1978)'s prototype theory. The theory which argues that categories are the matters of degrees and such degree is explained in core or basic and peripheral or extra meaning of the derived noun. Thus, Kisukuma houses the gradient of meanings in pertinent to nouns which have been derived from the verb class. See more in Rosch (1973).

Table 11: Prototype senses of passive suffixes

Nouns	Core Meaning	Peripheral Meaning
Mbehwa	The smoked (one)	The minded one
Nteng'wa	The cut one	The lead one
Ng'iwa	The one who is drunk	The beaten one
Nemva	The cheated one	The one who is made to settle

Causative noun suffixes: Causative suffixes are morphemes which encode causativity. In other words, they cause someone or something do something' or 'to make someone or something do

something'. The study revealed Causative suffixes as in *-ch-*, *-sh-*, *-ish-*, *-j-*, *-y-* and *-ny-*. These causative morphemes are summarized in table 12 below:

Table 12: Causative suffix extensions

Prefix	Verbs	Gloss	Suffixes	Noun extension	Peripheral Meaning
[-m-]	Ponda	Throw	-y-	m-pond-y-a	The one who makes to throw
[-n-]	Yela	Survey	-j-	n-ye-j-a/i	The one who makes to survey
[-n-]	Zuga	Cook	-j-	n-zu-j-a	The one who makes to cook
[-n-]	Seka	Laugh	-ch-	n-se-ch-a/i	The causee for laughing
[-n-]	Lemba	Cheat	-y-	N-emb-y-a	The causee for cheating
[-n-]	Ng'wa	Drink	-ish-	Ng'-ish-a	The one who causes to drink
[-n-]	Gwa	Fall	-ish	n-gw-ish-a	The one who causes to fall

The suffix causative suffix *-j-* is attached to verbs with roots ending with either *l* or *g*. The verbs to which *-j-* is inserted can be either disyllabic, trisyllabic transitive or intransitive ones. The noun causative suffix *-y-* is attached to disyllabic or trisyllabic verb roots which end with either of the following consonants *t*, *β*, *h*, *m*, *mb*, *n*, *nd*, *n*, *p* or *d*, while this is true, the noun causative suffix *-sh-* and *-ish-* are attached to most of verbs which are monosyllabic. A few

disyllabic verbs, however, attach *-sh-* and *-ish-*. Additionally, most of these verbs which attach *sh* and *ish* are intransitive ending with phoneme *k*.

The derived nouns above justify prototype implication following the sense that they have more than one meaning. Consider the data in Table 13 below:

Table 13: Prototype senses of causative suffixes

Nouns	Core Meaning	Peripheral Meaning
Pondya	The one who makes to throw	The one who rapes
Nyeji	The one who makes to survey	The surveyor
Nsechi	The causee for laughing	The player
Nembya	The causee for cheating	The slower

The multiple meanings resulted from the derived verb into noun classes are best substantiated in Taylor (1990) whose base was that semantic categories are assimilated with that of the first meaning. This means that a speaker who uses the meaning of the second category understands the sense of the first category. That is the base of his argument that of the mental representation of a typical instance of a category, such that entities get assimilated to the category on the basis of perceived similarity to the prototype.

Applied noun suffix extensions: The verb 'applied' comes from the noun application, therefore, suffixes of applied verb are known as applicative morphemes. These are morphs which denote different roles when attached to the noun as in locative, instrumental, benefactive and valence increaser. See the Table 14 below:

Table 14: Applied noun suffixes

Prefix	Verbs	Gloss	Suffixes	Noun extension	Peripheral Meaning
[-m-]	Ponda	Throw	-ej-	m-pond-ej-a/i	The one who throws for
[-n-]	Gema	Try	-j-	n-gem-ej-a/i	The one who tries for
[-n-]	Zuga	Cook	-ij-	n-zug-ij-a/i	The one who cooks for
[-n-]	Simba	Uproot	-ij-	N-simb-ij-i	The one who uproots for
[-n-]	Koja	Dip in	-gi-	n-ko-ge-j-i	The one who dips in for
[-β-]	Kilija	Hold	-ig-	n-kil-ig-ij-a/i	The one who holds for

In table (14), data show that noun applicative suffix *-ej-* and *-ij-* also occurs when the root of the verb ends with *ch* and *k* consonants. Also, the noun applicative allomorphs *-gi-* and *-ge-* are attached to

the roots which end with a consonant *j*. The same realization of *-gi-* and *-ge-* morphs is observed in noun causative verbs which normally

takes the form of -j- morph. It must be noted that the final formative vowel /a/ and /i/ appear interchangeably with the same semantics.

When noun suffix -i- is attached in the noun final, it sometimes in some words results into multiple senses. This phenomenon is known as semantic flexibility in cognitive linguistics. Within the same

assumption, the variability of word meaning has, for example, been observed by Quine(1987, p. 63) who argues that, “meanings are not to be thought of as if they were specimens in a museum of ideas, each with its own label.” Instead, they tend to vary according to their contexts of use. Consider this situation as articulated in Table 15 below:

Table 15: Prototype senses of applied suffixes

Nouns	The Core Meaning	The Peripheral Meaning
Mpondeja	The one who throws for	The one who grinds for
Ngemeji	The one who tries for	The one who tests for
Nzugiji	The one who cooks for	The one who put out for
Nkogeji	The one who dips in for	The good wine maker on behalf
Nkiligiji	The one who holds for	The one who crushes two things for

The data in table 15 above shows more than one meaning. From this base Taylor (2002, p. 98) argued that this idea of having words referring to different concepts in different contexts has been described in as semantic flexibility. In other words, semantic flexibility is understood to shade light into polysemy or homonyms in which is a situation whereby a single linguistic unit has two or more semantic values. See more in Cruse, (1990).

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study has pointed a number of issues pertinent to semantics of noun affixes in Kemunang’weli dialect of Kisukuma language. It revealed diminutive, hugeness or vast, locative, deverbal and adjective prefixes as well as causative, applied and passive derivational suffixes. With this regard, it has been observed that Kisukuma affixes and prefixes in specific can lineup together in a single noun, and that the maximum number of these prefixes are three semantically, it has been seen that each prefix has its own semantic scopes, such scope can be smallness, vastness, hugeness, shortness singularity or plurality. In other angle, the study indicates the sense of multiple semantics of these suffixes when the verb is derived; this has been in evidence for within the cognitive semantics and prototype in specific. The article calls upon further studies on the incorporation analysis of prefixes and suffixes pertinent to nouns within the scope of government and binding theory.

Acknowledgements

The author appreciates support from Sukuma informants who were helpful during the data collection process.

Funding

None

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares No Conflict of Interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

References

- Al-Azzaawi, M. (2006). *Diminution and augmentation in English and Arabic* (Master's thesis, University of Baghdad).
- Appah, S., Agyekum, B., & Ntim, I. A. (2007). The morphopragmatics of the diminutive morpheme (-Ba /-Wa) in Akan. *Lexis: E-Journal in English Lexicology, Ariel*, 1-18.

- Batibo, H. M. (1976). *Le Kesukuma: Langue Bantu de Tanzanie: Morphologie & Phonologie* (Doctoral dissertation, Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III).
- Chabata, E. (2007). *The Nambya verb with special emphasis on the causative* (Unpublished PhD thesis). Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo.
- Chomsky, N. (1957). *Syntactic structures*. Mouton.
- Cruse, A. D. (1990). Prototype theory and lexical semantics. In S. L. Tsohatzidis (Ed.), *Meanings and prototypes: Studies in linguistic categorization* (pp. 93-110). Routledge.
- Cruse, A. D. (2000). *Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics*. Oxford University Press.
- Enon, C. J. (1998). *Educational research, statistics, and measurements* (2nd ed.). Institute of Adult Education and Continuing Education, Makerere University.
- Evans-Pritchard, E. E. (1940). *The Nuer: A description of the modes of livelihood and political institutions of a Nilotic people*. Oxford University Press.
- Gray, D. E. (2014). *Doing research in the real world* (3rd ed.). Sage Publications Ltd.
- Katamba, F. (1986). *Introduction to phonology*. Longman.
- Katamba, F. (1993). *Morphology*. Macmillan.
- Katamba, F. (2003). *Bantu nominal morphology*. St. Martin's Press.
- Spencer, A. (1991). *Morphological theory: An introduction to word structure in generative grammar*. Blackwell.
- Maganga, C., & Schadeberg, T. C. (1992). *Kinyamwezi: Grammar, texts, vocabulary* (East African Languages and Dialects, 1). Rüdiger Koppe.
- Manus, S. (2010). The prosody of Simákonde relative clauses. *ZAS Papers in Linguistics*, 51, 25-41.
- Matondo, M. (2003). *Tonal transfer in Kisukuma* (PhD dissertation, University of California).
- Muhirwe, J. (2007). Computational analysis of Kinyarwanda morphology: The morphological alternations. *International Journal of Computing and ICT Research*, 1(2), 45-61.
- Mugenda, M. O., & Mugenda, G. A. (2003). *Research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Acts Press.
- Muhdhar, R. (2006). *Verb extensions in Kisukuma: Jinakiiya dialect* (MA dissertation, University of Dar es Salaam).
- Ndoleriire, J., & Oriikiriza, R. (1990). *Runyakitara studies* (Unpublished manuscript).
- Richardson, I. (1959). The role of tone in the structure of Sukuma. *School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London*.

- Quine, W. O. (1987). *An intermittently philosophical dictionary*. Harvard University Press.
- Rosch, E. (1973). On the internal structure of perceptual and semantic categories. In T. E. Moore (Ed.), *Cognitive development and the acquisition of language* (pp. 15-43). Academic Press.
- Rosch, E. (1978). Principles of categorization. In E. Rosch & B. B. Lloyd (Eds.), *Cognition and categorization* (pp. 27-48). Lawrence Erlbaum.
- Rugemalira, J. M. (2007). The structure of the Bantu noun phrase. *SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics*, 12, 213-232.
- Taylor, J. R. (1990). Schemas, prototypes and models: In search for the unit of sign. In S. L. Tsohatzidis (Ed.), *Meanings and prototypes: Studies in linguistic categorization* (pp. 123-136). Routledge.
- Taylor, J. R. (2002). *Cognitive grammar*. Oxford University Press.
- Tsohatzidis, S. L. (Ed.). (1990). *Meanings and prototypes: Studies in linguistic categorization*. Routledge.