

Journal of Universal Language 19-1. March 2018, 57-84

DOI 10.22425/jul.2018.19.1.57

eISSN 2508-5344 / pISSN 1598-6381

The Mathematical Operations in Bàtònū Numeral System

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Abstract

This paper examines the morphological properties of Bàtònū numerals. The primary aim of the paper is to investigate the mathematical operations involved in the Bàtònū numeral system. Based on this, the study has the following objectives: To show a descriptive analysis using the lexical phonology and morphology approach in the derivational processes of the numeral system, to show the relevant constraints or imperatives for well-formedness

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Received 17 September, 2017; Revised 19 December, 2017; Accepted 28 December, 2017

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(addition, multiplication, subtraction and conjunction), to examine the representation of number in quality and amount, in line with the system of forming complex numbers and counting operations, finally, to determine the patterns and also the agreed method of counting in Bātōnū. The study adopted Mohanan's (1982) and Kiparsky's (1982a) lexical phonological and morphological theories based on their problem-solving effectiveness and their reliability in handling African language data. Data for the study were generated from both primary and secondary sources. The informant method was adopted in collecting data, through the use of frame technique. The study concluded that Bātōnū employed subtractive mechanism in the formation of numeral system. The language uses productively the additive element “*kà*”¹ meaning ‘and’ in adding other base numerals. Generally speaking, it could be observed that money counting system in Bātōnū employs the mathematical operations of addition, subtraction and multiplication in order to achieve simplicity in the counting system.

Keywords: mathematical operations, Bātōnū, numeral system, lexical phonology and morphology approach

1. Introduction

A numeral system is a writing system for expressing numbers. Numerals denote a class of specific group of words expressing quantity (Blažek 1999). They are definite/specific words in a natural language that represent numbers (Von Mengden 2010). Many researches have been carried out on the numeral systems by experts in linguistics (Abraham 1958, Oduyoye 1969, Sanusi 1995, Blažek 1999, Atóyèbí 2006, Wiese 2007, Fabunmi 2010, Oyebade 2013

¹ “*kà*” means ‘and’ in the context of Bātōnū Mathematical Operations, as discussed in the paper, it also represents expression such as ‘*add*’, ‘*either with*’, ‘*alongside with*’ or ‘*side by side with*’.

among others). As observed in Wiese (2007: 760-761), number assignments, across languages, fall into three categories. One is the cardinality (i.e., the cardinal number assignments indicating the cardinality of a set) and they identify the numerical quantity of objects. The second is ordinality, which shows the position of an object within others, and the third type is the numbering system.

Therefore, the aim of this paper is to investigate the cardinal and the ordinal number assignments, the derivations as well as the mathematical operations involved in the Bātònū numeral system. The data used for our analysis in this study were drawn from Bātònū language spoken in the Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, Nigeria.

1.1. The Language and its Speakers

According to the researches carried out by Isa (1997: 1-10) and Sanusi (2002: 1), Bātònū is a language spoken as a mother tongue in a stretch of territory lying North-West and South-West across the Nigerian-Benin republic boundary. The language is specifically spoken as first language in former Western Borgu district of Kwara State, which now constitutes the newly created Baruten Local Government Area with its headquarters in Kosubosu. The districts that make up the new Local Government Area are: Okuta, Yashikira, Ilesha and Gwanara. In Benin Republic, the language is spoken in places like Parakou, Natintingou, Nikki, Kandi and other small towns and villages. Following Williamson & Blench (2000), Bātònū is classified under the Gur (Voltaic) subgroup of Niger-Congo, which is divided into two: Central Gur and Peripheral Gur. Bātònū is classified under the Peripheral Gur with some other languages like: Kulango, Win, Loron, Viemo, among others. Though the language is

popularly known as Bàrùbá or Bàrìbá, the native speakers refer to it as Bàtònū and refer to themselves as Bàtòmbū. It is a tone² language.

1.2. Objectives of the Study

The following objectives have been set for the study:

- i. To investigate the mathematical operations involved in the Bàtònū numeral system.
- ii. To apply a descriptive analysis using the lexical phonology and morphology approach in the derivational processes of the numeral system.
- iii. To examine the agreement patterns within the different structural forms of the numerals.
- iv. To examine the representation of number in quality and amount, in line with the system of forming complex numbers and counting operations.

1.3. Justification of the Study

To the best of our knowledge, Welmers (1952, 1973) are the major published research works on Bàtònū, and the two works focused mainly on the aspects of phonology and morphology of the language. Moreover, some unpublished undergraduate and postgraduate research projects have also been carried out on various aspects of Bàtònū language, namely Sanusi (1983, 2002), Togun (1982), and Isa (1997).

² Like many African languages, Bàtònū is a tone language (Welmers 1973: 80). Three tones are identified in Bàtònū. They include: low (̀) tone, high (/) tone, and the mid (-) tone.

Welmers (1952, 1973), Sanusi (1983, 2002, 2003) are the previous works on Bātōnū language that have examined the phenomenon of noun class system, the structure of the language, and the interdependency between the Bātōnū morphological processes and phonological rules in word formation.

Sanusi (1995) discusses the Bātōnū numerals that are directly related to the aspects examined in this study, in which he accounted for the traditional system of counting in base five and the derivation of compound numerals in Bātōnū. In his treatment of numerals some aspects were not considered which informed the current effort. This study will therefore, carefully examine the Bātōnū numeral system and expose its morphological as well as the mathematical operations used in the counting system of the language.

Various steps, theory and methods will be considered in the analysis and exemplification of the numeral system. It is hoped that this work will serve as a cornerstone for further studies on the numeral system in Bātōnū and other natural languages; since the counting system is one of the universal features of human languages.

2. Theoretical Framework

Lexical Phonology (LP) and Lexical Morphology (LM) constitute the major framework adopted for our analysis in this study. Lexical phonology, according to Kenstowicz (1994: 20), receives generative interpretation of the relations between phonology and morphology. Our choice of the theory is therefore informed by its problem-solving efficiency. For instance, the lexical phonological theory, which exploits the interrelationship between morphology and phonology is capable of explaining phenomena in Africa languages (and indeed,

numeral system in Bātōnū), which are hitherto regarded as ‘complex’ or intractable.

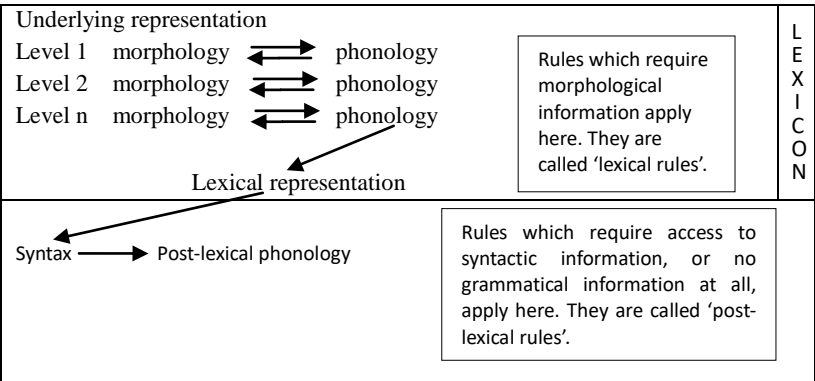
The lexical morphology and phonology theory was developed by Mohanan (1982) and Kiparsky (1982a). This theory is based on the assumption that there are two types of phonological rule application:

- The lexical rules: this refers to rules that apply within the lexicon.
- Post-lexical rules: this refers to the output of two lexical components.

It is observed that rules that apply at the lexical level manifest different properties from those that apply post-lexically, but different properties will still be observed in the component.

This indicates that lexical phonology recognizes three levels of representations, namely, underlying, lexical and post-lexical. Below is a diagram of the overall structure of the lexical phonology model that serves as our theoretical framework in this study:

Figure 1. The Lexical Phonological and Morphological Model



Source: Durand (1990) (see SIL (2004) web page)

This representation shows that the word formation rules and the phonological rules can be divided into a series of levels or strata. Each level has the lexical phonological rules distinctive of that level.

Akinlabí & Oyeade (1987) apply this theory to vowel deletion in Yoruba, although the work leans heavily on Pulleyblank (1986), Halle (1973) and Mohanan (1985). Akinlabí & Oyeade rightly observe that the existence of phonological rules in Yoruba supports this proposal. This, according to them, occurs both lexically and post-lexically to attain vowel deletion as well as denasalization that transforms /n/ → /l/, as exemplified in (1) below:

- (1) a. /oní + ɛja/ → [ɛlɛja]
 owner of fish ‘owner of fish’
- b. /oní + owó/ → [olówó]
 owner of money ‘owner of money’/
 ‘rich person’
- c. /oní + ɔmọ/ → [ɔlɔmọ]
 owner of child ‘owner of a child’

The first process here is the deletion of vowel /i/ in “**oní**” and the second is the assimilation of /o/ to the initial vowel of the following morpheme. The third is denasalization which turns /n/ to /l/.

Goldsmith (1990: 20) also states that, “lexical phonology is arrived at by the concatenation of the morphophonemic rules and the purely phonological rules of the pre-generative years”. Hence, lexical phonology is proposed to account for the interrelationship between the two levels of linguistics, phonology and morphology.

In a similar way, we have applied the model to Bātōnū data to attain similar derivational processes of deletion, assimilation and denasalization.

3. An Overview of Bàtònū Numeral System

Bàtònū operates a quinary (base 5) numeral system (Sanusi 1995). There are lexical items representing the numbers 1-5. Also, there are various possible combinations that exploit the cardinal numerical resources to build up an increasing system of counting by means of productive additive mechanism. This observation is aptly captured by Sanusi (1995: 14), that Bàtònū uses base five or a multiply of five as the basis upon which both cardinal and ordinal numerals are derived. He also notes that “the numeral ‘six’ to ‘nine’ are derived based on five plus one through four, while ten is regarded as new unit (i.e., a multiple of five)”. However, similar to what Taiwo (2017) observes about ‘Prosodic Reduplication in Yorùbá’, Sanusi (1995) also sees the overall numerical system of Bàtònū as a product of an interplay of morphological and phonological processes. The processes are employed to derive various numerical entities of different qualities and magnitudes. In Bàtònū, they count from one (tía) to thousand (nòrubù/nòra). These counting structures are lexicalized in the language. The smallest unit of counting in Bàtònū is ‘one’ and the counting system does go beyond thousand. Bàtònū cardinal numerals are categorized into three broad groups as far as counting from one to thousand is concerned. These are the basic numeral, which is the most important aspect of the numeral system which all other numerals build upon. In clear terms, Omachonu (2013: 129) notes that “the basics are the primary numerals (simple cardinals) which are mono-morphemic in nature, while the derivatives are the secondary or non-basic numerals whose derivational history is traceable to a combination of the basic numerals through some addition or a combination of two bases”. We shall present and analyze the numerical systems in due course. We

shall begin our discussion by identifying the basic simple and the derived simple cardinal numerals that constitute the figures in Bātōnū language.

3.1. Derivation of Bātōnū Numerals Using the LP Model

The lexical phonology model has become the focus of most generative research concerned with the relation of phonology to word structure. Kenstowicz (1994: 214) observes that lexical phonology develops the distinction between primary and secondary affixes into a well ordered morphology and the basic proposal is that Word Formation Rules (WFRs) and Phonological Rules (PRs) can be divided into a series of levels or strata. The LP model also defines a set of lexical items by a hierarchy of WFRs in which derivation proceeds through all the levels if no relevant morphology applies at that level and the output of each level is a lexical item. In deriving some numerals in Bātōnū, two phonological rules are applied to the Underlying Representation (UR), these rules are the consonant deletion and vowel elision rules. The application of the two rules are exemplified in section 3.1.1.

The Bātōnū cardinal numerals are categorized into three broad groups which are the basic, simple and the derived numerals. Basic numerals, according to Ajíbáyè (2013: 3), are those numerals that are not derived i.e., numerals whose form cannot be broken down into identifiable meaningful morphemes. Von Mengden (2010) considers the simple numerals as the easiest conceivable set of numerical expressions in a language which are mono-morphemic forms with arbitrary phonological shape. The basic and the simple cardinal numerals are lexically represented in Table 1 below. The first five cardinals are the basic numerals in Bātōnū ‘base five’ counting

system. They are used for counting and in describing quantity. The same kind of numerals are used for counting both human and non-human nouns.

Table 1. The Simple Cardinal Numerals

| Simple Cardinals in Bàtònū | Arabic Numerals | Gloss |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| t áa | 1 | ‘one’ |
| iru | 2 | ‘two’ |
| ita | 3 | ‘three’ |
| nne | 4 | ‘four’ |
| nɔ̀ɔ̀bù | 5 | ‘five’ |
| ɔ̀kuru/wɔ̀kuru | 10 | ‘ten’ |
| yendu/yeeru | 20 | ‘twenty’ |
| tèna | 30 | ‘thirty’ |
| wèèru | 40 | ‘forty’ |
| weeraɔ̀kuru | 50 | ‘fifty’ |
| wàta | 60 | ‘sixty’ |
| wàtaɔ̀kuru/wàtakuru | 70 | ‘seventy’ |
| wène | 80 | ‘eighty’ |
| wènaɔ̀kuru/wènakuru | 90 | ‘ninety’ |
| wùnɔ̀bù/wùna | 100 | ‘one hundred’ |
| goòbu | 200 | ‘two hundred’ |
| neèru | 400 | ‘four hundred’ |
| nàta | 600 | ‘six hundred’ |
| nène | 800 | ‘eight hundred’ |
| nòrɔ̀bù/nɔ̀ra | 1,000 | ‘thousand’ |
| yèkò | 1,000,000 | ‘million’ |
| tusuru | 1,000,000,000 | ‘billion’ |
| tùsù-goòru | 1,000,000,000,000 | ‘trillion’ |

3.1.1. The Derived Simple Cardinals

Cardinal numerals 50 ‘fifty’, 70 ‘seventy’ and 90 ‘ninety’ in Bātònū are derived by adding ten (10) to each of the figures (i.e., 40+10, 60+10 and 80+10), etc., as exemplified in (2) below.

| (2) | Underlying Representation | Derived Form | Symbol |
|-----|----------------------------------|--|--------|
| a. | /weèru kà ɔkuru/ 40 add 10 | → [weèraɔkùru/weèraàkùru] ‘fifty’ | — 50 |
| b. | /wàta kà ɔkuru/ 60 add 10 | → [wàtakàɔkuru] ‘seventy’ | — 70 |
| c. | /wèna kà ɔkuru/ 80 add 10 | → [wènakàɔkuru] ‘ninety’ | — 90 |
| d. | /goòbu kà wùna/ 200 add 100 | → [goòbáwùncbù/wùna] ‘three-hundred’ | — 300 |
| e. | /neèru kà wùncbù/ 400 add 100 | → [neèrawùncbù/wùna] ‘five-hundred’ | — 500 |
| f. | /nàta kà wùna/ 600 add 100 | → [nàtakàwùna/wùncbù] ‘seven-hundred’ | — 700 |
| g. | /nène kà wùna/ 800 add 100 | → [nènekàwùna/wùncbù] ‘nine-hundred’ | — 900 |

Bātònū uses five (‘5’) or multiple of five, as shown in table 1, as the base to which other numerals are added to derive numerals like:

6-9, 11-19 and 21-29. This derivational process is prone to phonological processes like consonant deletion and vowel elision. It is the initial consonant of the addition marker “kà” that is always deleted; while the vowel deletion involves the last vowel of the ‘number base’ five or any multiple of five that is involved in the derivation. Chumbow (1982) cited in Sanusi (1995: 16) postulates the following rules to account for the two phonological processes that take place before the derivation of other numerals. The rules are repeated here as (3) below:

(3) a. Consonant Deletion

$$\mathbf{R1} \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} + \text{ cons.} \\ - \text{ nas} \end{array} \right] \longrightarrow \emptyset / \left[\begin{array}{c} + \text{ syll.} \\ - \text{ cons.} \end{array} \right] \# \text{ —}$$

Prose statement: A word initial (non-nasal) consonant is deleted when preceded by a vowel.

b. Vowel Elision

$$\mathbf{R2} \quad \text{V} \longrightarrow \emptyset / \text{ — } \# \text{ V.}$$

Prose statement: The last vowel of a preceding word (i.e., a number base) is elided at the word boundary when it is contiguous with the initial vowel of the following word.

These two rules captured the derived numerals 6-9, 11-19 and 21-29. The first rule deletes the consonant of the coordinating element “kà” [k]; that is, the word-initial voiceless velar consonant [k] is deleted whenever it is preceded by a vowel. The second rule applies to the stem numeral “nɔ̄ɔ̄bù” signifying 5, “ɔ̄kuru/wɔ̄kuru” signifying

10 and “yendu/yenda” which stands for the figure 20. The final back high rounded vowel [u] of the basic unit is elided/replaced with the low back vowel [a]. Let’s consider the numerals in data (4) below:

| (4) Underlying Representation | Derived Form | Computational System |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. /nɔ̃ɔ̃bù kà tía/ five and one | → [nɔ̃ɔ̃batía] ‘six’ | → 5 and 1 = 6 |
| b. /nɔ̃ɔ̃bù kà ìta/ five and three | → [nɔ̃ɔ̃baìta] ‘eight’ | → 5 and 3 = 8 |
| c. /ɔ̃kuru kà tía/ ten and one | → [ɔ̃kurátía] ‘eleven’ | → 10 and 1 = 11 |
| d. /ɔ̃kuru kà ìru/ ten and two | → [ɔ̃kuráìru/ɔ̃kuráàru] ‘twelve’ | → 10 and 2 = 12 |
| e. /ɔ̃kuru kà nɔ̃ɔ̃bù kà nne/ ten and five and four | → [ɔ̃kuránɔ̃ɔ̃banne] ‘nineteen’ | → 10 and 9 = 19 |
| f. /yendu kà tía/ twenty and one | → [yendátía] ‘twenty-one’ | → 20 and 1 = 21 |
| g. /yendu kà nɔ̃ɔ̃bù/ twenty and five | → [yendánɔ̃ɔ̃bù] ‘twenty-five’ | → 20 and 5 = 25 |
| h. /yendu kà nɔ̃ɔ̃bù kà ìru/ twenty and five and two | → [yendánɔ̃ɔ̃baìru] ‘twenty-seven’ | → 20 and 7 = 27 |
| i. /yendu kà nɔ̃ɔ̃bù kà nne/ twenty and five and four | → [yendánɔ̃ɔ̃banne] ‘twenty-nine’ | → 20 and 9 = 29 |

A closer look at the data in (4) reveals the following. First and

foremost, the entire numerical system is a function of compounding. However, this process generates certain phonological processes that include consonant deletion and vowel elision. This was reported by Sanusi (1995: 16) that “two phonological processes must apply before a correct output of a compound numeral is derived in the language”.

As observed in (4) above, since the voiceless velar stop [k] is deleted and the final back high rounded vowel [u] of the base is elided, we then derived “*nɔ̃ɔ̃baìru*” (‘seven’) instead of “*nɔ̃ɔ̃buìru*”, “*ɔ̃kuranɔ̃ɔ̃bú*” (‘fifteen’) instead of “*ɔ̃kurunɔ̃ɔ̃bu*” and, “*yendaìru*” (‘twenty-two’) instead of “*yenduìru*”. The deletion process further triggers vowel elision. Observation shows that the numeral ‘ten’ “*ɔ̃kuru/wɔ̃kuru*”, ‘twenty’ “*yendu/yeeru*”, ‘one hundred’ “*wùnbù/wùna*” and ‘a thousand’ “*nɔ̃rubù/nɔ̃ra*” are in free variation (can substitute for one another with no subsequent change in the word meaning).

The above examples in (4) show that the rules are in the feeding order (i.e., if one does not apply, the other cannot apply). Observation shows that the rules of deletion and vowel elision proposed by Chumbow (1982) do not apply to numerals from thirty and above. Sanusi (1995: 19) also notes that (R1) is independently motivated in the language whenever the use of addition marker is required to derive a compound numeral. However, an informant hinted that when counting from thirty-five and above, the application of rule one becomes optional, hence the addition marker within a derivation could be realized as an autonomous word.

3.2. Derivation of Bàtònū Ordinal Numerals by Suffixation

Sanusi (1995: 16) states that ordinal numerals are used to indicate the exact position where something occurs in a series. He opines that

“apart from the first ordinal numeral, other ordinal numerals in Bātōnu are formed by adding the positional suffix morpheme “-sèé” which represents the English equivalent of ‘-nd’ as in 2nd, ‘-rd’ as in 3rd, and ‘-th’ as in 4th to each of the cardinal numerals”. In Bātōnū, there is a separate and distinct expression for ‘first’ which is derivationally independent of the cardinal ‘one’. Observation shows that there is no synchronic or diachronic morphological connection between “tá” (‘one’) and “gbìika/gbìiko” (‘first’). All the ordinal numerals in Bātōnū paradigm are regularly derived from the cardinal numerals via suffixation “-sèé” except for “gbìika” (‘first’) which is derivationally independent of other pairs. It behaves morphologically exactly like the other numerals while other paradigm is absolutely regular and free of suppletion. This could be exemplified in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Derivation of Bātōnū Ordinal Numerals

| Arabic Numerals | Bātōnū Cardinal Numerals | Gloss | Derived Bātōnū Ordinal Numerals | Gloss |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | t á | ‘one’ | gbìika/gbìiko | ‘first’ |
| 2 | iru | ‘two’ | ìru-sèé | ‘second’ |
| 3 | ita | ‘three’ | ìta-sèé | ‘third’ |
| 4 | nne | ‘four’ | nne-sèé | ‘fourth’ |
| 5 | nɔ̌ɔ̀bù | ‘five’ | nɔ̌ɔ̀bù-sèé | ‘fifth’ |
| 6 | nɔ̌ɔ̀bat á | ‘six’ | nɔ̌ɔ̀bat á-sèé | ‘sixth’ |
| 7 | nɔ̌ɔ̀ba ìru | ‘seven’ | nɔ̌ɔ̀ba ìru-sèé | ‘seventh’ |
| 8 | nɔ̌ɔ̀ba ìta | ‘eight’ | nɔ̌ɔ̀ba ìta-sèé | ‘eighth’ |
| 9 | nɔ̌ɔ̀banne | ‘nine’ | nɔ̌ɔ̀banne-sèé | ‘ninth’ |
| 10 | ɔ̀kuru | ‘ten’ | ɔ̀kuru-sèé | ‘tenth’ |
| | | | Dàkùrè | ‘last’ |

Table 2 above shows that there is no synchronic or diachronic

morphological connection between “tía” (‘one’) and “gbiika” (‘first’). Also, Table 2 shows that there are only two independent ordinal numbers found in the lexicon of the language, that are not derived. They include “gbiika” (‘first’) and “dàkùrè” meaning ‘last’. The others are formed by the addition of the ordinal indicator “-sèé” to the cardinal number base.

3.3. Counting through Addition

The mathematical operation involved in the derivation of some numerals in Bàtònū is ‘addition’. Sanusi (1995: 16) asserts that “an addition marker “**kà**” meaning ‘add’ in Bàtònū is used as an arithmetic operator to add any number to the number base”. Therefore, the number unit ‘one’ to ‘five’ are added to “tèna” (‘thirty’), “weèru” (‘fourty’), “weèraɔkúru” (‘fifty’), “wàta” (‘sixty’), “wàtakàɔkúru” (‘seventy’), “wène” (‘eighty’), “wènekàɔkúru” (‘ninety’) to derive compound numbers. The process of addition is expressed with the additive morpheme “kà” (‘add’) to connect the appropriate unit to a particular base to derive intended number.

The derivational strategy employed to derive 30 upward is structured in such a way that the additive ‘kà’ does not undergo neither consonant deletion nor vowel assimilation. Consider the examples in (5) below.

| (5) | Underlying Representation | Derived Form | Computational System |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| a. | /téna kà t íá/ thirty add one | → [ténakàt íá] ‘thirty-one’ | → 30 + 1 = 31 |
| b. | /téna kà nɔɔbù/ thirty add five | → [ténakànɔɔbù] ‘thirty-five’ | → 30 + 5 = 35 |

- c. /weèru kà ìru/ → [weèrukàìru] → 40 + 2 = 42
 forty add two 'forty-two'
- d. /weèru kà nne/ → [weèrukànnè] → 40 + 4 = 44
 forty add four 'forty-four'

3.3.1. Counting of Money through Addition

Nigerian currency is called “Naira” and its denominations are: “Naira” and “Kobo” (₦: K). Officially, the currency notes are embossed with the pictures of distinguished Nigerians. Among Nigerians, each currency note is called by the name of the personality on the currency note. For example, twenty naira note (₦20) has the picture of the Former Military Head of State (late Gen. Murtala Muhammed).

It should be noted that of all the personalities appearing on the currency notes, late Murtala Muhammed happened to be the most popular, as people refer to the twenty-naira (₦20 note) that bears his photograph as “*Muri*” (the abbreviated form of Murtala) especially among the Yoruba people (see the appendix). This practice is also replicated in the Bàtònū counting system in which the abbreviated name “*Murí*” is borrowed from Yoruba (the neighboring language).

However, money is counted in Bàtònū with the name of the currency coming before the numbers e.g., “*kóbò*”, “*nérà*”. Bàtònū borrowed the concept “*Murí*” (i.e., twenty) coming before the numbers e.g., *Murítá* (twenty in one place), *Murí ìru* (twenty in two places), *Murí ìta* (twenty in three places). Counting of money in the language also employs the use of the term “*bòru*” literally ‘a bag’ in which a bag represents two hundred (200) Naira. In other words, multiples of 200 are counted in bags. For example, “*nérà bòru-tía*”

‘one bag of Naira’ (N200), “*nerà bòru-iru*” ‘two bags of Naira’ (N400), “*nerà bòru-ita*” ‘three bags of Naira’ (N600), etc. They also count in thousand, and multiply “*nerà nɔɔbu*” ‘a thousand Naira’ with any *caidina* number.

Counting of money through addition is achieved by the use of “*kà*” (a conjunction) in order to derive larger unit. Sanusi (1995) asserts that addition marker “*kà*” meaning ‘and’ in Bàtònū is used as an arithmetic operator to add any number to the number base. Also Alerechi & Igbo (2013: 316) opine that one of the complexities in the numeral system is the number derivation which involves the use of combined words/numerals through some mathematical processes which include: addition, subtraction, multiplication and combination of different mathematical processes to yield certain numerals. The examples in Table 3 below show how the addition mechanism operates in Bàtònū money counting system.

Table 3. Process of Addition in Bàtònū Money Counting System

| Added value in Bàtònū | Added Figures | The Sum Total |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mùrì tía <i>kà</i> <i>nerà nɔɔbù</i> ‘a twenty and five naira’ | $N20+N5$ | = N25 ‘twenty five naira’ |
| Múrí ìru <i>kà</i> <i>nerà nɔɔbù</i> ‘two twenties and five naira’ | $N20+N20+N5$ i.e., $N40+N5$ | = N45 ‘forty-five naira’ |
| Múrí nne ‘four tewnties’ | $N20+N20+N20+N20$ i.e., N80 | = N80 ‘eighty naira’ |
| Múrí nɔɔbù ‘five twenties’ | $N20+N20+N20+N20$ +N20 i.e., N100 | = N100 ‘one hundred naira’ |
| Múrí nɔɔbù <i>kà</i> <i>pán nɔɔbù</i> five twenties and five pounds ‘five twenties and ten naira’ | $N20+N20+N20+N20$ +N20+N10 i.e., $N100+N10$ | = N110 ‘one hundred and ten naira’ |

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| b̄oru 'a bag/two hundred' | 200 | = N200 'two hundred naira' |
| b̄oru kà b̄onu 'two and a half bags of money' | 200+half i.e., 200+100 | = N300 'three hundred naira' |
| b̄oru kà b̄onu kà pán yenda ᠑᠕᠑᠑᠑᠑ 'two and half bags and twenty-five pounds' | N200+N100+N50 i.e., N300+N50 | = N350 'three hundred and fifty naira' |
| b̄oru ìta kà b̄onu 'three and a half bags of money' | (N200x3)+half i.e., N600+N100 | = N700 'seven hundred naira' |

3.4. Counting of Money (through Subtraction)

Subtraction can occur in isolation to derive numbers, and in combination with other mathematical operations. Sanusi (1995: 17) observes that in some cases where the language considers a process of addition to be cumbersome, it uses the subtraction method as an alternative approach in which the language considers the process of subtraction to be much easier than the process of addition. Here, the suffix morpheme “-*sàrì*” is affixed to the money counting base (i.e., positioned after the number from which a number is subtracted), which is conventionally coded as ‘decrease/less/reduced’. The process of subtraction is involved in generating multiples of twenty and hundred. The subtractive morpheme “-*sàrì*” is positioned at the end of the numerals and changing its position can violate a correct derivation. The examples in (7) show the internal structure of counting through subtractive method.

| (7) | Subtracted Value in Bàtònū | Subtracted Figures | Derived Value |
|------|--|--|--|
| i. | Múrí ìta, nénàṅṅbùsàrí three twenties, naira five decreases 'sixty naira decreases by naira five' | $N20+N20+N20-N5$ i.e., $N60-N5$ | $= N55$ 'fifty-five naira' |
| ii. | Múrí nṅṅbù, nérà nṅṅbù sàrí five twenties, naira five decreases 'one hundred decreases by five naira' | $N20+N20+20+$ $N20+N20-N5$ i.e., $N100-N5$ | $= N95$ 'ninety-five naira' |
| iii. | Múrí nṅṅbù ìta, nérà nṅṅbù sàrí eight twenties, naira five decreases 'one hundred and sixty naira decreases by five naira' | $N20+20+20+20+$ $20+20+20+20-N5$ i.e., $N160+N5$ | $= N155$ 'one hundred and fifty-five naira' |

From data (7) above, it could be observed that N20 is no longer expressed as “*neràyenda*” which is equivalent to twenty naira but as “*Múrí*” (in twenties). However, an omission of the operative unit “*-sàrí*” or a violation of the order of occurrence of the items will cause the derivational process to ‘crash’. This twenty Naira (~~N~~20) note bears the picture of the former military Head of State (late Gen. Murtala Muhammed).

3.5. Counting of Money (through Multiplication)

Olúbòdé (2013: 193) notes that in multiplication, the counting system has multiplicands and multipliers. The multiplicands are the numbers that are to be multiplied by another while the multipliers are the sequences of multiplications. Olúbòdé (2013) shows that multiplication is used in generating decades, hundreds and thousands, by giving examples in Yoruba saying “multiplicands are base

numbers such as ‘Ogún’ (20), ‘Igba’ (200), and derived bases such as ‘çgbàá’ (2,000) and ‘çgbàáwàá’ (20,000)”. In Batõnu the multiplication method is achieved by multiplying a simple and derived cardinal numerals by “*bòru*” ‘a bag’ (denoting two hundred Naira) for counting from 1,000 - 5,000. “*Bòru-*” is prefix to the other numeral which indicates a multiplication of that numeral with ‘a bag’ (200). If “*bòru-ita*” is 200 x 3 the multiplicand will be 200 and the multiplier is 3. In this case, the multiplier still goes on to 9, after which another base “*nòròbù*” (thousand) is reached. “*nòròbù*” here is also a multiplicand which is constant, the multiplicands are in the first position and its multiplier occupies the last position. Moreover, multiplication process involves the sequence of the higher and lower units without an intervening morpheme, because the sequences of numerals denoting multiplicative process are left bare. This can be exemplified in Table 4 below:

Table 4. Literal Multiplication in Båtõnũ Money Counting System

| Literal Multiplication in Båtõnũ | Multiplied Figures | Value of the Sum Total |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| bòru nòròbù / nérà nòròbù a bag five / naira a thousand | 200 x 5 N1000 | = N1000 ‘one thousand naira’ |
| bòru okuru a bag ten | 200 x 10 N2000 | = N2000 ‘two thousand naira’ |
| bòru yendanòròbù a bag twenty-five | 200 x 25 N5000 | = N5000 ‘five thousand naira’ |
| nérà nòròbù nòròbanne naira a thousand nine | N1000 x 9 N9000 | = N9000 ‘nine thousand naira’ |
| nérà nòròbù okuránòròbù naira a thousand fifteen | N1000 x 15 N15,000 | = N15,000 ‘fifteen thousand naira’ |
| nérà nòròbù tèna naira a thousand thirty | N1000 x 30 N30,000 | = N30,000 ‘thirty thousand naira’ |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| nérà ñòròbù wàtakàòkuránṵbù naira a thousand seventy-five | N1000 x 75 N75,000 | = N75,000 'seventy-five thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù wùna naira a thousand one-hundred | N1000 x 100 N100,000 | = N100,000 'one hundred thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù wùnawèèrààkùru naira a thousand a hundred fifty | N1000 x 150 N150,000 | = N150,000 'one hundred and fifty thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù goòbu naira a thousand two-hundred | N1000 x 200 N200,000 | = N200,000 'two hundred thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù neràawùnòbù naira a thousand five-hundred | N1000 x 500 N500,000 | = N500,000 'five hundred thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù nàta naira a thousand six-hundred | N1000 x 600 N600,000 | = N600,000 'six hundred thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù nène naira a thousand eight-hundred | N1000 x 800 N800,000 | = N800,000 'eight hundred thousand naira' |
| nérà ñòròbù nènekàwùna naira a thousand nine-hundred | N1000 x 900 N900,000 | = N900,000 'nine hundred thousand naira' |

As shown in Table 4 above, when the amount involved is up to a hundred, “*bòru*” (‘a bag’) is used to measure the amount, so N200 ‘two hundred naira’ is referred to as “*bòru*” in Bàtònū language and half a bag is called “*bònu*”. Thus, instead of counting N300 (three hundred Naira) as “*bòrukàmúrínṵbù*”, it is counted as “*bòrukàbònu*” literally ‘two hundred and a half bag’ since half of two hundred Naira (N200) is one hundred Naira (N100).

In the course of this research, we discovered that Bàtònū borrowed the term “naira”. The Batonised forms of ‘naira’ and ‘kobo’ are “*nérà*” and “*kòbò*” respectively, while the concept “*Múrit*” is

borrowed from Yoruba (which is a neighbouring language). Up to the present time, counting of money still follows the system as shown in (7) on page 76, and it differs slightly from the ordinary counting system, due to the prefix attached to the number base.

4. Major Findings

This study has examined the mathematical operations involved in the Bātōnū numeral system and the major findings of the paper include:

- i. We discovered that individual word presents individual number base, such as *wɔkuru/ɔkura* ‘ten’ (10), *yendu/yeeru* (20), *wùncòbù/wùna* ‘one hundred’ (100) and *nòrubù/nòra* (1000). Others are: *gbìika/gbìiko* ‘first’, *non-iru/non-meru* ‘twice’ and *tá/teeru/turo* ‘once’.
- ii. Except for ‘first’, all ordinal numerals are derived from cardinal numerals with the addition of a suffix morpheme “-sèé”.
- iii. Each of the simple cardinals: “*nɔɔbù*” (‘five’), “*ɔkuru*” (‘ten’) and “*yendu*” (‘twenty’) changes its form and becomes “*nɔɔba*”, “*ɔkura*” and “*yenda*” respectively, whenever it co-occurs with another numeral to derive a new number.
- iv. For the sake of simplicity, Bātōnū employs subtractive mechanism in the derivation of numerals. The language uses productively the additive marker “*kà*” meaning ‘and’ in adding other base numerals. Generally speaking, it could be observed that money counting system in Bātōnū

employs the mathematical operations of addition, subtraction and multiplication in order to simplify the counting system.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

As indicated earlier, the primary aim of this study is to give a vivid description of the Bātōnū numeral system, and of course show the mathematical operations involved in the derivation of the numerals. In carrying out this task, effort was made to use insights from the theories of phonology and morphology to explain the processes involved in the numeral formation.

Though this report may not be exhaustive, it is hoped that the study has achieved its primary aim of providing a detailed description of the morphological derivational processes in Bātōnū numeral system. It has been demonstrated that Bātōnū numerals can be derived or non-derived. It has also shown that its subtraction device, in money counting system, is overtly reflected in the word “-*sàrĩ*” (‘decrease/reduce’).

Finally, it could be said that the Bātōnū system is rich in expressing numerals for its cultural and scientific needs, without any cause for borrowing from another language, except for the symbols used in counting money, which are refashioned by the Bātōnū native speakers in order to suit their purpose. For example, the notions ‘Naira’ and ‘Kobo’ are refashioned as “*nérà*” and “*kóbò*”.

We have thus far explored and analyzed the structure of Bātōnū numeral system. There are, however, residual issues that require further research. This includes, among others, a detailed morphosyntactic description that captures the various distributions of

these numerals in different linguistic and cultural domains.

Finally, it is hoped that subsequent or further research into the numeral system of Bàtònū will include discussions on much more comprehensive descriptive grammar of the Bàtònū numeral system and other related issues including reference to time expressed in hours, measurement, and the dating system.

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Appendix

Nigerian Currency (Twenty Naira Note (₦20))

