Aspects of Farefari Compounding: The Syntactic Constructure of Farefari Personal Compound Names

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Abstract

Compounding has received linguistic attention in Farefare language. The authors in [2, 6, 7, 8, 11, 18, 26, 30, 31] however, the phenomenon was not studied extensively, especially the syntactic constructure of Farefari personal compound names. This paper discusses the syntactic relations that occur in some personal compound names in Farefari. The study analyzes and presents data using the Basic Linguistic Theory (BLT). This helped the researcher to find out whether the Farefari personal compound names are lexical words, phrases, or even sentences. The data also enabled the researcher to do a typological study of the Farefari compounds in order to ascertain the syntactic constructure of the Farefari personal compound names. The results of study revealed that most of the Farefari personal compound names are sentences made up of a subject-verb-object (CVC, CV etc). The findings therefore established that most of the Farefari compound personal names are not lexical words but phrases, sentences and therefore syntactic. This finding is very important not only to Farefari Language alone but to Mabia languages as well since they share the same linguistic characteristics. Based on the findings, the researcher recommends that future researchers investigating on farefari compound word may focus on verb-verb and adverb-adverb compounds.

Keywords: Compound; constructure; syntactic; personal name; linguistic structures; Farefari.

1. Introduction

Linguistic structures are described in terms of the semantic functions of their various elements and it is the syntactic forms and relationships that express those. The term ‘constructure’ refers to the relationships that exist between the small units that make up a larger unit. Farefari is a Mabia language, of Niger-Congo languages family spoken in the Upper East Region of Ghana. A number of studies have been done in some sections of compounding in Farefari in the following authors [8, 11, 18, 26, 30, 31].

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However, some sections are not covered and needed attention. The examination of this study indicated that the
structure of Farefari personal compound names are sentences. Some typological features of the Farefari
language includes the vowels, vowel harmony, consonants but the language does operate consonant clusters,
noun class, concord systems and tone in the following authors in [6, 8, 13, 18] nine vowels of the language
have been grouped into two sets using the feature known as Advance Tongue Root (ATR); [+ATR] vowels /i, e,
_ _
_u, o/ and [-ATR] vowels /i, e, v, a/. These vowels are part in the cross-height vowel harmony whereby
roots and associate suffixes only contain vowels of the same set of [ATR]. The vowel in any word apart from
compounds would usually come from the same ATR set. The following are the consonant phonemes of the
Farefari language; b, d, f, g (ɣ), h, k (ʧ), l, m, n, ɲ, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z (ʤ), kp, gb, ŋm (ŋw), ɲ (ny), ?/. The class
system is a genetic and typological feature for the Niger-Congo family languages in author [17].

The language has a SV(O) structure together with its variant forms illustrated in a simple sentence and also
operate in two-tones system; high(⦁) tone and low (اسي) tone in the following[6, 8, 10, 31]. This paper discusses
the syntactic relations that occur in some personal compound names of Farefari. Farefari word structure is
mostly an open monosyllabic CV and disyllabic CVCV. However, there are few words where a closed
monosyllabic of a type CVC occurs. Consonant that occur in the closure are always the nasal consonants as [m]
[n] [ŋ] and the glottal stop [ʔ] e.g kom ‘hunger’, zom ‘climb’, kay won’t’, pa? ‘clap’, kɔʔ ‘break’. There are also
some few instances in which the word structure could be made up of the vowel; that is the nucleus of the
syllable ‘V’ as in the third person pronoun ‘a ‘she/he. Some word structure also consists of syllabic nasal and
has the structure ‘C’ e.g. Bia → m+bia (mbia) = C+CVV, my children →ŋ+kɔma (nkɔma) = C+CVCV [9,10]
The language is documented. The language has an orthography, a dictionary (Gurenԑ dictionary and English–
Gurenԑ glossary). The language is being studied or taught in the Colleges of education and in the Universities of
Ghana but has just been absorbed fully to be studied from the basic school to the University level. The research
took place in Bolgatanga municipality and its environs. The proximity of the researcher was also a contributing
factor since he equally resides in these communities.

2. Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine Syntactic structures of Farefari personal compound names and identify their
functions in the names. In other ways, the study tries to determine the syntax of Farefari personal compound
names according to their structure and function

3. Research Questions

3.1. what syntactic structures can be identified with Farefari personal compound names?

3.2. What are the syntactic functions of the Farefari personal compound names?

Significance of the study

It expected that the finding of study would add up to literature on syntactic analysis in Farefari
compound words

4. Literature Review
Compounding has received linguistic attention in Farefare language. Authors [2, 4] state that one interesting aspect of Guren compounding which appear to be different from other languages are; some names of diseases, animals etc can be formed through the combination of many roots. Also, such names mostly refers to speakers’ desire to describe new items in the language e.g.

\[ a. \text{A} + dɔɣɛ + make \rightarrow Adɔgemaɛ \]

\[ 3SG \text{give birth} \text{measure} \text{family planning} \]

She/he measures/limits her/his birth

Childbirth was a prestige in some time past and the one who had many children was highly respected. Those days, parents took little responsibility of their children. With modern education, the demand for the parental responsibility to their children is very high and pressure on economic facilities is high. There is therefore the need to cut down population growth. The recent development to educate the public to control their family system by reducing their birth rate is important. So the name ‘Adɔgemaɛ’ means to measure/ to limit the number of children one gives birth to, so that she/he can take proper care of them.

\[ b. \text{N} + \text{daa} + \text{san} + \text{bæŋɛ} + \text{ni} \rightarrow \text{Ndaasanbæŋeni} \]

\[ 1SG \text{PST COND PST PRT AIDS} \]

If I had known

\[ c. \text{A} + \text{ŋmaɛ} + \text{ddɛ} + \text{gu’} + \text{ɛɛ} \rightarrow \text{Aŋmaaddɛɛ} \]

\[ 3SG \text{cut} \text{wood} \text{protect} \text{cold} \rightarrow \text{NHIS} \]

She/e cut wood to protect cold.

\[ d. \text{A} + \text{nyc’ri} + \text{dee} + \text{tiira} \rightarrow \text{Anyt’rdeetiira} \]

\[ 3SG \text{easing CONJ vomiting} \rightarrow \text{cholera} \]

She/he is easing and vomiting.

Authors [2, 4] explains that Personal name + personal name compound in Gurenɛ is a right headed compound and therefore endocentric because the right constituent of the compound is the semantic head of the compound and the left constituent of the compound is the modifying noun. In this N-N compounding, the head noun on the right drops its personal name prefix [A- or N-] before combining to the modifying noun to form a compound e.g

\[ I. \text{Atia + Azeyiŋa} \rightarrow \text{Atia-zyiŋa ‘personal name’} \]
He added that, in Personal name + personal name compounding process, it is rather the second noun that drops its personal name prefix [a-] before combining with the first noun. The prefix of the first name is now the personal name prefix for the compound. This is a kinship relation reflecting a linage and possessor-possessed relationship between the two nouns.

According the author [10, 26]; Gurenԑ expresses the relationship between the time of the event and the reference time. Thus past, present and future tenses in Gurenԑ are not expressed by the verb form but temporal adverbials and modifiers. For example; temporal adverbials like zaam “yesterday”, zina “today” and beere “tomorrow” are used to mark time. However the post- modifier /ni/ and the pre-modifiers wan/ na are used for past and future respectively in author [26 pp. 138-141].

e.g.

i. Ba zaam bobe Bongo naba la
3SG yesterday install PERF Bongo chief DEF

They install the Bongo chief yesterday.

ii. Kaareba la daa diti dia
Farmers DEF PST eat IMPERF food DEF

The farmers were eating the food

iii. A beere wan kule.
3SG tomorrow FUT go home

She/he will go home tomorrow.

iv. Ba na dita ta’ama la
3PL HAB eat shea fruits DEF

They always eat sea the nuts fruits

According to the author in [27] verbs semantically express events, actions, processes and states. In terms of
argument structure, there are transitive, intransitive and ditransitive verbs in Gurenɛ as illustrated here.

Kiibega la nuy ko’om la ba’ase gee nyaa….  

Orphan DEF drink water DEF finish and now…

“The orphan drank all the water and now…”

Ti ba selese wuu ba ka nye ko’om

And 3PL wait all 3PL NEG see water

“And they waited for long and did not get the water”.

Ba bo e a tampɔɔ ti a kiŋɛ

3PL give OBJ 3SG POSS bag COMP 3SG go

“They should give him his bag so that he will go”.

Author [3 pp 13] discusses aspects of the compound word based on syllables. She stated that a second word structure is imbedded into the theme. The embedded word often consists only of a theme, but it may also have a sequence of its own. A compound word therefore includes two primary syllables.

(43) Syllables in a compound word

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syllables</th>
<th>Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. A + ba + gam + bii + re</td>
<td>a name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. A + kin + ki + ri + ko</td>
<td>a name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. bu + da + nya + ’aŋa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Author [17 pp 94-95] captioned “A Grammar of Gurenɛ” discusses issues of phonology, morphology and syntax. She discusses nominal and gender, morphophonemics and compounding. In compounding she discusses the compound head, compound phrase etc. she posits that adjectives and others classes of post head modifier are usually compounded with the noun. The noun loses its number suffix and combines with the adjective to form a single compound word. If there are two adjectives following the noun, the first adjective is compounded with the noun with its final vowel usually elided but the second adjective stands as an independent word. E.g.

buda + suŋa + sabelega + girega = buda-sun-sabele-girega
man handsome bilack short a short black handsome man

Also, when two nouns are compounded in the same way as a noun plus adjective, the second noun is the head of
the construction and the first noun qualifies the second noun, as in a possessive construction. e.g

Saa + pibere → sa-pibere

Rain + covering hat

She further explained that, the first noun becomes short indicating that neither the singular nor the plural class suffix (cl 2 and 11 respectively) is present.

Author in [11 pp 28] said that, apart from the first which is “yi-daana”, all the other ordinals compounds are formed by placing the suffix [-daana] after the cardinal number. The cardinals 2nd to 9th and their compounds (even the first), 11-19, 21-29, 31-39 etc take the prefix [bu-] as well e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gloss</th>
<th>prefix</th>
<th>number</th>
<th>suffix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>bu</td>
<td>yi</td>
<td>daana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3th</td>
<td>bu</td>
<td>ta</td>
<td>daana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>bu</td>
<td>naasi</td>
<td>daana etc...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>bu</td>
<td>nuu</td>
<td>daana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gloss  | Ten  | prefix | number | suffix |
-------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| 11th | pia | bu | yila | daana |
| 12th | Pia | bu | yi | daana |

The author in [8] morphophonemic processes often occur between nominal /verbal/ adjectival stems and their suffixes in compound formation.

These processes usually take place between the final consonant of the stem and the initial consonant of the suffix. There are many of morphophonemic processes that take place during the compound formation of Farefari. Some of these processes include vowel harmony, homorganic nasal assimilation, loss of final vowel or final syllable, insertion of a vowel or a nasal consonant e.g.

1. Fu-o “dress” + sун “beautiful” → fusун “beautiful dress”
2. Ku’u-Ӿ “guinea fowl” + gele “egg” → ku’igele “guinea fowl egg”
3. Yø-Ӿ “grave” + kåte “big” → yøkåte “big grave ”
4. Bi-a “child” + mᴐgerega “feeding” → bimᴐgerega “feeding child”

However the phenomenon was not studied extensively, especially the constructure of Farefari personal name
compound word. Personal name compounds for example Abèlega+Apɛka =Abèlepɛka, Atia+Ataŋa +Azuur =Atia-taŋa-zuur, have some syntactic relations that occur in these personal compound names in Farefari with an intriguing linguistic trait that has been the topic of any thorough examination. The focus on this study is to analyse Farefari personal compound names using the basic linguistic theory.

5. Methodology

The study was done in five districts in the upper East Region of Ghana. The include Bolga municipal, Bolga – east district, Bongo district and the two Kasena –Nankani districts. This was because personal names that begin with the prefixes (A- and N-) are used in those districts. This study is qualitative study, which involves syntactic analysis of Farefari personal compound names. The data was sourced from both primary and secondary sources. The secondary source include names collected from some cultural books of the Language; ‘yuura sika s’aa’ source of names in Farefari in author [5] Personal name + personal name compound in Gurenԑ in author [4] and personal names among Farefari speakers of Northern Ghana in author [14 pp 77-85]. The varied sources of the primary data include; songs, natives’ daily conversation and electronic media an Also, the researcher relied on his own native intuition as a native. The data sources can be grouped under interactive events.

The data were analysed and presented using the basic linguistic theory (BLT). This helped the researcher to find out whether the Farefari compound personal names are lexical words, phrases, or even sentences. The data also enabled the researcher to do a typological study of the Farefari compound in order to ascertain the syntactic constructure of the Farefari Personal Compound.

6. Data Collection Procedure

The major procedure of the data gathered in this study was done through participant observation. The researcher visited festivals grounds and naming ceremonies to collect names.

The researcher purposefully chose three appellation singers in each district because they sing using names but for the purposes of this study, the researcher has provided an English glossary to each sentence to ensure credibility and adherence to ethical standards. Additionally, the researcher obtained participants’ consent before recording any of the proceedings and anonymity and confidentiality was assured.

6.1. Data Analysis

Data was analyzed from the perspective of syntactic analysis to answer the research questions. All the morphological, syntactic and morphophonemic processes that took place in the formation of each of these compound words were accounted for in the discussion. All discussions and analysis were done using the Basic Linguistic Theory (BLT) as an analytical tool. Findings from the discussions were stated and conclusion drawn. The analysis of Farefari personal names according to the data sourced has revealed that Farefari personal names are in two forms, those that begin with the prefixes {A- and N-} and those that begin different consonant either than the two. Most personal names in the language use the two prefixes: {A- and N-}. Therefore, the analysis was based on the two prefixes (A- and N-).
7. Results And Discussions

The main theoretical framework underpinning this study is the Basic Linguistic Theory (BLT) proposed by these authors [15, 16, 17]. As a theoretical concept, as indicated by the author in [36 pp. 211]. It is the descriptive tools assumed in descriptive grammars, to the extent that it is fair to say that a single descriptive theoretical framework that has emerged as the dominant theory assumed in descriptive grammars. Basic linguistic theory differs from traditional grammar most strikingly in its attempt to describe each language in its own terms, rather than trying to force the language into a model based on European languages. Conversely, the attempt to describe each language in its own terms reflects the major contribution of structuralism to basic linguistic theory.

For the author [18], ‘using BLT theory will help provide an adequate description of the Anum language using suitable analysis and arguments on how the language is used, taking note of how context and situation contribute to give the particular sense that the people share’.

The theory also supports the conscious effort in explaining every grammatical point discussed using terminology and abbreviations that will not be beyond the comprehension of the linguist and the interested reader.

7.1. Morphological personal compound names

In compounding process, the second names drop its personal name prefix [a-] before combining with the first noun. The prefix of the first name is now the personal name prefix for the compound. This is a kinship relation reflecting a lineage and possessor-possessed relationship between the two nouns.

The semantic relationship of the two nouns as well as their kinship relation is that, the compounds are kinship lineage relationship.

They may even be three or more lineage relationship nouns e.g. Akuntiŋa- Paaya -ŋkoŋe -Tiiwine. The first noun is the father’s name (possessor) of the second noun i.e. great grandfather and the second noun of the compound is the grandfather’s name (possessor) of the third noun grandfather. The third noun is the father (possesor) of the fourth noun i.e. father and the fourth noun is possessed i.e. son/daughter of all the three nouns before it. Indeed, all these kins can be put in one single construction and therefore a compound (great grandfather, grandfather, father and son/daughter).

Therefore, morphophonemic process characterizing a single word is used here. The right element has to lose it prefix before compounding with the left element to be pronounced as one word e.g. Azika + Abayeba’ase becomes Azika-bayeba’ase Therefore, these are compounds because the two names combined to form one word making it to meet the morphosyntactic criteria.

The following are some of the data of Farefari personal compound names gathered.
### Personal name + personal name

| i. | Abaa + Adigenyǝƙe | Abaa-Digenyǝƙe |
| ii. | Akolego + Atadita | Akolego-Tadita |
| iii. | Akuuŋa + Alagun-eera | Akuuŋa-Lagun-eera |
| iv. | Azika + Abaŋeba’asɛ | Azika-Baŋeba’asɛ |
| v. | A-igkoje + Atiwinɛ | A-igkoje-Tiwinɛ |
| vi. | Nǝ- + lemya | Nǝ- lemya |
| vii. | Akuregu + baŋeya | Akuregu - baŋeya |
| viii. | Adukǝ + wa’ambo | Adukǝ - wa’ambo |
| ix. | Atia + Aki-ŋebɛ | ‘Atia - ki-ŋebɛ |

### 7.2. Prefixation of the Farefari Personal Compound Name

This is the process of attaching a bound morpheme to the front of a stem e.g. [‘A- /N-’] are prefixes in Gurenɛ, Boonɛ and Ninkarɛ dialects of Farefari. The structure of Farefari personal names that have above prefixes (A-) adds human features to the nouns they attached to and the prefix {N-} establishes the relationship between the caller and the called. The prefix {A-} in the examples above adds human features to the nouns it is prefixed to e.g.; tia ‘tree’, taŋa ‘rock’, pi’ǝ ‘basket’ and bɔlega ‘town name’ can be changed from common nouns to proper nouns (personal names), when the prefix [A-] is added to them. This phenomenon differs from other persons’ names that are in other languages as a result of prefixation. The prefix /N-/ on the other hand is the first person pronoun ‘I’ and the possessive determiner “my” looking at the glossary in the section above. The prefix (N-) in example is a kinship term, so the use of {N-} prefix is to establish the relationship between the caller and the called e.g. N-sɔ ‘my father’, N-sɔma ‘my father’s mother’, N-yaama ‘my grandfather’s mother’ etc. These are possessive constructions i.e. possessor and the possessed. In Farefari, [A-, N-] are proper noun prefixes that can be used to create new stems or bases in author [8, 31] e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>stem</th>
<th>name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>a- + tia</td>
<td>→ A-tia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefix + tree</td>
<td>→ personal name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii.</td>
<td>a- + -taŋa</td>
<td>→ A-taŋa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefix + rock</td>
<td>→ personal name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii.</td>
<td>a- + -pi’ǝ</td>
<td>→ A-pi’ǝ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prefix + basket</td>
<td>→ personal name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
iv. \( a + \text{bolga} \rightarrow A-\text{bolga} \)  

prefix + bolga → personal name  

v. \( \text{n} + \text{yaaba} \rightarrow N-\text{yaaba} \)  

prefix + ancestor → personal name  

vi. \( \text{n} + s\alpha + \text{ma} \rightarrow N-s\alpha-\text{ma} \)  

prefix + father + mother → personal name  

vii. \( \text{n} + \text{yaaba} + \text{ma} \rightarrow N-\text{yaaba-\text{ma}} \)  

prefix + ancestor + mother → personal name  

viii. \( \text{n} + s\alpha + \text{win}_\varepsilon \rightarrow N-s\alpha-\text{win}_\varepsilon \)  

prefix + father + God → personal name  

8. Syntactic analysis Of Farefari personal compound names

**Question 1. What are the Constructure of Farefari personal compound names?**

The term ‘constructure’ refers to the relationships that exist between the small units that make up a larger unit. The findings have revealed that the constructure of Farefari personal compound names are in the form of phrases and sentences. The data sourced (the personal compound names) have phrases, clauses and sentence structures in the language and have the various word classes in them.

8.1. The Phrase

A phrase is either single word or grammatically ordered group of related words that function as a unit (see Marjolijn & Kim 2000: 44). Phrases are very important in syntactic analysis because phrases function as subjects, objects and predicates in the sentence. There are many types of phrases in Gurente but for this study, the research intends to discuss only the noun phrase and verb phrase as they are more commonly associated with compound words.

8.1.1. Noun Phrase

The simple noun is any phrase constituted by only a noun head, or a modifier with referential properties, or a noun preceded or followed by at least one modifier, or noun followed and preceded by a functional modifier by author [33 pp.192-211]. From the definition, the noun phrase is in various forms e.g (1)
i. Mba”my father
ii. Nsɔ “my father”
iii. A-tia-ma “personal name”
iv. A-taya “personal name”

8.1.2. Verbal phrase

A verb phrase refers to the verb alone or the verb together with its intimate modifiers that occur in a set order but precludes objects and/or post verbal modifiers according to the author in [10 pp.98]. The verbal phrase functions as the predicate of a sentence. Examples of verbal phrases are (2)

i. di ‘eat’ → the head verb alone (no modifier)

ii. daa di

PST eat (head)

“ate two days ago” (one preverbal modifier)

iii. daa pugum di (head)

PST ASP eat

“Had already eaten two days ago” (two preverbal modifiers)

iv. daa kule me

PST gohome AFF

“Two days ago gone home” (one preverbal and one post verbal modifiers).

v. lui ya

fall PERF

“had fallen down” (the head verb plus one post verbal modifier).

9. The Sentences In Farefari

The syntactic structures of Farefari sentences are treated as existing on a rank scale (hierarchy) of structural units: sentence, clause, phrase, word and a morpheme (Dakubu 1996:40). This means that the structure of the sentence in this study is treated in terms of phrases clauses, how clauses may be put together to form them. The structure of the clause in turn is discussed in terms of how phrases are joined together, and the structure of the
The structure of words is of course being their morphology by the author in [18 pp. 40-41]. This means that a sentence in Farefari must consist of at least one clause. That is why a sentence in Farefari is described as the combination of one or more clauses.

**Question 2: What are the syntactic functions of the Farefari personal compound names?**

Syntax is the study of how words are put together to form sentences and rules that govern the formation of sentences in a given language.

Syntactic analysis is described as phrases and sentences which are built up of a series of constituents (i.e. syntactic units) and each of these units belongs to a specific grammatical category and serves a specific grammatical function according to the author in [21]. The task of this study is to analyze the syntactic structure of Farefari personal compound names (phrases and sentences) to identify each of the constituents in a syntactic construction and what function it serves.

However, phrases have been discussed in point 8 above. We would go straight to discuss the various types of sentences of the language that can be found in the structure of the personal compound names of Farefari. Farefari can occur both as transitive and transitive. But we focus on the types of sentences.

**9.1. Simple Sentences {SV, SVO, SVOO etc}**

Most of Farefari personal compound names are mostly simple {SV, SVO, SVOO} sentences portraying one of the personal name as the subject of the sentence and the other name(s) as the predicate of the sentence. Here are some examples of simple (SV) structured sentences of the following personal compound names e.g.

\[ \text{Nsᴐ- leme -ya, and Akuregu –baŋe -ya,} \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>compound name</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nsᴐ-lemeya</td>
<td>Nsᴐ lem ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SUBJ V PERF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“She/he has come back”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akuregu -Baŋeya</td>
<td>Akuregu baŋe ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SUBJ V PERF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Akuregu has known.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the two sentences above, the verb combines with completive ya to form leme ya ‘has returned’ in [Alemeya] and baŋe ya ‘has known’ in [Abanjeya] before the compounding to

[Ns-, Akuregu-] to nominalize the structure to form Ns- leme ya ‘she/he has returned’ and Akuregu- barge ya ‘Akuregu has known’. In the sentence the prefix [Ns- or Akuregu] is functioning as the syntactic subject of the sentence and the verb phrase {lebe + ya} or {barg ya} become the predicate of the sentence but in the compound it functions as a nominalizer.

9.2. Interrogative Sentence Structure

Farefari personal compound names has the structure of questions and therefore interrogative sentences. e.g.

\textit{Aduко-}wa’am-bo and \textit{Atia-}киге-

\textbf{Compound Name}

9. \textit{Aduко - Wa’a-mbo:} \rightarrow \textit{Aduко wa’am bo ‘}

\begin{tabular}{lll}
SUBJ & V & WH-Q \\
\end{tabular}

“Why has Aduко come?”

10. \textit{Atia - Kiжеbe} \rightarrow \textit{Atia kiже be}

\begin{tabular}{lll}
SUBJ & V & WH-Q \\
\end{tabular}

“Where has Atia gone to?”

11. Abaa-duŋо- yeti bo \rightarrow \textit{Abaa-duŋо yeti bo}

\begin{tabular}{llll}
SUBJ & say & PROG & WH-Q \\
\end{tabular}

“What is Abaa-duŋо saying?”

12. Akar纪委书记- bagerε- mi be’em \rightarrow \textit{Akar纪委书记- bagerε mi la beni}

\begin{tabular}{llll}
SUBJ & know & FOC & WH-Q \\
\end{tabular}

What does Akar纪委书记- bagerε know?

The interrogative sentences are statements that express questions. It is one of the ways speakers use to collect information to address their problems or issues. In Guren ‘WH’ question structure, the questioning verb immediately precedes the ‘WH’ form which may be at the end of the sentence. In the interrogative sentences above, the ‘verb +WH’ could be seen as (9) wa’am + bo? (10) kiже be? (11) yeti bo? (12) mi la beni? The three types of questions: \textit{bo?‘why’, be? ‘where’ and beni ‘what’} are all identified to be following the main verb in
the sentence e.g wa’am ‘come’, kiye ‘go’, yet’i, ‘saying and mi ‘know’.

‘come- why’ and (b) kiye + be?’ ‘go- where’ before the names [Aduko-, Atia- Abaa-Dung and Akarenyane- Dagerc] being their parents names is added to nominalize the structure in the names “-wa’am-bo?”, “-kiyeb- be?” , yet’i bo?” and “ mi la beni?”. The names are sentences in their underlying structure as discussed above.

9.3. Simple SVO Sentences

Some compounds (personal names) in Gurenԑ are structurally SVO where the subject is the name [Azuure-] and the predicate is the verb phrase and an object. In other words, the predicate comprises the verb phrase and a noun phrase (object).

**Compound name**

11. Azuure-Pa’asenii  →  Azuure  pa’ase  nii

```
S V O
```

“ Azuure adds cows”


```
S V O
```

“N-yaaba relies on God”

12. A lali - tia  →  A  lali  tia”

```
3SG lean-PROG tree
```

She/he/it leans against a tree

The verbs in the above structures are pa’ase ‘add’, deli ‘relying’ and lali ‘leaning’ and the objects are nii ‘cows’ tia ‘tree’ and Winԑ ‘God’. The names [Azuure-, Nyaaba] and the prefix {a-} syntactically functions as the subject of the respective structures above. The basic function of the name [Azuure-, N-yaaba] and the prefix [a-] are also to nomalize the construction. So the verb pa’ase + the object nii ‘cows’ prefixed with {Azuure-} to produce apa’asenii.

9.4. Simple Negative Sentence

The author in [26 pp. 121-125] says even though there are time modifiers in Gurenԑ e.g zaam ‘yesterday’, daare ‘the day before yesterday’, dayita ‘three days today, dea ‘last year’, detaare ‘two years ago’, deyita ‘three years ago’, beere ‘tomorrow’, daasam ‘tomorrow next’ dayitasam ‘three days time’ etc, there are preverbal
modifiers in Guren that function mainly to mark future time e.g. ‘ka’ ‘has not’, ‘kan’ ‘will not’, ‘wan’ ‘will’ and ‘da’ ‘should not’. There are compounds (personal names) with the described structure e.g. Anaaf-do-kabela, Anaba-kan-nyaŋԑ, Abua-kan-tee, Amoa-kan-zi’ire, Aduŋɔ-Kan-sake Aluke-ka-fabeli, Asore-ka-banye and Adua-dinėmina.

These are names whose verbs are negated syntactically by the future negative marker ‘kan’ ‘will not’, ‘da’ ‘should not’, and ‘ka’ ‘don’t’ and are all preverbal modifiers.

**Compound Name**


SUBJ NEG hurry

“Anaaf should not be in hurry.”

15. *Anaba-kan-nyaŋԑ: →* Anaba kan nyaŋԑ

SUBJ NEG do

“Anaba will not be able to do it.”

16. *Abua-kan-tee* → Abua kan tee

SUBJ NEG.FUT change

“Abua will not change”

17. *Amoah-kan-zi’ire* → Amoah kan zi’ire

SUBJ NEG.FUT sit/ stay

“Amoah will not sit down”

18. *Aduŋɔ-kan-sake* → Aduŋɔ kan sake

SUBJ NEG.FUT agree

“Aduŋɔ will not agree”

19. *Aluke-ka-fabeli* → Aluke ka fabeli

SUBJ NEG worry
"Aluke is not worrying."

20. Asore - kabaŋԑ → Asore ka bane

SUBJ NEG know

"Asore does not know".

Negation modifiers express denial of occurrence of an event either in the past or in future.

The preverbal particle kan ‘will not’ expresses negation in Farefari as in the examples above.

The compounding process in the personal name (s) construction, the verb plus its modifier are compounded e.g. da +kabela, kan +nyange, kan+ tee, kan +zi’ire, kan+ sake, ka +fabeli, ka +banye, diŋԑ+mina, become verb phrases of their various sentences. The prefix [A-] is then added to nominalize the construction such as {Anaafᴐ-da-kabela, Anaba-kan-nyange, Abua-kan-tee, Amoa-kan-zi’ire, Aduŋɔ-Kan-sake Aluke-ka-fabeli, Asore-ka-banye and Adua-digemina}. These names {Anaafᴐ, Anaba-, Abua-, Amoa-, Aduŋɔ- Aluke-, Asore- and Adua} are respectively the subjects of the sentences.

9.5. Serial Verb Construction sentences

Gurenԑ is a serial verb construction (SVC) language according to the author in [23]. SVC languages have sequence of verbs which reflect one event within one clause. Author [1 pp. 6] states that for one reason or another, verbs have to be obligatorily adjacent in these types of constructions. So Gurenԑ displays some properties of serial verb constructions in some sentence construction.

The author in [23] found that the negative marker can precede any of the verbs and does not affect the preceding verb or verbs in SVCs and the author in [12] asserts that Farefari could have up to eleven multiple serial verbs (the highest) in a contiguous construction. The following are personal compound names that have serial verbs sentence structure; e.g

Abaa-Digenyԑke, Asakeya-Pandoe, Azika-Dikebوبا and Anaba-Paezi’ire,

compound name

25. Abaa- digenyԑke → Abaa dige nỳԑke

SUBJ chase. PFV catch

“Abaa chased and caught her/him”

26. Asakeya -pandoe → Asakeya pan doe
Asakey has swum across

Azika - Dikebọba → Azika dike bo ba

Azika takes it and gives it to them

Anaba - Paเ‡zi’ire → Anaba pæ zi’ire

Anaba has arrived and sat down

In the above examples, the prefix {A-} in the personal compound names has qualified the noun it precedes, to make it a personal name/ proper noun e.g. {A-baa-, A-sakeya- and Azika-} and syntactically function as the subject of the respective structures, while the serial verbs dọge make ‘give birth measure’; dịge nyọke ‘chase catch’; p’am do ‘swim across’; ụmụe terege ‘attack and stiffen’ and dike bo ‘take and give’; pæ z‘i’ire ‘came and sat down’ follow the subject to make the structure [SVV]. It is the last two sentences that the serial verb, ụmụe terege ‘attack and stiffen’ and dike bo ‘take and give’ take the object sia ‘waist’ and ba ‘them’ respectively with them to form the structure SVVO

9.6. Compound Sentence Structure

Some compound words (personal names) in Farefari have the same structures as the compound sentence in English but written morphologically as single structure. e.g. A-nye’े-dee-tii’ēra,

A-инже-dee-kone and A-пмтеbe-dee-kake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound Sentence</th>
<th>compound Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31. A nyе े-ri  ēe  tii-ra → Anyе ेrīdeeti’ēra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3SG ease PROG and vomit. PROG.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“She/he is easing and vomiting”. (Cholera)

32. A вгж  ēe  kone - ɭiiwine → A-инкone- ɭiiwine

3SG do CONJ fail (proper name)

“She/he tried and failed”. ɭiiwine
33. Aŋmԑbe dee kake - Tia → Aŋmԑbedeekake- Tia

3SG control.PFV CONJ fail (proper name)

“She/he had controlled her/himself and failed”

34. Ataabazaŋa -tundi → Ataabazaŋa -Tum dee di

Ataabazaŋa work CONJ eat

“Ataabazaŋa works before he eats”

Coordinate conjunction is used in combining of two or more clauses in such a way that neither is treated as subsidiary to the other. Structurally, this means that, one clause is added to the other, not embedded in to one of its functions, so that both clauses function as principal statements in the sentence, said by the author in [18 pp 49-50]. Farefari has four major coordinators or coordinate conjunctions. They are; la ‘and’, dee /gee ‘but’, bii ‘or’ and ti ‘and’. Some of them were used in the sentences above.

10. Conclusion and Recommendation

The study sought to discuss the syntactic analysis of Farefari personal compound names to find answers of these two major questions; 1. what is constructure of Farefari personal compound names? 2. What are the syntactic functions of the Farefari personal compound names?

A Farefari compound names are morphological word because; compounds undergo some morphological processes to become a compound word. All words in Farefari have the same structure; stem- affix apart from monosyllabic words. The lexical compound in Farefari is also a word because it has a stem-affix and belongs to a particular word class and therefore must have the structure of stem-suffix

However, at the Syntactic level, Farefari personal compound names are arranged from in the ranks of phrases, clauses and sentences. is the study of how words are put together to form sentences and rules that govern the formation of sentences in a given language. Those names in the sentential level from this study revealed that, all types of sentences; simple statement sentence, interrogative sentence, serial verb constructed sentence, simple negative and compound sentence are found in Farefari personal compound names. However, the data analyzed, has proved that there was no Farefari personal compound name that has the functions of a complex sentence in the language according to our data.

Abbreviations Used

AFF affirmative

ASP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP</td>
<td>complement</td>
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<tr>
<td>COND</td>
<td>condition</td>
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<td>conjunction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVO</td>
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<td>WH-question</td>
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<td>first person singular pronoun</td>
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</table>
References


