

Morphosyntactic Features of Hybrid Words in Nigerian English

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Abstract

Since English is used as the official language in Nigeria, many Yoruba bilinguals are compelled to speak the language as a form social status. Consequently, many Yoruba bilinguals are often ‘anglicizing’ some Yoruba words in order to make up for their inadequacies in the English language. This scenario has resulted in hybrid words among Yoruba bilinguals. Thus, this work examines morphosyntactic features of these hybrid words. The aim is to reveal their morphological and lexical features. The theoretical background for this study is Halle and Marantz’ Distributed Morphology which accounts for morphological, syntactic and semantic features in words derivation. Observation method was used among Yoruba bilinguals to gather data for this study. This study explains the morpho-syntactic feature of these words using a simple descriptive method. This study indicates that hybrid words are coined through affixation of *-ise*, *-ly*, *-ism*, *-ity*, *-logy*, *-rous*, *-ic*, *-um* and *-able* to derive hybrid nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives. Hybris proper names are coined through clipping and affixation. Yoruba proper names are clipped by removing initial or final parts and adding the English morphemes *-us*, *-y*, *-s*, *-my*, *-nny* and *-x*. Some Yoruba names are hybridized through blending. The names are pronounced with a blend of Yoruba and English. Yoruba words may be written with English-like spelling to make them look anglicized. Yoruba expressions are hybridized through direct translation into English. These words are discussed from the perspective of creativity and innovations in the Nigerian English usage among Yoruba bilinguals.

Keywords: Bilinguals, hybrid words, language contact, Nigerian English,

Introduction

Language is a powerful tool which human beings use to communicate and interact with one another. Human beings generally acquire the language of their environment from childhood and achieve native competence in it. Anybody who acquires language in this sense is

referred to as the native speaker. Similarly, the second language can be acquired through learning after one might have had the first or native language. Each language has peculiarities which stipulate the set of rules that govern the proper ways of speaking and writing in it. This makes learning a second language a tedious task because it requires more efforts, commitment and practice. So, individuals learning a second language are often faced with the challenge of mastering the set of rules to use in speaking and writing the new language.

A second language may be acquired in a formal or an informal setting. It may be linked with immigrants who acquired new language in a new environment. Language acquisition also comes in form of a bilingual education in which the learners learn a second language while they maintain their native language. Language can also be acquired through an immersion programme, where learners are given instructions in their second language and native language in a sequential order.

Second language learning is accomplished through the pedagogical procedures of description, planning, selection, organization, presentation and assessment (Ibitoye, 2004). The second language can be acquired through learning after one might have had the first or native language. The English language is learnt by Yoruba students after they have acquired their mother tongue as the first language. Apart from being a lingua franca and official language, English is a language of education in Nigeria where learners are not only compelled to learn it but also mandated to speak the language especially within the school environment. Thus, many Yoruba learners are ‘anglicizing’ some Yoruba words in order to make up for their inadequacies in English language. Therefore, anglicized Yoruba lexical items have created hybrid words among Yoruba bilinguals. The main objective of this study is to identify the hybrid words. This work also examines structures of these hybrid words in order to reveal their morphological and lexical features.

Conceptual Review

Yoruba Bilingual Learners

Yoruba is the principal language of the Western states of Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Ogun and Lagos of Nigeria. It is also being spoken to some extent in Kwara, Kogi and Edo states, Benin Republic and Togo (Omotoye, 1999). Yoruba is widely used as mother tongue and lingua franca in the South Western part of Nigeria. Yoruba is the mother tongue of the Yoruba bilinguals in the present investigation. Yoruba speakers

represent about twenty-one percent of Nigeria's population based on the figure of 2006 national (world, 2022).

Bilingualism or multilingualism is a situation whereby two languages co-exist in the same environment. In Nigeria, English exists along with the native language or mother tongue. Yoruba bilingual learners are those whose native language is Yoruba or those who speak Yoruba as first language or Mother Tongue. They are learning English as a second language through their education in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions, where English is used as a medium of instructions and communication. In this way, the language proficiency of a bilingual learner is often fraught with a lot of influences from either of the languages to the other. Thus, the competence of Yoruba bilingual learners in English as a second language cannot be compared with learners who speak English as L1.

Bilingualism and Hybridization

Bilingualism is a product of language contact. It is an occurrence of two languages within a speech community. According to Ogunsiji (2006), bilingualism is the use of two languages by an individual or a community, such that both languages exist side by side. In this situation, there is a possibility of cross-linguistic influence between the languages. Such influence may result in hybrid lexical items by individuals within the speech community.

Nigeria is a multilingual setting in which English operates side by side with several indigenous languages. In bilingual communities such as the Yorubaland many people speak two languages, that is, the mother tongue (Yoruba) and English language which is an official language. English is also a language of education in which learners are not only compelled to pass it but also mandated to speak it in school environments. As a result of language contact, English exerts some influence on the native language and vice versa. Weinreich (1953) suggests that the first language influences the acquisition of the second language with the introduction of native elements into the phonemic system, morphology and syntax as well as some areas of vocabulary. As a result, a Yoruba learner of English uses elements of the native language in speaking English.

Language hybridization is a result of frequent interactions of two languages in a bilingual community. According to Asghar (2014), a hybrid variety of language is an inevitable product of two or more languages that are frequently mixed. The hybrid variety often shares the

quality of both languages but it has its own grammar and vocabulary that may vary from any of the source languages. Hybrid expressions are consequences bilingualism due to recurrent interference, code-mixing, translation and borrowing from L1 to L2.

Hybrid Language among Bilingual Learners

In learning the second language, individuals tend to transfer the elements of their native language to the foreign language when they attempt to speak the language as practised by native speakers (Lado, 1957:2). This is the foundation of the linguistic phenomenon known as interference. So, interference could be seen as a situation when a second language learner superimposes the structure or element of the mother tongue on the second language. Ogunsiji (2015) emphasizes that the interference of our indigenous languages in English is a major problem confronting the teaching and learning of English as a second language. MT interference or transfer may be positive or negative. Positive transfer is the aspects or features of the first language that can assist in learning the second language. According to Ogunsiji (2015), a positive transfer is a situation in which the bilingual learner transfers similar structures of the native language to the second language. The area where L1 and L2 correspond structurally and semantically will facilitate the learning process of the L2. Negative transfer is concerned with the difficulties in using the target language due to mother tongue interference. Whether positive or negative, a continuous interference may become an acceptable norm with time. Adegbija (2004) opines that it may be difficult to eradicate institutionalized interference from the mother tongue while individuals will create new words and expressions. Such institutionalized interference and coinage from elements of both languages will lead to hybrid words and expressions among bilinguals.

One major consequence of language contact is the code-switching/code-mixing. Hence, code-switching is inter-sentential while code-mixing is intra-sentential (Lamidi, 2008; Appel and Muysken, 1990). Code-mixing is used by bilingual learners to ease communication in an efficient manner by supplementing what is lacking or not known in the target language with elements from the mother tongue. Ezeh et al (2022) posit that bilingual learners code-mix in order to express their understanding of new ideas in a language that allows them to convey their feelings intelligibly without being misunderstood or embarrassed. Other reasons could be psychological or affective. Bilingual speakers resort to code-mixing due lack of adequate knowledge of one language

especially the second language. Code-switching or mixing is a creative act among bilingual learners.

In communicating in second language, bilingual speakers or learners replicate linguistic features (from languages) they have been exposed to and construct their own idiolect in an innovative manner (Ansaldò, 2009:109). In addition, as they code-mix for expressive and communicative purposes, they innovate and create their own vocabulary from the fusion of elements of both languages (L1 and L2). This leads to hybrid words among bilingual learners. This paper examines morphological processes by which hybrid words are derived.

According to Ojebuyi and Ojebode (2012: 69), translation is a process in which a message coded in one language is rendered and recoded in another language so that the new audience understands the message in a similar way as the original audience. Bilingual learners often translate lexical items of L1 into L2 expressions when they could not express such words in second language. Bilingualism can also lead to borrowing. When certain elements are inadequate in L2, a bilingual speaker may borrow such terms from the first language. Indigenous language can also borrow new lexical item from the second language.

The major concern of this paper is how these consequences of bilingualism can lead to hybrid words that are neither L1 nor L2 lexical items but a blend of the two languages especially, the Yoruba and English languages. A bilingual may code mix at morphemic, phrasal or clausal level. This paper focuses on code-mixing of morphemes from the Yoruba and English languages to derive hybrid lexical items.

Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework adopted in this work is the Halle and Marantz' (1993) Distributed Morphology. The theory is a framework for morphological, semantic and syntactic analysis. According to Akinmurele (2019), the theory is piece-based in which the elements of syntax and morphology are understood as discrete, that is, the mechanism (generative grammar) generates both phrasal structures and morphological structures.

In Distributed Morphology, word formation follows syntactic processes of hierarchical order in which the terminal nodes (morphemes) contain semantic features. The out-put receives phonetic features (pronunciation) after the morphosyntactic features have been properly interpreted to derive lexical items. The theory is an interface between syntax and morphology and its consequence is that the only mode of

combination in the grammar is syntactic. The assumption is that every word is formed by syntactic operations (merge, move) since the morphological structure at PF is simply the syntactic structure (Embick and Noyer, 2012).

Previous Studies

Among several extant studies that are relevant to this paper is Igboanusi (2006) that investigates syntactic innovations in Nigerian English through translation of elements of the indigenous languages into English. He perceives innovation in Nigeria English as evidence of the contact between English and the indigenous languages as well as influence of pragmatic use of English in Nigerian environment. He submits that the pedagogical implication of innovation processes relates to acceptability. This means that such innovation is becoming an ‘acceptable variant’ of English. Lamidi (2007) takes a step further by discussing the Noun Phrase structure of Nigeria English from the perspective of accommodation rather than deviation. He describes accommodation as a compromise or adjustment in the use of some peculiar syntactic structures from the varieties of English being spoken in Nigeria. This is achieved by incorporating into English more features that occur in the community. Such features may be incorporated through translation, code-mixing, substitution and imposition of native elements on English language. He supports Igboanusi (2006) and Adegbiya (2004) that innovation (deviation) will continue to exist through interference and coinage by individual learners. He submits that deviation (such as, hybrid words) becomes acceptable when there is pragmatic intelligibility between the speaker and audience.

From the discussion on innovation and accommodation due to language contact, Lamidi (2008) focuses on the hybrid verbs that result from contact between English and Yoruba languages. He identifies verbs that are clean and hybrid verbs which are English based but are inserted in Yoruba structures in Yoruba-English code-mixing expressions. These expressions are elucidated by Lamidi (2017). The study focuses on the multi-words expressions by examining the syntax-semantic interface, grammaticality and acceptability of expressions resulted from Yoruba-English code-switching. Lamidi (2023) investigates morphological processes and hybridization in Yorulish with focus on hybridized categories of nouns, verbs and idiomatic expressions. The study examines how certain lexical categories metamorphose to other categories without changing their forms but lose their syntactic features.

Hybridity according to Lamidi (2023) is an English based coinage that are novel with semantic extension. Hybrid words in the present study are words that contain morphological elements from English and Yoruba.

Ansaldo (2009) discusses the phenomenon of new words from pedagogical perspective. He projects the socio-linguistic functions of code-mixing that can help a bilingual learner transcend from known (L1) to unknown (L2) in learning complex language contents. He emphasizes that innovative (hybrid) are inevitable in second language learning, so that the learner can achieve proficiency in communicating in the second language.

The above extant studies on the contact between the English and Yoruba languages, (in a bilingual setting) such as, Igboanusi (2006), Lamidi (2007, 2008, 2023), Ansaldo (2009) and Ezeh et al., (2022) have focused on intra-sentential code-switching and hybridized lexical items within Yoruba grammatical structures. However, the area of hybrid lexical items resulting from the contact of Yoruba with English is yet to be adequately explored. This study investigates how new words are derived from blend of both languages in contact. This is a major difference between this study and the previous ones.

Methodology

This study seeks to identify and analyse hybrid words as used among Yoruba bilinguals. Data for this study were gathered in official and informal interactive sessions with the secondary school bilingual teachers and learners. Hybrid words were identified from their speeches during various interactions within and outside school environments. These words were categorized by the researcher and analysed qualitatively.

1. Morphology of Hybrid Words through Affixation

A. Verbs:

Hybrid English verbs are derived from Yoruba verbs, adjectives or nouns by adding suffix *-ise* (*make to become*). The class of the word in Yoruba will change from nouns or adjective to anglicized verbs, when the suffix *-ise* is added.

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Omugo(stupid)	lise	Omugolise	make stupid
Ibadan (a city)	lise	Ibadanlise	behave like one from Ibadan
Pataki (important)	lise	Patakilise	make important

Birikoto (encircle)	lise	Birikotolise	encircle
Koba (implicate)	lise	Kobalise	implicate
Tiju (shy)	lise	Tijulise	be shy
Babara (big)	lise	Babaralise	enlarge
Karamo (honour)	lise	Karamolise	make special

Free morphemes in the above derivation are Yoruba words (verbs, adjectives and nouns). The English bound morphemes *-lise* or *-ise* is added to each of them to change their lexical categories from Yoruba verbs, adjectives and nouns into English verbs. However, their semantic contents are retained.

B. Adverbs:

Hybrid English adverbs are derived from Yoruba adverbs or adjectives by adding suffix *-lly*(in a manner). The suffix will change the class of the word from any category to the anglicized adverbs.

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Gbadun ‘enjoy’	ly	Gbadunly	enjoyably
Jeje ‘quiet’	ly	Jejely	quietly
Kebe ‘smart’	ly	Kebely	smartly
Lege ‘flexible’	ly	Legely	flexibly
Terun ‘satisfactory’	ly	Terunly	satisfactorily
Woro ‘easy’	ly	Woroly	easily

One major feature of English adverbs of manner is the free morpheme *-ly*. In deriving adverbs of manner, Yoruba bilinguals often add suffix *-ly* to any Yoruba verb, adverb or adjective to hybridise it. It is evident from the table above that meaning of the original Yoruba words are not different from the hybrid meaning. It is only that the word class has changed to English adverb from Yoruba verb, adverb and adjective.

C. Nouns

Anglicized hybrid words are derived from Yoruba nouns or adjective by adding *-ity*, *-ism* or *-logy*.

(i) *-ity* words

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Babara ‘spectacular’	lity	Babarality	being spectacular
Igi ‘wood’	larity	Igilarity	bombastic

Jamba ‘accident’	lity	Jambality	accident
Ira ‘useless’	lity	irality	uselessness
Ilekun	‘door’	tity	ilekuntity absence
Lege ‘slim’	stic	legestic	slim
Ako ‘brag’	city ‘	Akocity	bragging

Formation of hybrid nouns from Yoruba nouns is derived by adding varieties of *-ity* to the Yoruba original words. In this group, both class of words and meaning remain unchanged except in *igilarity* (bombastic) and *ilekuntity* (absence). The base word in the former is *igi* meaning ‘wood’ and the free morpheme attached to it is ‘larity’. Though the suffix is neither Yoruba nor English words but it sounds like a ‘Yorubalised’ element which has a kind of pragmatic connotation of ‘big’. This has resulted in the semantic extension. Similarly, the base word in *ilekuntity* is *ilekun*, ‘door’ but the free morpheme *-tity* sounds like Yoruba word for close or lock, *titi*. This is responsible for a shift in semantic content. It could be argued in both examples that free morphemes are stronger semantic elements for determining meanings in both words,

(ii) -ism words

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Isokuso ‘gibberish’	lism	Isokusolism	gibberish
Ako ‘brag’	lism/mism	Akolism/Akomism	bragging
Ira ‘useless’	lism	Iralism	uselessness
Iwe ‘swimming’	lism	Iwelism	swimming
Paki ‘cassava’	lism	Pakilism	eating cassava
Fitina ‘trouble’	lism	Fitinalism	troublesomeness

Words ending in *-ism* are usually nouns in English. Yoruba words become hybridized when such a morpheme is added to their final part. In this formation, both the meaning and word class are retained.

(iii) -ology / -gy words

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Odu ‘fiction’	ology	Oduology	fiction narration
Iwe ‘swimming’	mology	Iwemology	act of swimming
Ako ‘brag’	logy	Akology	act of bragging

The free morpheme, *-logy* may mean study or an act. It is often added to words to make them a field of study or an act of doing something. The

suffix *logy* and its varieties are added to the Yoruba nouns, *odu*, *iwe* and *ako* to make them field of study or an act. *Odu* in Yoruba may mean codes or fictitious stories depending on the contextual usage. This study is interested in the meaning that suggests fiction. When the free morpheme *-logy* is added, it becomes *oduology* ‘fiction narration’, a term that was popularized by a Yoruba comic Radio presenter, Gbenga Adeboye who used to narrate series of fictitious and incredible stories on his programmes in the 90s. The Yoruba nouns *iwe* and *ako* becomes *iwemology* and *akology*, respectively. There is no significant different in the meaning and word class of these nouns in both Yoruba and hybridized forms.

iv. others

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Jagbajagba	‘debris’	ntis	Jagbajantis nonsense
Buka	‘shed’	teria	Bukateria cafeteria
Gari	‘cassava flake’	um	Garium cassava flake

Hybrid words can also be formed by adding *-tis*, *-ria* and *-um* to a Yoruba based word. The free morphemes, *jagbajagba*, *buka* and *gari* are all Yoruba based words. They become hybridized when *-tis*, *-ria* and *-um* are added to them to derive *jagbajantis*, *bukateria* and *garium*. The fourth syllable of *jagbajagba* is clipped and *-ntis* is added to derive a meaningful and pronounceable *jagbajantis*. The infix *-te* is inserted between *buka* and *ria* to derive *bukateria*, which may also implied hybrid form of *cafeteria*. *Gari* is directly added to *-um* to form *garium*.

D. Hybrid Adjectives

Anglicized hybrid adjectives may be derived from Yoruba adjectives or verbs by adding *-rous*, *-ic*, *-um* or *-able*. Examples below:

(i) -rous words

<i>Yoruba word</i>	<i>English suffix</i>	<i>hybrid words</i>	<i>hybrid meaning</i>
Fanimora	‘embracing’	ous	fanimorous attractive

(ii) -ic word

Ata (pepper)	ric	Ataric	pepperish
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(iii) -able words

Pa 'kill'	able	paable	killable
Ko 'write'	able	koable	writable
Yeke 'smart'	able	Yekeble	smart

Hybridised adjectives are derived with English suffixes added to the Yoruba based nouns and verbs. For instance, the Yoruba words *fanimora* (embracing) becomes hybrid adjective when the last syllable *ra* is changed to English suffix *-rous* to derive *fanimorous* meaning attractive. The Yoruba *ata* (pepper) also attracts the suffix *-ric* to derive *ataric* (peperish), while the suffix *-able* is added to the Yoruba verbs *pa*, (*kill*), *ko* (*write*) and *yeke* (*smart*) to derive *paable*, (*mortal*), *koable* (*writable*) and *yekeble* (*smart*). This morphological process does not only change the lexical category of the words but also affect their meanings.

E. Hybrid words with English prefix

Prefix	Yoruba base	hybrid words	hybrid meaning
Dis Farahan	'appear'	disfarahan	disappear
In titi	'closed'	intity	closed, locked

It is also possible to have hybrid words with the English prefixes. For instance, the hybrid negative form of the Yoruba word *Farahan* 'appear' could be derived by adding the English negative prefix *dis-*. The hybrid word *disfarahan* meaning *disappear* in English is thus produced. The prefix *dis-* determines the change in the meaning from positive to negative. Likewise, *ti* in Yoruba means lock, while *titi* could mean being locked or locking. The addition of the English prefix *in* and morphological change of the second syllable *ti* into *ty* produce the hybrid form *intity* meaning locked or being locked. The original meaning is retained.

F. others

Figi	'use stick'	rin 'walk'	Figirine	walk with a stick
Al	'agent'	akada	'acada'	Alakada academic
Yeye	'deride'	natus	yeyenatus	rubbish

The Yoruba based *figi*, *al-* and *yeye* become hybridized in different forms. *Figi* is a Yoruba word meaning *use stick* (to do something), while

rin is a Yoruba word for *walk*. Both are combined to form a *figirin*, a word with homophonic reference to the English *fingering*. However, while the hybrid *figirin* means *using stick to walk*, the homophonic English *fingering* means *using fingers to rub something* (this may be related to sexual activity). The morphological feature of *alakada* is a combination of the Yoruba agentive element *al-*, which is a short form or variant of *ala* or *oni*(owner). *Akada* (scholar) is an abridged form of *academic* (*acada*). The hybridized *alakada* still retains the meaning as *scholar* or *academic*. Another Yoruba noun hybridized is *yeye* (to laugh at, to deride), this is combined with *natu*, an anglicized suffix element related to *nature* or *native*. The word *yeyenatu* could mean something born out of laughter, laughing stock or rubbish.

2. Hybrid proper names through Clipping and affixation

These proper names have undergone morphological processes of clipping and affixation. The original names are clipped by removing initial or final parts of the names, the English morphemes *-us*, *-y*, *-s*, *-my*, *-nny* and *-xare* added to the clipped names to derive hybrid names. Consider the following examples:

Yoruba names	Morphemes	Clipped forms	suffixes	hybrid forms
Olugbenga	Olu-gbenga	Gbenga	-us	Gbengus
Olufunke	Olu-funke	Funke	-y	Funky
Oludamilola	Olu-damilola	Damilola	-my	Dammy
Adeyinka	Ade-yinka	Yinka	-us	Yinkus
Adebukola	Ade-bukola	Bukola	-ky	Bukky
Olajumoke	Ola-jumoke	Jumoke	-my	Jummy
Olawale	Ola-wale	Wale	-x	Walex
Akinlabi	Akin-labi	Akin	-s	Akins
Odunlade	Odun-lade	Odun	-s	Oduns
Kehinde	Kehin-de	Kehinde	-nny	Kenny
Adeola	Ade-ola	Ade	-x	Adex

These names combine *Olu*, *Ade* and *Ola* (showing the family background) and other items. In order to hybridized these names, the first segment showing background is removed and the other part undergo clipping and affixation. The names *Gbenga*, *Funke*, *Damilola*, *Yinka*, *Bukola*, *Jumoke* and *Wale* are further clipped at various junctions and the suffixes *-us*, *-y*, *my*, *-us*, *-ky*, *-my*, and *-x*, are added, respectively. *Gbenga*, *Funke*, *Yinka* remove their last vowel sound to add suffixes *-us*,

-y and *us*, respectively, to derive hybrid names *Gbengus* (this may also be called *Gbengulus*), *Funky* and *Yinkus*. The names *Damilola*, *Bukola* and *Jumoke* are clipped further but their first syllables are retained. They add *-my*, *-ky* and *-my* to produce hybridized names *Dammy*, *Bukky* and *Jummy*. But *Wale* retains its original form and adds *-x* to derive *Walex*. The Yoruba names *Akinlabi*, *Odunlade*, *Kehinde* and *Adeola* undergo clipping and the initial segment of the names showing background or nature of birth are retained. Thus, *Akin*, *Odun* and *Ade* attract *-s*, *-s* and *-x* respectively for the process of hybridization. The morphological process of hybridization in *Kehinde* is different. The process only retains the first syllable *Ke* and the suffix *-nnny* is added to derive *Kenny*.

3. Hybrid proper names through blending

Unlike the above, the morphological process involved in proper nouns below is blending. The final head words in the names are translated to English. So, the names are pronounced with a blend of Yoruba and English to derive hybrid names. These are illustrated below:

Original Names	Morphemes	Hybrid Forms
Abidiesin	Abidi-esin	Abidihorse
Adedoja	Aded-oja	Adedimarket
Aderogba	Ader-ogba	Aderofence
Ajibade	Ajib-ade	Ajibacrown
Arolagbade	Arolagb-ade	Arolagbacrown
Bamigbade	Bamigb-ade	Bamigbecrown
Bamigbopa	Bamigb-opa	Bamigbestick
Eniola	Eni-ola	Eniwealth
Gbemisola	Gbemis-ola	Gbemisiwealth
Olanrewaju	Olanre-waju	Olanrefront
Olamipo	Olami-po	Olamiplenty
Oladipupo	Oladi-pupo	Oladiplenty

Each of the above Yoruba names contains a nominal item that is a free morpheme at the final side. This makes it possible for the free morphemes to be translated into English while the initial side remains Yoruba. The blend of the initial Yoruba with the final English does not affect the meanings of the names. For instance, in *Abidi-esin*, *Aded-oja*, *Ader-ogba*, *Ajib-ade*, the final free morphemes *esin*, *oja*, *ogba* and *ade* are *a horse*, *market*, *fence* and *crown* respectively, in English. The morphological process changes *esin* to *horse*, *oja* to *market*, *ogba* to

fence and *ade* to *crown* and blends it with the initial Yoruba elements to derive hybrid proper names without semantic shift.

Similarly, the Yoruba adjective *po* and *pupo* meaning *plenty* in *Olami-po* and *Oladi-pupo* follow same process as above. The adjectives are translated into English and added to the remaining Yoruba items to derive *Olamiplenty* and *Oladiplenty*. Also, the meaning of the names are not affected.

4. Hybrid Orthography

Yoruba words may be written with English-like spelling to make them look anglicized. However, the names may be pronounced either as the original Yoruba or with anglicized Yoruba tone.

Hybrid spellings

Beehordun
Beehorlar
Beeshorlar
Darneelolar
Hardaysina
Hardeybimpe
Hardeyemih
Hardeyjorkey
Harforlarbi
Harjibolar
Harladeh
Harmokeh
Hartynuke
Horlarbhisee
Horlarmideh
Horlarmileykan
Horlathyleywa
Hormowhomi
Horpheyemhi
Okhanlarwhon

Original Yoruba Spellings

Biodun
Biola
Bisola
Damilola
Adesina
Adebimpe
Adeyemi
Adejoke
Afolabi
Ajibola
Alade
Amoke
Atinuke
Olabisi
Olamide
Olamilekan
Olatilewa
Omowumi
Opeyemi
Okanlawon

The hybrid orthography does not have specific writing pattern but it is evident that the Yoruba vowel sounds *a*, *e*, *ẹ*, *i*, *o*, *ọ*, and *u* are written with multiple letters which may include consonant and vowel sounds. For example, the Yoruba names *Bi-o-dun*, *Bi-o-la*, *Bi-so-la* each with

three syllables and a vowel sound is written as *Bee-hor-dun*, *Bee-hor-lar*, *Bee-shor-lar*. Other examples are:

A- de- si-na
Har-day-si-na

A- de- bim-pe
Har-dey-bim-phe

O- mo-wu-mi
Hor-mo-who-mi

A- de-ye-mi
Har-de-ye-mih

O- la-ti- le-wa
Hor-la-thy-ley-wa

O- pe- ye-mi
Hor-phe-ye-mhi

The syllabic representation of each word shows that Yoruba vowel sounds are written as follows: **a** as *har*, *ar*, *ear*, *ey*, *ay*, *ear* as *he*, **i** as *hy*, *ih*, *ee*, *qasor*, *hor* and **u** as *ho*. This pattern has shown a deviation from the Yoruba orthography while it does not at the same time conform with the English writing system. Also, it is obvious that whenever a Yoruba vowel appears at the beginning of a name, it always starts with letter *h* whether it is pronounced or silent. These are the creative and innovative ways hybrid spellings are being derived in anglicized forms, though they are pronounced with their Yoruba tone system.

However, the combination of some of the hybrid syllables may reflect some English words which may not be part of the meaning of the names. E.g. *Hardaysina* as in *Adesina*, there is a reflection of words such as *hard* and *day*. *A-de-si-na* literally means **A**gent **de**come **si**open **na**way. But *Hard-day-si-nam* may have a different meaning as in **Harddaysi**open **na**way or *door*. Bilingual users of hybrid spelling for proper names should be conscious of the semantic implications of the derivation.

5. Hybrid expressions (Translation)

Deledele	To-the-house to-the-house	very well
Gbomogbomo	carry-child carry-child	kidnappers
Kolekole	build-house build-house	builders
Pajapaja	kill-dog kill-dog	cramp

Yoruba bilinguals resort to the direct translation of Yoruba words when they are yet to understand the English equivalent of the words. So, they translate the word directly into English syllable by syllable. This innovation is common among Junior Secondary School students in the research area.

Conclusion

This study has examined the morphosyntactic structures of hybrid words as spoken by Yoruba bilingual learners. Hybrid words are derived through code-mixed Yoruba and English morphemes. The morphological processes include affixation, blending, clipping, translation and hybrid orthography. Affixation process involves categorial change from the host language (Yoruba) to new hybrid categories. The analysis disproves Olaoye's (1989) claim that it is not possible to switch across word-internal morpheme boundaries to derive hybrid words. Following Lamidi and Ajongolo (2001), Lamidi (2009, 2023), it is confirmed that Yoruba-English hybrid words which Lamidi (2003, 2009, 2023) refer to as Yorulish has free and bound morphemes. The free morphemes often come from Yoruba, while bound morphemes are extracted or generated from English morphology. This makes switch at morpheme boundaries possible contrary to Olaoye's claim.

Morphological processes shows that bound morphemes may occur either as prefixes or suffices. Prefixes appear in a few hybrid words such as *intity*, *disfarahan* and *alakada*. The process of hybridization involves affixation, clipping of the Yoruba root words and affixation of English free or bound morphemes. Blending of Yoruba and English free morphemes is also possible to derive hybrid words. Hybrid orthography is realizable with anglicized spelling of Yoruba names. Hybrid words occur as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and proper names. Morphosyntactic features of these hybrid words are examined using tree diagrams to determine various categories that combine to derive specific words. The morpho-syntactic features are the inherent lexical and grammatical features in different syntactic categories. These features are considered during the derivation process to produce meaningful and acceptable lexical items from the blend of both languages.

Finally, it should be submitted that these hybrid words are major innovations and creative contribution of Yoruba bilingual learners to the vocabulary and grammar of Nigerian English.

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