

Reviewing Abubakar's (2001) Approach to Hausa Morphological Processes: Towards Expanded and more Inclusive Framework

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Abstract

This paper reviews the discourse of Hausa morphological processes focusing mainly on Abubakar (2001), so far the most influential literature on hardcore Hausa morphology. Couched on the descriptive qualitative research approach and the meta-critical analysis theory, the paper is substantiated with both primary and secondary data sourced mainly from available relevant literature through dedicated library research and internet access. The paper identifies the non-treatment of compounding in Abubakar's (2001) approach to Hausa morphological processes, which is a fundamental gap in the model, and a deviation from the general morphological approach. To remediate the anomaly, the paper also formulates and proposes an expanded and a more inclusive framework upon which subsequent engagements on the language's morphological processes could be based. Overall, the paper reaffirms the nexus between the discourse of general morphological structure and processes and that of the Hausa-specific counterpart, and attests the universality of certain – in this case morphological – aspects of natural languages.

Introduction

Several attempts at describing the morphology of Hausa have been made since the inception of linguistic investigations into the language some two centuries ago. Until the emergence of Rufa'i (1979), most if not all of the works were traditional or structural, mainly situated in the context and direction of root/stem-based morphology, and resided mostly in the language's grammar books. Rufa'i (ibid) is believed to be the first attempt at describing Hausa word-forming processes within the theory of contemporary/modern morphology. Abubakar (2001, pp. v & xi) faults this groundbreaking work of, for example, failing to formulate rules, facts-mixing, incorporating some ideas that do not strictly belong to hardcore morphology, and refusing to completely consider other pertinent issues like tone, vowel length, etc. in accounting for the Hausa morphological processes. Since the appearance of Rufa'i (ibid) in the Hausa linguistic space, however, there has not been significant attempts, especially in form of books, to describe the morphology of Hausa comprehensively until the publication of Abubakar (2001). While making a forward to this milestone and game-changer publication, Bagari (2001) attests that it is

“the first serious attempt at a systematically comprehensive approach to the description of Hausa morphology”, and that “the author’s attempt to formulate rules to account for predictable processes (...) is also a feature of the book that distinguishes it from earlier attempts (...)”. Interestingly, the approach and discussion in the book are anchored on the general morphological theory and description. This claim carries weight when one compares Bauer’s (1983) schematic representation of (general) morphology with the one sketched for Hausa by Abubakar (2001), i.e. figures (1) and (2) following.

Against the foregoing background, this paper aims to review the discourse of Hausa morphological processes focusing mainly on Abubakar (2001) which, in the paper’s view, is so far the most influential literature on hardcore Hausa morphology. The objectives are:

- (i) To identify the gap in Abubakar’s (2001) framework for Hausa morphological processes
- (ii) To offer a counter view by formulating and proposing an expanded and a more inclusive framework upon which subsequent descriptions could be based.

The paper, therefore, is couched on the descriptive qualitative research approach and the meta-critical analysis theory, an ideological tool involving a critical examination of another critical work. Methodologically, both the paper’s primary and secondary data have been sourced mainly from available relevant literature through dedicated library research and internet access.

Conceptual/Theoretical Underpinnings

Even though the central concern of the current paper is **morphological processes**, understanding what morphology entails is pertinent for that will *ab initio* allow us understand what idea underscores the rise of morphological processes as both major topic and domain of inquiry in morphology. Thus, the term **morphology** first emerged in the academia as a biological term. Some linguists hold the view that, the term was first coined by the German poet, novelist, playwright, and philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (who lived from 1749 to 1832) in the early (others say mid) nineteenth century, while others maintain that the term was coined in 1859 by August Schleicher. As a parallel term to the German word **formenlehre** ‘the study of form’, morphology is derived from the Greek words **morph** meaning ‘shape or form’ and **logus**, which means ‘study’ (Matthews, 1991, pp. 2 – 3; Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011, pp. 1 – 2; Prasad, 2014, p. 48). It has since assumed the status of a full-pledged linguistic terminology, referring strictly to “the branch of linguistics that deals with words, their internal structure, and how they are formed” (Aronoff & Fudeman, 2011, p. 2). The phrase “how they (i.e. words) are formed” in this definition underscores the emergence of **morphological processes** as both topic and area of inquiry (in Morphology), as it simply but emphatically highlights that word-formation involves patterns, procedures, or processes.

Bauer (1983, p. 34) summarizes and schematizes morphology as follows:

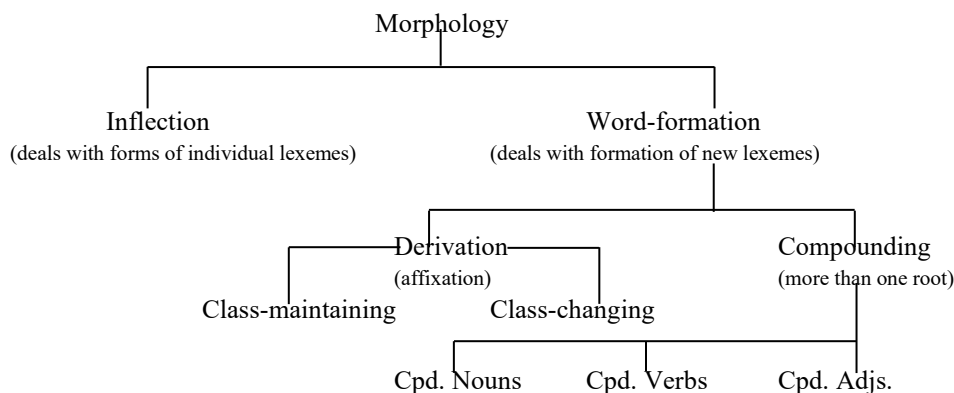


Figure 1: Bauer’s (1983) approach to morphology (modified slightly for expository convenience)

The above schema highlights the general morphological architecture of natural languages generally, though it can be plus or minus, depending on individual languages’ peculiarities or realities. The same schema forms the theoretical and descriptive basis of current Hausa morphological descriptions, as evidenced in the contents of so far Hausa’s only hardcore morphology literature, i.e. Abubakar (2001) and Fagge (2013).

Matthews (1991, p. 130) defines **morphological processes** as the different morphological operations that lexemes undergo when new word-forms are to be formed out of them. Other linguists like Tomori (1977), Bauer (1983), Katamba (1993), Yule (1996), Haspelmath and Sims (2010), Aronoff and Fudeman (2011), O’Grady et al. (2011), and Prasad (2014), among others, have also discussed morphological processes as a major topic in their treatment of morphology. It is deducible from all of the discourses that four (4) main processes are involved when new words are to be formed out of some existing ones. The processes are (i) affixation, (ii) reduplication, (iii) compounding, and (iv) modification. This generalist or universal idea underpins Hausa morphological processes as discussed, described/analyzed, or studied today.

Overview of Hausa Morphological Processes

Ab initio, Abubakar (2001, p. xi) laments that morphology as one of the branches of linguistics receives most attention in the study of Hausa yet appears to be the most complex. He divides Hausa morphology into two main branches, as **lexical morphology**, and as **inflectional morphology**, consistent with the earlier cited general approach i.e. Bauer (1983), and goes further to sub-categorize the former into two sub-fields, **derivation** and **compounding**, and summarizes as well as schematically represents Hausa’s morphological structure as follows:

Morphology

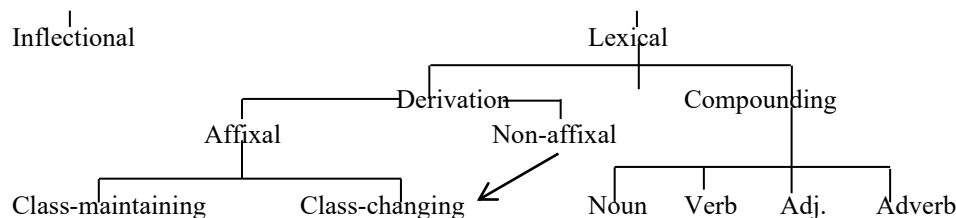


Figure 2: Abubakar’s (2001) approach to Hausa morphological structure (slightly modified to suit the current purpose)

In furtherance of his description of Hausa morphology, Abubakar (2001, p. 2) maintains that for a word to be formed or inflected, one of three morphological processes may be involved, which he identifies as **affixation**, **reduplication**, and **modification**. He thereafter formulates (p. 19) yet another schema (or framework) spelling out what he assumes to be Hausa’s only morphological processes, as follows:

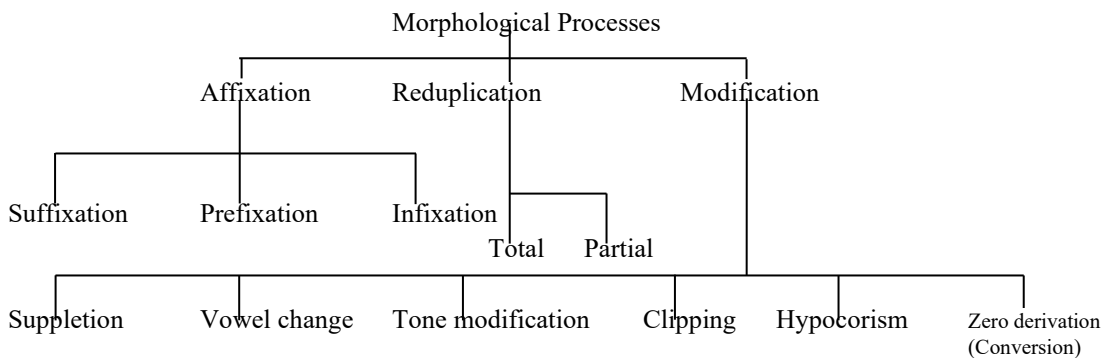


Figure 3: Abubakar’s (2001) schema for Hausa morphological processes (also slightly modified to suit the current purpose)

In the above schema, we could see that Abubakar (2001) has defaulted for not including **compounding**, even though Hausa sufficiently utilizes the morphologically productive process to coin or form (compound) words. Moreover, since the general morphology and some other renowned Hausaists e.g. Galadanci (1969, 1972 & 1976), Rufa’i (1979), Bagari (1986), Fagge (1993 & 2013), Yusuf (2011), etc. treat compounding as a morphological process of its own right, it is then more plausible to think of Hausa as having **four (4)** – not **three (3)** – major morphological processes. The four processes are (a) affixation, (b) reduplication, (c) compounding, and (d) modification, and are concisely discussed below.

(a) Affixation

Working in the context of Hausa morphology, Abubakar (2001, p. 1) posits that:

As a morphological process affixation involves attaching a formative to an existing word. The affix which is attached to a word-initial position is called *prefix*, while the one which comes word-finally is referred to as *suffix*. The word-medial affix is called *infix*. The affixes which are used in forming words are called *derivational affixes* while those used in inflecting them are called *inflectional affixes*. The words and affixes are technically called *morphemes*¹.

Abubakar (2001) further maintains that there are three types of affixal operations in Hausa, which are (i) prefixation, (ii) suffixation, and (iii) infixation. To instantiate how operation occurs in Hausa, he exemplifies the lexeme **gínàa** (a verb form) ‘to build’, which is a free morpheme to which a bound morpheme **má-** is prefixed to yield the agentive noun **máginú** ‘a builder or mason’ which also typically exemplifies derivation since it results in change of the grammatical class of the derivand. The operand (**gínàa**) is a verb while the derivand (**máginú**) is an agentive noun. Thus, in Hausa as in other languages, attaching an affix to the front of a word is a clear case of **prefixation** and the affix attached is a **prefix** (p. 1).

Using the same simple and commonly known verb lexeme **gínàa** ‘to build’, Abubakar (ibid) also exemplifies suffix and suffixation in Hausa, by pointing out that if in **gínàa** the short vowel /u/ is attached to substitute the final long vowel /aa/², the resulting form would be the verb **gínú** ‘built totally’. This also typically exemplifies inflection in the language since there is no change of the grammatical class of the derivand i.e. the operand (**gínàa**) is a verb just like the derivand (**gínú**) is, and the mere fact that the **-ú** affix is attached to the end of the word makes it a **suffix** and the operation **suffixation**.

Infixation is the third sub-process of affixation in Hausa. In fact, it is far less common when compared with prefixation and suffixation i.e. it occurs in just a few Hausa words some of which Abubakar (2001, p. 3) identifies as **gúrgùu** (n.m.) ‘lame’, **kúrtùu** (n.m.) ‘recruit’, **kwàlbáa** (n.f.) ‘bottle’, **gármáa** (n.f.) ‘plough’, **gárwáa** (n.f.) ‘tin’, **sàlkáa** (n.f.) ‘skin bottle’ and **báawàa** (n.m.) ‘slave’.

Based on Abubakar’s (2001, p. 3) analysis, infixation in Hausa involves affixing three types of vocalic morphemes in word medial position. He identifies the vocalic morphemes as (a) **-a-**, (b) **-e-**, and (c) **-i-**, of which **-a-** and **-e-** are inflectional affixes while **-i-** is a derivational affix. In his analysis, Abubakar (ibid) demonstrates that the Hausa infixal morphemes are mostly productive in pluralization and gender marking, with **-a-** and **-e-** inflecting for number while **-i-** inflects for

¹Italicization of some of the words is that of the original source, perhaps, as a mark of emphasis.

²Whereas Abubakar (2001, p. 3) represents this as a short vowel i.e. as /a/, Newman and Newman (1977, p. 44) treat it as a long one i.e. as /aa/.

gender, as in the operations **kúrtùu** (n.m.) → **kúràtáa** (n.pl.) ‘recruit(s)’, **gármáa** (n.f.) → **gárèemánii** (n.pl.) ‘plough(s)’, and **báawàa** (n.m.) → **bâiwáa** (n.f.) ‘slave; masc./fem.’, respectively. Note that **-a-**, **-e-**, and **-i-** are the orthographic representations of the so-called infixes.

With the exception of Al-Hassan (2011a & b), other Hausaists e.g. Jinju (1980), Fagge (1993 & 2013) and others, who discuss infixation in Hausa hold the same view with Abubakar (2001). Al-Hassan (2011a) is, perhaps, the first Hausaist to contemplate openly the existence of infixation in Hausa. In what appears to be a frank move towards revisiting and revolutionizing the theory of infixation in Hausa in consonance with current approaches cross-linguistically, Al-Hassan³ questions that, “Does Hausa really have infixation?” To justify his query, he cites several flaws in previous Hausa works in which infixation is treated as core morphological phenomenon or as grammatical issue and draws a conclusion, that “The existence of infixation in Hausa is extra-evidential and therefore questionable.”

This paper also questions the validity of some instances of infixation claimed for Hausa by previous analysts, for example, Abubakar’s (2001) **garwaa** (n.f.) → **gárèewánii** (n.pl.) ‘tin(s)’, **sàlkáa** (n.f.) → **sálèekánii** (n.pl.) ‘skin bottle(s)’, **báawàa** (n.m.) → **bâiwáa** (n.f.) ‘slave(s)’, and so on while also not having any reservations for Al-Hassan’s (2011a) re-think on infixation in Hausa.

It can be deduced from all of the foregoing postulations and further be inputted, that in morphological terms an affix is a morpheme, usually a bound one, which attaches to a word or a main part of a word. In other words, an affix is a bound morpheme that is attached to a complete word, a stem, or a root, to form a new word⁴.

(b) Reduplication

‘Reduplication’ is another morphological process in Hausa. In this type of operation, part of the base or the complete base is copied and attached to the base, initially or finally (Haspelmath & Sims, 2010, p. 38). Thus, reduplication is the doubling of a base, in full or in part, to form another word.

Abubakar (2001, p. 5) maintains that, reduplication⁵ is either partial or complete. According to him, a reduplicated form is partial when only one part of the base form is repeated as in the verb form **záunàa** ‘to sit’ which partially reduplicates as **zázzàunáa** ‘keep sitting’ (i.e. **záunàa** → **zázzàunáa**), where only the **záu-** part of the base form (or the **záun-** part as some analysts may

³Al-Hassan is by extension a Chadicist and a frank disciple of the Descriptive Linguistics school of thought.

⁴For a researched exploration of affixes in Hausa, see Muhammad (2018).

⁵See, for example, Al-Hassan (1998), Yakasai (2006 & 2023), and Awwal (2010) for researched explorations of Hausa Reduplication.

argue) doubles in the reduplicated form. Abubakar (ibid) further adds that, reduplication is labeled complete when the base is repeated totally as in the adjective form **fáríí** ‘white’ which totally repeats to **fá-rí-fá-rí** ‘whitish’ (i.e. **fáríí** → **fá-rí-fá-rí**). In Hausa, reduplication, whether partial or complete, may trigger some phonological adjustment in the reduplicated form. Here too, Abubakar (2001) perceives the form **fá-rí-fá-rí** also as **fáríí-fá-ríí**.

Still on reduplication in Hausa, Abubakar (ibid) shades more light that, the morphological forms that generally undergo partial reduplication are the verbs, the derived forms of which are traditionally referred to as ‘pluractionals’. He also identifies other categories of Hausa words that undergo partial reduplication and can still undergo complete reduplication as adjectives, adverbs of place (or locative adverbs) and adverbs of time (or temporal adverbs). Quoting Sapir (1911, p. 76) and Katamba (1993, p. 180), Abubakar (ibid) further explains, that reduplicatives can semantically denote distribution, plurality, repetition, increase in size, added intensity, etc.

(c) Compounding

Notwithstanding Abubakar’s (2001) non-inclusion of compounding in his schema for Hausa morphological processes, it remains a fact that Hausa substantially makes use of this kind of morphological operation to form new single compound forms. Citing Lyons (1977, pp. 534 – 535) and Allan (1986, p. 225), Abubakar (2001, p. 77) says, a compound is a lexeme whose stem is formed by combining two or more stems with or without morphological modification, and whose meaning is only occasionally predictable from the meanings of their (the stems’) components. Morphologically, the process of combining two or more stems to form a new single compound form is compounding. In a more restricted sense, Galadanci (1969, 1972 & 1976), as cited in Yusuf (2011, p. 27), defines ‘Hausa compound’ as any fixed, single, invariable and indivisible expression that is made up of two or more words and function as a noun in a sentence or clause, the main component element of which may be called the ‘core’. He (Galadanci) argues that the core of a compound is comparable with the Head in a simple nominal phrase (NP). In his remarks on Galadanci’s submission, Yusuf (ibid) stresses that, “A combination of two or more words becomes a compound WHEN IT IS LEXICALIZED⁶ such that its component parts do not function independently but rather as a unit.”

According to Yusuf (ibid), Galadanci (ibid) has identified three major structural types of compound for Hausa, which are (a) noun-based compounds, (b) verb-based compounds, and (c) ideophone-based compounds. However, in a more in-depth approach, Abubakar (2001, p. 77) categorizes Hausa compounds into two major classes namely, (a) nominal compounds, and (b) adverbial compounds. He goes on to sub-divide the former into four, which are (i) noun-based compounds, (ii) verb-based compounds, (iii) adjective-based compounds, and (iv) ideophone-based compounds, then sub-divides the latter into three, which are (i) simple adverbial

⁶The emphasis here i.e. the capitalization is that of the current work.

compounds, (ii) adverbial cluster, and (iii) adverbial phrase. For the sake of clarity, Ahmed (2023) schematically re-represents Abubakar’s (2001, p. 114) approach to Hausa compounds thus:

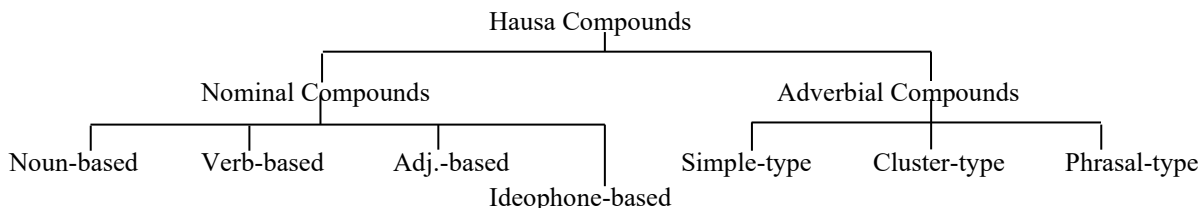


Figure 4: A re-representation of Abubakar’s (2001) approach to Hausa compounds

The below cases, being an extract from Abubakar (2001, p. 79), exemplify compounding and compounds in Hausa⁷.

Table 1, Example 1: Compounding and Compounds in Hausa Exemplified

Process	Compound
(a) kèkè + -n + dínkii N LIN ^{masc.} N 'bicycle' 'sewing'	kèkèn-dínkii 'sewing machine'
(b) dúutsè + -n + níkàa N LIN ^{masc.} N 'stone' 'grinding'	dúutsèn-níkàa 'grinding stone'
(c) wàasáa + -n + kwáikwáyóo N LIN ^{masc.} N 'play' 'imitation'	wàasán-kwáikwáyóo 'dramatization/drama'
(d) dǎakii + -n + kàràatúu N LIN ^{masc.} N 'room' 'reading'	dǎakìn-kàràatúu 'reading room/library'

Each of the Hausa compounds exemplified in table (1) above is having the internal structure **Noun + LINKER + Noun**. Note that the hyphens indicated in these compounds are that of Abubakar (ibid) as hyphens are rarely marked on Hausa compounds with this kind of structure. Newman (2000, p. 300) treats each of the **-n** (masculine/plural) and **-r** (feminine) elements in this compound type/structure as ‘linker’ while Abubakar (ibid) marks same as ‘genitive link’. In addition, Abubakar (ibid) categorizes compounds that have this type of internal structure as ‘noun-based compounds’, itself a member of a larger class he (Abubakar) calls ‘nominal compounds’.

(d) Modification

‘Modification’ is one of the morphological processes Abubakar (2001) proposed for Hausa, though he gives no definition for the term. However, Haspelmath and Sims (2010, p. 36)

⁷Researched explorations of aspects of Hausa compounds and compounding are to be found in Ahmad (1994) and McIntyre (2006), among others.

consider modification as a collective term for morphological patterns in which the shape of the base changes without adding segmentable material, implying that certain sub-processes occur as modification. Abubakar (2001, p. 5) holds the same view, that there are sub-processes within modification, which he identifies as suppletion (or total modification), vowel change, stress change, tone modification, subtraction, clipping, hypocorism, conversion, blends, and acronyms. However, he seems to have made this typology from a generalist point of view, as not all the sub-processes are productive in Hausa. Thus, only the ones he identified as being productive in Hausa are concisely discussed here, which are suppletion, vowel change, tone modification, clipping, and hypocorism.

(i) Suppletion

According to Abubakar (2001, p. 6), ‘suppletion’ (or ‘total modification’) is a morphological process where the word form does not show morphological similarity with the inflected form. He borrows a leaf from Matthews (1991, pp. 136 – 143) and exemplifies the case of English verb form **go**, which is totally (or very) modified to yield the past tense form **went**, as typical example of suppletion.

Further to the English example, Abubakar (2001, p. 6) cites the case of **bùnsùrúu** (n.m.) ‘he-goat’ → **àkúyàa** (n.f.) ‘she-goat’ and **rágóo** (n.m.) ‘ram’ → **tùnkìyáa** (n.f.) ‘ewe’ as classical examples of suppletion in Hausa. In both cases, one observes total modification of the base forms. This type of modification is total for the simple reason that there is no morphological similarity between the operands and the derivands.

(ii) Vowel Change

‘Vowel change’ is another aspect of modification in Hausa. It is found to occur in the language across Parson’s verbal grades and in verbal nouns, feminine derivation, and plural formation. In this type of operation, the difference between the base form and the derived or inflected form is in the vowel quality (Abubakar, 2001, p. 6). As a precursor to his analysis of vowel change as word-formation process in Hausa, Abubakar (ibid) first cites examples of similar occurrences in English verbs like **sink** → **sank**, **sing** → **sang**, **foot** → **feet** and **fight** → **fought**. Vowel change in all of these cases is very spectacular beyond any counterview.

Parson (1960) classified the Hausa verbs into seven grades. It is in these domains (of Hausa verbs) that Abubakar (2001) accounts for vowel change as a sub-process of modification in the language. According to him, the transformation from primary grade to the secondary one occurs through vowel change except in the case of ‘grade 7 verbs’ also referred to as ‘causative verbs’ whose transformation is through suffixation (Abubakar, 2001, p. 6). Consider, in Table (5) below, some instances of vowel change as means of modification of Hausa verbs from primary to secondary grades, as Abubakar (ibid) exemplified:

Table 2, Example 2: Hausa Exemplification of Modification via Vowel Change

Base Form (Primary Grade)	Modified Forms (Secondary Grade)
(a) <i>káamàa</i> ‘caught’:→	<i>káamóo</i> ‘caught and brought’ <i>káamée</i> ‘caught firmly’ <i>káamúu</i> ‘caught assuredly’
(b) <i>sàyáa</i> ‘bought’:→	<i>sáyóo</i> ‘bought and brought’ <i>sáyèè</i> ‘bought completely’ <i>sáyúu</i> ‘bought assuredly’

Table (2) above exemplifies how two Hausa primary verbs i.e. **káamàa** ‘caught’ and **sàyáa** ‘bought’ get modified into some secondary grades through the change of the base forms’ (i.e. the primary verbs’) final vowels. In each case, one can notice a paradigm of morphologically related but semantically different derived (or modified) forms. Such is modification via vowel change in Hausa, and many more cases that are similar abound in the language.

(iii) Tone(-al) Modification/Change

The next productive form of modification (in Hausa) to consider in this overview is ‘tone modification’, sometimes referred to as ‘tonal change’. What exactly is ‘tone’? Tone is a phonological phenomenon that also has morphological effects in languages, especially tone languages. Sani (2001a, p. 53) posits that, as in majority of African languages tone plays a prominent role in Hausa, meaning that Hausa is a tone language. Pike (1948, p. 3), as cited in Hyman (1975, p. 213), defines a tone language as any language having significant, contrastive, but relative pitch on each syllable. Hyman (1975, p. 212) supports Pike by asserting that tone more directly resembles segmental phenomena but it is generally regarded as the property of the suprasegment, i.e. the syllable (cf. Ahmed, 2014, p. 30).

Working in the context of Hausa phonology, Sani (2001a, p. 53) defines ‘tone’ as a pitch of voice on which individual syllable of a word is uttered naturally to convey a proper meaning of the word to the listener. Sani (ibid) clarifies that, every syllable has its assigned tone such that a slight change of the tone, say from high to low or from falling to high, is capable of changing the meaning of a word or may even render it meaningless. O’connor (1973), as cited in Ahmed (2014, p. 30), concurs with Sani (ibid) by seeing tone as an integral part of word shape, the correctness of which also determines the correct shape of a word and the wrongness of which distorts a word or even makes it unrecognizable.

Abraham’s (1946) three-tone system now generally gains recognition from Hausaists/linguists and his dictionary i.e. Abraham (1946) serves as a major reference book on Hausa tone (Ma Newman, 1974). Hoffman and Schachter (1969, pp. 73 – 83) affirm this by positing that, there are three tones in Hausa namely, high, low and falling. Later investigation by Sani (2001b), however, revealed the existence of rising tone in Hausa, which unlike the three popular contrastive ones (high, low and falling), only plays emphatic role in the language (cf. Ahmed, 2014, p. 32). According to Abubakar (2001, p. 9), tone has two functions in a language namely, the lexical (semantic) function and the morphological (grammatical) function.

Coming to the main issue under review, i.e. tone modification, Abubakar (2001, p. 9) identifies six areas in which tone performs morphological function in Hausa. However, for the present purpose let us consider only one area, which is the verbal system.

Tone modification is a highly productive means of inflection and word-formation in the Hausa verbal system. According to Abubakar (2001, p. 10), tense/aspect distinction in the Hausa verbal system depends on both segmental and suprasegmental (prosodic) features of the verb forms as the example in Table (3) below demonstrates, which is also an extract from Abubakar (ibid).

Table 3, Example 3: Hausa Exemplification of Modification via Tonal Change

Base Form	Inflected Form
(a) yánkàa ‘cut’:→	yánkóo ‘cut and brought’ yànkú ‘assuredly cut completely’
(b) sàyáa ‘bought’:→	sáyóo ‘bought and brought’

In the above example, one notices in the first case that the verb **yánkàa** ‘cut’, which is also the base form with tone pattern of **HL**, yields via tone modification two other different verb forms with the tone pattern **HH** and **LH** respectively i.e. **yánkóo** ‘cut and brought’ and **yànkú** ‘assuredly cut completely’. In the second case, it is the verb form **sàyáa** ‘bought’ with tone pattern of **LH** that yields **sáyóo** ‘bought and brought’ with a **HH** tone pattern. All of these cases demonstrate tone modification as an **inflectional** phenomenon in Hausa.

However, tone modification in Hausa has its **derivational** dimension, for example, as in the forms **yánkà** (v.) ‘to cut’ and **yánkàa** (v.n.) ‘a cut’, or **yánkà** (v.) and **yànkée** (n.m.) ‘short-cut’. Here, tone modification is derivational because it is marked by category (or part of speech) change of the derivands. In all of the cases exemplified both the inflectional and derivational derivands exhibit changes in their final vowels. This is because, as Abubakar (2001) argues, the vowels and the tones concomitantly relate in each case. Other areas where tone modification plays a role as tool for word inflection or word-formation in Hausa are (a) imperative, (b) plural, (c) gender, (d) verbal noun, and (e) voice (Abubakar, 2001, pp. 10 – 14).

(iv) Clipping:

The next among the productive Hausa modification sub-types to consider in this overview is ‘clipping’, which is a way of word coining by shortening the base of a lexeme. In clipping, the base lexeme and the clipped form retain the same meaning and still belong to the same class there are two types of clipping namely, (a) back clipping, and (b) front clipping. There are more instances of back clipping in Hausa than front clipping⁸ (Abubakar, 2001, p. 15).

1. Back Clipping

⁸See Sani (2002) and Shehu (2015) for researched explorations of clipping in Hausa.

This is a clipping type in which the base of a lexeme is shortened from the back (or word-initially), a process that results in the formation of another word of the same meaning and class with the base. Abubakar (2001, p. 15) identifies some cases of back clipping in Hausa, which are exemplified in Table (4) below.

Table 4, Example 4: Back Clipping in Hausa Exemplified

Full (or Base) Form	Clipped Form	Gloss
(a) <u>kwá</u> kwálwáa	kwálwáa	Brain
(b) <u>hàjii</u> jùwàa	jùwáa	Dizziness
(c) <u>kúskù</u> rèè	kùrèè	Mistake

This kind of morphological operation is back clipping where the full forms and the corresponding clipped ones bear the same meaning and belong to the same grammatical category i.e. the noun (N) class. Note that, the bold-typed and underlined portions are the clipped off segments.

2. Front Clipping

Front clipping is the converse of back clipping. It is a clipping type in which the base of a lexeme is shortened from the front (or word-finally), a process that results in the formation of another word of the same meaning and class with the base. Abubakar (2001, p. 15) identifies some cases of front clipping in Hausa, thus:

Table 5, Example 5: Front Clipping in Hausa Exemplified

Full (or Base) Form	Clipped Form	Gloss
(a) ásíisii <u>táa</u>	ásiisii	A type of bird
(b) *fátée- <u>fátée</u>	fátée	A type of Hausa cuisine/food
(c) *kúlii- <u>kúlii</u>	kúlii	A type of Hausa groundnut cake

This kind of morphological operation is front clipping. However, for the asterisked forms i.e. **fátée-fátée** and **kúlii-kúlii** the operation can be the other way, i.e. back clipping, since both segments are the same, except in the case of the former where the first segment is LH and the second one HL. Here too, the full forms and the clipped forms bear the same meaning, and both belong to the same grammatical category i.e. the noun (N) class. Also note that, the bold-typed and underlined portions are the clipped off segments.

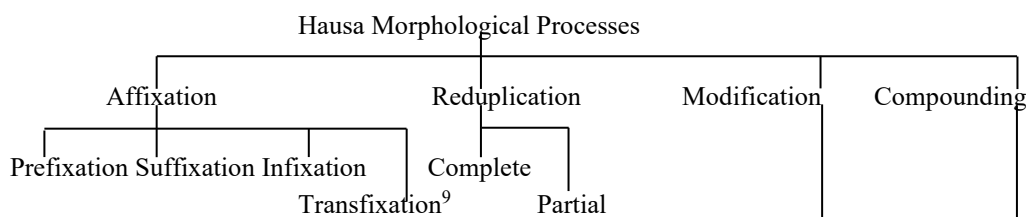
In Hausa, both back clipping and front clipping can occur in the domain of personal names. **A’ishatu** → **A’i**, **A’isha**, or **Shatu**; **Balarabe** → **Bala**; **Abdullahi** → **Abdu/Audu** or **Abdalla**; **Fatima** → **Fati**; **Abubakar** → **Bukar**, **Abu**, or **Buba**; **Maiwada** → **Wada**; and so on, are good examples.

(v) Hypocorism

The last but not in any way the least modification sub-process to discuss is ‘hypocorism’, which is one of Hausa’s modification sub-types. Abubakar (2001, p. 17) says, hypocorism is another process of word formation through back clipping, syllable metathesis and word manufacturing, which is characteristic of adolescent language and school-age children. Citing Charanci (1986), Abubakar (2001, pp. 107 – 108) indicates that at least six types of hypocorism could be found in Hausa, which include but not limited to the following.

1. **Back-shifting** – which involves the first syllable becoming the last, as in the operation **tàfìyàa** → **fìyàatàa** ‘walking’ in which the underlined portion i.e. the last two syllables of the operand become back-shifted and, in turn, become the first two syllables of the derivand.
2. **Syllable affix** – which involves affixing a whole syllable e.g. the syllable ‘do’ in between the syllables of the base word, as in the operation **góoròo** → **góodòròodò** ‘kola nut(s)’ in which the underlined portions of the derivand are the affixed syllables.
3. **Vowel affix** – which involves affixing the short vowel /a/ to the end of every syllable of the base form, as in the operation **yàaràa** → **yâaʔáráaʔá** ‘children’ in which the underlined parts of the derivand are the affixed vowels. Glottal consonants i.e. the ‘ʔ’ are represented on the derivand in strict compliance with the Hausa phonological-cum-orthographic convention, which strictly requires the insertion of a glottal consonant where, in two successive syllables in a Hausa word, a vowel marks the end of a preceding syllable and another vowel marks, on the word’s surface structure, the beginning of a following syllable.

Thus far, seeing previously that Hausa compounding is also a procedural phenomenon, like affixation and others – in other words, having noticed that the resultant forms or outputs of Hausa compounding are process-driven – is enough evidence that it is also one of the language’s major morphological processes. This cogent reason coupled with Al-Hassan’s (2011b) proposition for the existence of **transfixation** in Hausa provide the current paper some strong basis of formulating an expanded and a more comprehensive framework for the Hausa morphological processes, as follows:



⁹Transfixation involves the interlocking of discontinuous vocalic affixes and discontinuous consonantal roots in the process of word building (Al-Hassan, 2011b, p. 40), as in the operation **fúrtàa** + **-ù...ii** → **fúr{ù(-c)-íi}** where the operand **fúrtàa** ‘articulate’ is a verb, the affix **-ù...ii** is transfix, and the derivand **fúrùcìi** ‘articulation’ a (verbal)

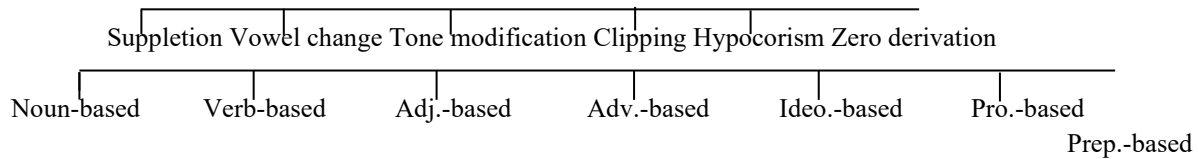


Figure 5: Expanded schema for Hausa morphological processes (cf. Ahmed, 2023, p.51)

Conclusion

This paper reviewed the discourse of Hausa morphological processes focusing mainly on Abubakar (2001), so far the most influential literature on hardcore Hausa morphology. Couched on the descriptive qualitative research approach and the meta-critical analysis theory, the paper is substantiated with both primary and secondary data sourced mainly from available relevant literature through dedicated library research and internet access. The paper identified the non-treatment of compounding in Abubakar’s (2001) approach to Hausa morphological processes, which is a fundamental gap in the model, and a deviation from the general morphological approach. To remediate the anomaly, the paper also formulated and proposed an expanded and a more inclusive framework upon which subsequent engagements on the language’s morphological processes could be based. Overall, the paper is a reaffirmation of the nexus between the discourse of general morphological structure and processes and that of the Hausa-specific counterpart (as it could be clearly understood therein that the latter is obviously anchored on the former), and an attestation of the universality of certain – in this case morphological – aspects of natural languages.

noun (Ahmed, 2023, p. 109). Note that, the root’s final consonant /t/ has been palatalized to [tʃ] i.e. ‘c’ in the output (derivand) having been followed by the long monophthong /ii/.

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