

# THE MULTIPLICITY OF ELEMENTS IN JUKUN

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## Abstract

Multiplicity of elements is a situation where an element, which in a normal clause structure occurs once, happens to occur more than once in certain circumstances within the same clause. Complements and adjuncts are the elements that occur more than once in a clause structure. The Systemic Functional Linguistics theoretical framework, propounded by M.A.K. Halliday, was used in analysing the data with specific focus on the scale of delicacy theory. The clauses that have more than one complement and adjunct were selected for analysis. The findings show that just as English; Jukun clauses tolerate the occurrence of more than one complement and adjunct in its clause structures. In terms of multiplicity of complements, the findings show that there are two kinds of complements; complement intensive and extensive. There are also instances of rank shifted clauses functioning as complements. The adjuncts found in our data, on the other hand, are those headed by prepositions and those headed by adverbials. The analysis does not extend beyond the primary degree of delicacy because the point of focus for the study is just the structural identification of the occurrence of multiple complements and adjuncts at the primary degree of delicacy (SPCA). The elements were first identified in Jukun and glossed in English for clarity.

**Key Words:** Structures, elements, complement, adjuncts

## Introduction

Multiple elements in the structure of any clause open more doors for many possibilities in the clause structure. A basic clause in any language is expected to have four elements of structures, that is, the SPCA. That means, the full structure of a basic clause should have the subject, predicator, complement and adjunct. The SPCA is the model for the structure of clauses in almost all languages of the world.

When an element appears more than once in the structure of a clause, there is the possibility of generating new clause structures other than the SPCA. It is possible to generate new structures such as SPCCA, SPCAA and so forth. There can never be more than one subject in a clause except in the situation of double-headedness conjoined through the instrumentality of a conjunction. There is no clause configuration where we have SSPCA or SPPCA where there are two subjects or two predicators in a clause except the lexical verbs conjoined with their auxiliaries. But the case is different with complement and adjunct. The complement and the adjunct are the only two elements in the clause structure which can occur more than once in a single clause. The ability of the complement and the adjunct to appear more than once in a single clause enlarges the variety of clauses that we have in a language. This study therefore, focuses on the possibility of having multiple complements and adjuncts in Jukun clauses.

The Jukun Language is a member of the Nigritic or Niger-Congo linguistic family (Ajiduku, 2013: v). The people are found in the Benue Valley of the Middle Belt Region of Nigeria (Smith, 1972). Ajiduku (2013) opines that the language boasts of several dialects such as Wápan, Ekpan, Ichen, Wánu, Kóna, Dámpar, Wurbo, Wase, Gwána, Píndigá and many others. The present research was carried out in the Jukun-Ekpan dialect. The Jukun-Ekpan is one of the numerous dialects of the Jukun Language. It is mostly spoken in Wukari, Donga, and Takum Local Governments of Taraba State as well as in some parts of Benue State. In Benue, they are popularly referred to as Ekpan Nyonyo. Jukun-Ekpan, as speculated, is the second largest group, among the several Jukun dialects after Wapan. It is clear that there are differences in some lexical and phonological aspects of their spoken language among different groups.

### **The Notion of Multiplicity of Elements of the Clause of Structure**

Multiplicity means more than one. Multiplicity of elements in the clause means that there are elements of clause structure that can occur more than once. These elements are complements and adjuncts.

### The Multiplicity of Complements

The complement is one of the elements of the clause structure. Berry (1975) defines the complement as the part of the sentence which answers the question “who or what” after the verb. The complement is a word or groups of words which completes the meaning of a sentence. It usually follows the predicator. It has the same status with the subject in terms of elements that constitute them. Complements have the ability to appear more than once in a clause structure. When this happens, it means one of it is a direct object and the other one is an indirect object. In systemic grammar parlance, they are referred to as complement intensive and complement extensive. For instance;

S                    P        C        C  
 // my friend called me a bastard//

S        P        C        C  
 // Adamu showed me his new house//

In the clauses above, ‘me and bastard’, and ‘me and his new house’ are clear examples of two complements featuring in a clause.

### The Multiplicity of adjuncts

Ojo (2011) defines the adjunct as a class of adverbials which are integrated into the clause structure. The other classes are conjuncts and disjuncts. The adjunct also has a similar behaviour as the complement above. In a normal clause, the adjunct occupies the fourth slot in the structure of the clause. In addition to the fact above, it can also occur more than once in a single clause. Most adjuncts occurring at the end of a clause are performing circumstantial functions; that is, adjuncts denoting time and place. For instance,

S        P        C        A        A  
 //there is a thief among us in this class//



An adjunct, on the other hand is a class of adverbials which is integrated into the clause structure. The other classes are conjuncts and disjuncts. The Jukun adjunct also has a similar behaviour as the English complement above. It can also occur more than once in a single clause. For instance,

S        P        A        A  
*Nyeufdi hwe inkenbi inkenidine*  
 Thief is among us in house this  
 ‘a thief is among us in this house’

S        P        C        A        A  
*A vo amji desken inkenidi*  
 ‘She do food in morning in house’  
 ‘She cooked food in the morning in the house’

In the same vein, the clauses above have *inkenbi* and *inken idine*, *desken* and *inkenidi* as clear examples of two adjuncts featuring in a Jukun clause.

### Methodology

The data were analysed using scale of delicacy of Systemic Functional Linguistic theoretical framework, propounded by M.A.K. Halliday. A popular Jukun story, “the lion and the goat”, served as the data for this research. The clauses in the story were first selected, thereafter analysed. This was done to see their compliance with standard structures of the SPCA. Actually, the focus of the study is to look out at the ability of the complements and adjuncts to occur multiple times in Jukun clauses. It, therefore, means the data selected for analysis must contain more than one complement and adjuncts. The elements were first identified in Jukun and glossed in English for clarity of analysis.



SP C A A  
*àkà àshzyí ínkenùwáne/demmwe//*  
 He look eye inside pit the quickly  
 'He looked into the pit quickly'

The Jukun clause has the clause structural elements of SPCAA. The adjuncts in the clause are /*ínkenùwáne*/ (inside the pit) and /*demmwe*/ (quickly)

S P C C  
*//Kónkòn/ fgú/ à / /nyóná àvónzúá//*  
 Lion begged him that he remove out him  
 'The lion begged him that he should get him out'

The Jukun clause has SPCC clause structural elements with a rank-shifted clause embedded as element of another group. There are two complements, which are, "a", a pronoun (he) and /*nyóná àvónzúá*/, a rank shifted 'that clause'.

S P C C  
*//A/ kpi/ idó/ nyonaará vónmbèà//*  
 He agree plea that he will remove him  
 'He consented to assist him'

The Jukun clause structure has the SPCC as structural elements. There are two complements. The first is the noun /*idó*/ (consent) and the second, a relative clause /*nyonaará vónmbèà*/ (that he will remove him).

A S P C C  
*//Sé/ Ìbwén/ kè/konkon/ ùkyénmù//*  
 Then goat give lion tail his  
 'Then, the goat gave the lion his tail'

The Jukun clause here has ASPCC structural elements. The complements in the clause are *Konkon* (lion) and /*ùk'yénmu*/ (his tail).

S P C C  
 //Kónkòn/ tubún /a/ùk'yénmu//  
 The lion held him tail his  
 'The lion held him by his tail'

In this case, the Jukun clause has the SPCC clause structural elements with two complements which are; a pronoun /*a*/ (he) and /*ùk'yénmu*/ (his tail).

A S P C C  
 //Àfđí abuzúnè / a /tubún/a /ùk'yénmu//  
 Place he came out, he held him tail his  
 'When he came out, he held his tail'

The Jukun clause here has ASPCC as structural elements. The complements are a pronoun /*a*/ (he) and /*ùk'yénmu*/ (his tail).

S P C C  
 //Ìbwén /ká/ á/ nyóná àngó vò àsùtó má ùk'yénmuá//  
 Goat asked him that what happened he release not tail his  
 'The goat asked him why he did not release his tail'

Here the Jukun clause structure is SPCC. The clause has multiple complements. The first is a pronoun /*á*/ and the second an interrogative clause /*nyóná àngó vò àsùtó má ùk'yénmuá*/ (why he did not release his tail)

S P C C  
 //À /shé/ Ìbwén/ nyóná, àdzánùfónádzì mà àmidziá//  
 He told goat that long time eat not food  
 'He told the goat that he had been without food for a very long time'



The Jukun clause has the SPCC clause structure with an embedded clause. The complements are /*Ìbwén*/ and a rank shifted 'that' clause /*nyóná, àdzánré úfónádzìmà àmidziá*/ (that he has been without food for a very long time)

It is needful to state here that the Jukun Language has all the elements (SPCC) that constitute the model of the structure of the clause as do other languages of the world. This is because the structures of most clauses found in the popular story contain the subject, predicator, complement and adjunct, complying with the standard structure of a normal clause. The finding shows that the complement and adjuncts can occur in their clause structures more than once. We cannot forget the fact that sometimes some clauses have some elements absent in their structures while in other instances there are elements occurring more than once in the same clauses (multiplicity of elements).

## Conclusion

From the foregoing, it is clear that Jukun, like some other world languages, has more than one complement and adjunct featuring in its clause structure. It is apparent that all elements (SPCA) that constitute the model of the structure of the clause of world languages are found in the Jukun language and are structured just the way English does. But at the units, that is, at group level, Jukun, being a head first language (post-modifier), has a different way of structuring of its complement. As clearly pointed out in the structure of the Jukun clause, two or more complements and adjuncts can occur in the Jukun clause. That is, the findings show that at the clausal level, there is the possibility of multiple elements; complements and adjuncts occurring more than once. It is evident from the analysis that our data contain more than one complement and the adjunct, enlarging the number of clause structural formulas we have in the Jukun Language.

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