INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA, KHAROUM, SUDAN
GRADUATE SCHOOL & SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

LINGUISTIC CHANGES OF HAUSA LANGUAGE OF ABAKWA DIALECT AND
THE EFFECTS OF SURROUNDING LANGUAGES IN BURUKU LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA OF BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

THESIS FOR THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) IN
LINGUISTICS

BY

ABOKI MUHAMMAD SANI

SUPERVISOR

Prof. BABIKER HASSAN QADRI MARI

1437 KHAROUM 2016
DECLARATION

“I hereby declare that this work is the product of my own research efforts; undertaken under the supervision of Professor Babiker Hassan Qadri Mari and has not been presented and will not be presented elsewhere for the award of a degree or certificate. All sources have been duly acknowledged under the cover term references”.

Sign____________________

Date____________________

Aboki Muhammad Sani
CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the research work for this thesis and the subsequent preparation of this thesis by Aboki Muhammad Sani were carried out under my supervision.

........................................

Supervisor

Professor Babiker Hassan Qadri Mari

........................................

Internal Examiner

........................................

Professor Kamal Gahallah

Head of Department
The under signed certified that they have read and recommended to the Faculty of Arts for acceptance of this thesis entitled, Linguistic Changes of Hausa Language of Abakwa Dialect and the Effects of Surrounding Languages in Buruku Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Prof. Al-Amin Abu-Manga
External Examiner

Prof. Yousif Alkhalifah
Internal Examiner

Professor Kamal Gahallah
Head of Department
TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE...........................................................................................................i
DECLARATION ...........................................................................................ii
CERTIFICATION .........................................................................................iii
APPROVAL PAGE ........................................................................................iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS .............................................................................v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ............................................................................vi
DEDICATION ...............................................................................................vii
QUOTATION ...............................................................................................viii
ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS: .................................................................ix
ABSTRACT (ENGLISH): ..............................................................................x
ABSTRACT (ARABIC): ................................................................................x
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION: .................................................................1
  1.0 Introduction: ......................................................................................1
  1.0.1 Aim and Objectives of the study: ..................................................3
  1.0.2 Scope and Limitation of the Study: ...............................................4
  1.0.3 Significance of the Study: ..............................................................4
  1.0.4 Research Questions: ......................................................................6
  1.0.5 Hypotheses of the Study: ...............................................................6
  1.0.6 Background of the Study ..............................................................6
  1.0.7 Historical Background of Abakwa: ...............................................7
  1.0.8 Migration and its Causes: .............................................................11
  1.0.9 Historical Background of the Surrounding Languages in Buruku Local Government Area: .................................................................15
    1.0.9.1 Historical Background of Etulu/Turuma: ................................16
    1.0.9.2 Historical Background of Ekpan Nyfon/Nyonyons: ...............18
    1.0.9.3 Historical Background of the Tiv People: ................................20
    1.0.9.3.1 Origin and Classification: .................................................21
    1.0.9.3.2 The Role of Tiv Language: ...............................................22
  1.0.10 Contact Languages: .................................................................22
  1.0.11 Pidginization: ..............................................................................25
  1.0.12 Creolization: ................................................................................26
  1.0.13 Non-Linguistic Factors and Dialect Versus Language Issues: .......27
  1.0.14 Speech Communities: .................................................................28
  1.0.15 The Role of Frequency in Language Change/Kinds of Variation: ....29
    1.0.15.1 Frequency and Phonological Erosion/Phonological Variation: ..29
    1.0.15.2 Frequency and Morphological Variation/Frequency and Undertransmission of Morphosyntax: ......................................................33
    1.0.15.3 Syntactic Variation/Frequency and Grammaticalization: ..........34
    1.0.15.4 Grammaticalization: ..............................................................36
    1.0.15.5 Semantic Variation: ..............................................................38
  1.0.16 Language and Socioeconomic Status: ..........................................39
    1.0.16.1 Prestige: ...............................................................................40
  1.0.17 Ways of Classifying Dialects: .......................................................41
    1.0.17.1 Geography: .........................................................................42
    1.0.17.2 Ethnicity: ............................................................................42
3.0.7.0 Syllabification: ................................. 125
3.0.7.1 The Nature of Abakwa Syllable: ...................... 125, 126
3.0.7.2 Monosyllabic: ...................................... 126
3.0.7.3 Bisyllabic and Disyllabic: ............................ 126, 127
3.0.7.4 Trisyllabic: .......................................... 127
3.0.7.5 Quadrifocal: ........................................ 127
3.0.8 Apocope: ............................................. 127
3.0.9 Syncope: .............................................. 128
3.0.10 Epenthesis: .......................................... 128, 129
3.0.11 Vowel Change/Replacement; ........................... 129-131
3.2.0 Morphological Variation: .................................. 131-132
3.2.1 Affixation: ........................................... 132, 134
3.2.2 Inflection: ............................................. 134-135
3.2.3.0 Gender Formation: ...................................... 135-136
3.2.3.1 Masculine Forms: ...................................... 136
3.2.3.1.2 Irregular Singular Masculine Forms: .................. 136
3.2.3.1.3 Common Gender Masculine Forms: ................ 137
3.2.3.1.4 Feminine Forms: .................................. 137
3.2.3.1.5 Regular Singular Masculine Forms: ................. 137
3.2.3.1.6 Irregular Singular Feminine Forms: ................ 137
3.2.3.1.7 Common Gender Feminine Forms: .................. 137-138
3.2.4.0 Numerical Forms: ...................................... 138
3.2.4.1 Lexical Plural Suffixes: ................................ 139-141
3.2.4.2 Post-Lexical Plural Affixes: .......................... 141-142
3.2.5 Exaggerative Plural Forms: .............................. 142-143
3.2.6.0 Compounding: ...................................... 143
3.2.6.1 Noun Based Compounding: ............................ 143-144
3.2.6.2 Adjectival Based Compounding: ....................... 144-145
3.2.6.3 Verb Based Compounding: ............................ 145-146
3.2.6.4 Pronoun Based Compounding: ........................ 146-147
3.2.6.5 Quantificational Compounding: ....................... 146-147
3.2.6.6 Colour Based Compounding: .......................... 147
3.3.0 Syntactic Variation: ..................................... 148
3.3.1 Simple Sentences: ...................................... 148
3.3.2 Complex Sentences: ..................................... 149
3.3.3 Interrogative Sentences: .................................. 149-150
3.3.4 Command or Imperative Sentences: ...................... 150-151
3.3.5 Interrogative Pronoun: .................................. 151
3.4.0 Parts of Speech: ....................................... 151
3.4.1 Noun: .................................................. 152
3.4.2 Dependent Pronoun: ...................................... 152-154
3.4.3 Independent Pronoun: .................................... 154-155
3.5.0 Abakwa Tenses: ......................................... 155
3.5.1 Habitual Tense: .......................................... 155-156
3.5.2 General Continuous Tense: ................................ 157-158
3.5.3 First Future Tense: ...................................... 158-159
3.5.4 Second Future Tense: .................................... 159-160
3.5.5 Subjunctive Tense: ................................................................. 160...161
3.6.0. The Idiomatic/Semantic expression of Abakwa: ...................... 161...163
3.7.0 The Effects of the Surrounding Languages: ............................ 163...164
3.7.0.1 The Effects of Abakwa Dialect on Tiv Language: ................ 164...168
3.7.0.2 The Effects of Abakwa on Nyifon/Nyonyos Language ........... 168...177
3.7.0.3 The Effects of Abakwa Dialect on Etulo Language: .......... 177...186
3.7 Summary: ........................................................................... 186...187

CHAPTER FOUR: SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION: .............. 188
4.0 Summary: ................................................................. 188...190
4.2.0 Research findings: ............................................................ 191
4.2.1 Phonological Evidence: .................................................... 191...192
4.2.2 Delabialization Evidence: ..................................................... 192
4.2.3 Deimplosivization Evidence: ................................................ 192...193
4.2.4 Context-Sensitive Voicing Evidence: ................................... 193
4.2.5 Resyllabification Evidence: ................................................... 194...195
4.2.6 Consonants Strengthening and Vowel Simplification Evidence: ... 195...197
4.2.7 Morphological Evidence: .................................................... 197...198
4.2.9.0 Syntactical Evidence: ....................................................... 198...199
4.2.9.1 Dependent and Independent Pronoun Evidence: ................. 199...200
4.2.9.2 Interrogative Sentence Evidence: ...................................... 200
4.2.10 Semantic/Idiomatic Evidence: ........................................... 201...202
4.3 Conclusion: ................................................................. 202...206
References: ............................................................................ 207...218
Appendix I: ............................................................................. 219
Appendix II: ........................................................................... 220
Appendix III: ........................................................................... 221
Addendum: ............................................................................. 222...225
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My profound gratitude goes to Allah (SWT) the most High whose infinite Mercy and Blessings showers on His most exalted standard of character, marvelous being, eloquent speaker, profound philosopher and seal of all Prophets, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and his progeny and those who followed his right steps to the day of resurrection; Who also gave me the zeal, courage and enthusiasm for the successful completion of this research work.

First and foremost, International University of Africa: I would like to express my sincere appreciation and intellectual indebtedness to my supervisor in person of Professor Babiker Hassan Qadri Mari who has taken his time upon all his commitments in the Department to go through the manuscript and make all constructive criticisms, pieces of advice and corrections up to the final stage of this thesis. My sincere thanks also go to my internal examiner Professor Yousif Alkhalifah. I would also like to commend the assistance given to me by Dr. Abdulmageed Alhaj the Musajjil (former Registrar) of the Centre for Research and African Studies whose unquantifiable assistance cannot be measured. My appreciation also goes to the Vice Chancellor of Taraba State University, Jalingo Professor Muhammad Sani Yahaya whose encouragement serves as a morale booster prior and after the completion of this study.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics Professor Yakubu Haruna Aliyara too could not be dim in this appreciation, the TETFund Office at Abuja cum the TETFund Desk Officer of TSU-JI Dr. Mahmood A. Umar, the Bursary Staff, and all other Management Staff who in one way or the other that assisted in the facilitation of this study to its final completion. Professor Hafizu Miko Yakasai who mentored me and Professor M.A.Z. Sani, all from Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria and Professor Nina Pawlak from the University of Poland, Professor Shettima Bulakarima Umara from the University of Maiduguri whose valuable intellectual support and useful pieces of advise for restrategiesing, reconstructing and
reorganizing the research topic for onward presentation could not be forgotten. May Allah reward them abundantly.

My special gratitude goes to my family particularly my wife Rukayyat M. Chindo and my daughters i.e. An-Nadiya, As-Sadiqat, Nasiba, A’isha and Asma who in either rain or sunny used to be patient with my intermittent travelling to Sudan day-in day-out in order to ensure that my dream becomes a reality. Equivocally, I most singled out Hajara Garba Atiku from the Department of Geography a good friend of my family for her immense assistance to my family while I am away. May Allah bless them. Also, my gratitude goes to the Abakwa community importantly to mention, the Sangarin Abakwa Malam Yunusa Abubakar and his entire relatives for their indefatigable corporation in responding to the interview questions which the researcher posed to them towards the successful completion of this work. Furthermore, my unquantifiable appreciation goes to Mal. Umar Muhammad who accommodated me while in Katsina – Ala.

Also, I wish to express my unflinching gratitude and appreciations to my colleagues in the Department of Languages and Linguistics of Taraba State University, Jalingo (TSU-Jl) for their corporation during my absence. My special thanks also go to English and French Units and those whose names could not be mentioned due to lack of space and time may Allah reward them abundantly. I also wish to express my thanks to my junior brothers and finally, I wish to express my special regard to Alh. Magaji Babayo Azare whom I used to disturbed for the booking of my air tickets every now and then may Allah blessed him.
DEDICATION

I dedicated this Thesis to my Late Father Alhaji Aboki Muhammadu Danpanna.

(The Wakilin Bantaje) & my Mother A’isha Adamu Dan Isa.
QUOTATION

“Of course, as Haugen notes, the donor need not be aware of the loan and does not consent to it, while the recipient need not repay it; but since alternative metaphors, like stealing or adoption, are at least equally absurd, we shall stick to borrowing’’ (Haugen. 1950: 201-31).
### ABBREVIATIONS/SYMBOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABK</td>
<td>Abakwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SH</td>
<td>Standard Hausa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etl</td>
<td>Etulo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Consonant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Vowel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DERG.</td>
<td>Derogatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masc.</td>
<td>Masculine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fem.</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nn</td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adj.</td>
<td>Adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADV.</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVM</td>
<td>Adverb of manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Belize Creole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vb.</td>
<td>Verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRS. VB</td>
<td>Transitive Verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nn. Obj.</td>
<td>Noun Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ref.</td>
<td>Referential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSM</td>
<td>Person Singular Masculine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPl</td>
<td>Independent Plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hau</td>
<td>Hausa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PrNn.</td>
<td>Pronoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Tense marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTC</td>
<td>General Continuous Tense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyf</td>
<td>Nyifon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lit.</td>
<td>Literary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Morpheme Boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>→</td>
<td>To become</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Sign of unacceptability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'</td>
<td>High tone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>`</td>
<td>Low tone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^</td>
<td>Fallen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract

This research work looks at the linguistic changes of Hausa language of Abakwa dialect and the effects of surrounding languages in Buruku local government area of Benue State, Nigeria. The research X-rays the aim and objectives, scope and limitation of the study, research questions, hypothesis of the study, background of the study, historical background of Abakwa, migration and its causes, historical background of the surrounding languages i.e. the Etulo/Turmawa, Nyifon/Nyonyos, and the Tiv, causes of linguistic change, inter-generation transmission, variation and prestige, diffusion, teleology in language change, external causes, contact languages, pidginization, creolization and the theoretical framework anchored on “knowledge versus ignorance”. The study also dealt with the non-linguistic factors and dialect versus language issues, speech communities, the role of frequency in language change/kinds of variation, frequency and phonological erosion/phonological variation, morphological variation/frequency and the undertransmission of morphosyntax, syntactic variation/frequency and grammaticalization, semantic variation, language and socioeconomic status which encompasses: prestige, geography, ethnicity, class, speech style, pronunciation, syntax and vocabulary. Furthermore, the study was also able to review some of the related literatures, the methodology used in this research work includes, library documents, tape recording, interview, and internet sources. The research points and thrashed out the Abakwa phonetic variations, consonants and vowels chart parade i.e. both long and short ones in comparison with that of the STH, diphthongization of vowels, the Abakwa orthography, phonological processes such as labialization/delabialization, palatalization, assimilation viz: simple, voicing and nasal assimilation, glottalization, tonal polarization, syllabification its nature and typology, apocope, syncope, epenthesis, morphological variation, affixation, inflection, gender and number formation, lexical plural suffixes, post-lexical plural suffixes, exaggerative plural forms, compounding and its types, syntactic variation such as simple sentence, complex sentence, interrogative sentence, command or imperative sentence, parts of speech these includes, noun, pronoun, interrogative dependent and independent pronoun, the Abakwa tenses i.e. habitual tense, general continuous tense, first future tense, second future tense, and subjunctive tense. The work also highlight on the idiomatic expression of Abakwa lexical entries, the effects of the surrounding languages like the Tiv, the Nyifons/Nyonyos, and the Etulo/Turmawa. Finally, the research was able to conclude with some linguistic findings such as phonological evidence thus they includes: delabialization, deimplosivization, context-sensitive voicing, resyllabification, consonant strengthening-weakening and vowel simplification, morphological evidence, syntactic evidence i.e. complex sentence evidence and interrogative evidence, and idiomatic evidence.
مستخلص البحث

هذا الموضوع يبحث في تغيرات لغة الهوسا للجهة أباوكا وتأثير اللغات المحيطة بها عليها، في محلية بروكو بولاية بنو في نيجيريا. استمتع البحث على المشكلة الأهداف وصدور البحث كما تضمن أسئلة البحث وفروض البحث. قدم البحث خليفة تاريخية عن جماعات أباوكا الناطقة بلغة الهوسا، وجزءاً من تأثير اللغات المحيطة بها من اتلولو ونونمو، نيونيوس وتيف. تناولت اللغة أسباب التغيرات اللغوية من تعاون الأجيال وعواقب داخلي وتطلم مع اللغات الأخرى وأسباب طبقية اجتماعي تم أطار نظري بدور حول المعرفة والجهل. ناقشت الدراسة دور التردد العصري في تغيير اللغة حيث كان التواصل التباين الصرفي في اللغة. وكذلك التباين والتربة نحوياً وأثر ذلك دلاليًا. ناقش الدراسة بعض الجوانب الاقتصادية والاجتماعية وأثرها على أسلوب الكلام والنطق وبناء الجمل والمفردات. علامة عن ذلك استخرجت الدعابة بعض الأدبيات ذات الصلة وهي الدراسات السابقة والتي لها ارتباط بالموضوع كما في ذلك أدو، ووسائل البحث من مستندات وقبل في أشرطة ومقابلات ومعلومات في الشبكة العنكبوتية العالمية. كما غط الاختلافات الصوتية للجهة أباوكا من صر بت وصوانت طويل وقصيرة ثم ادغام الصوانت للجهة أباوكا وهجانها وعملية صوتياتها الأخرى مثل الحركة الشفوية وغيرها من حركات أنفية وشفاهية والتباين الصرف والتنبيرة عند تكوين الجنس والعدد وولاحق الجمع وبعض الأشكال المبالغة والترابيب وأنواعها وأنواع بناء الجمل مثل الجملة البيضية والجملة المركبة وجملة الاستفهام، والأفعال مثل المتدعي والمستمر العام وأفعال المستقبل. كما ألحى الصنوع على المعنى الدلالي والمحجمي للجهة أباوكا بالإضافة إلى تأثير اللغات المحيطة من تيفونمو، نونيوس ونونمو، ونونمو، ونونمو، وأخيراً النتائج الدراسة بنتائج وهي الجوانب العصرية التي تؤكد استقلالية لجهة أباوكا والتي تشمل جوانب صوتية وحركية وشفاهية تعبيرات الدلالة وغيرها.