

## **On Raising: A Study of English and Yoruba**

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### Abstract

This paper examined raising in Yoruba with a view to spelling out its manifestation in Yoruba, while contrasting it with English. This was to reveal the peculiarities of raising structures in Yoruba in relation to English, and their implications for learners of both languages in a second language situation. Chomsky's Principles and Parameters Theory served as the theoretical framework. Yoruba sentences were obtained from naturally-occurring discourses among native speakers of Yoruba. The acceptability of the structures was validated by twenty native speakers of Yoruba in Oyo, Oyo State, Nigeria through oral interview. Secondary data were obtained from textbooks in both languages under study. Theoretically, raising is induced by (raising) adjectives and verbs. It could be to subject or object position. However, contrary to the common subject-to-subject raising that English structures justify, Yoruba permits object-to-subject raising. Also, Yoruba has raising verbs, like English. In Yoruba, raising can occur without necessarily being triggered by adjectives or verbs because the verbs in such constructions lack the features of typical raising verbs. Besides, object raising in Yoruba is cyclic, as moved elements land temporarily at the SPEC position of the subordinate clause, in fulfilment of adjacency condition.

**Keywords:** *Raising structures, noun phrases, Adjacency Condition, second language situation, Yoruba, English*

### **Introduction**

Raising construction involves the movement of a noun phrase (NP) from the embedded or subordinate clause to the matrix or superordinate clause. This phenomenon manifests in different ways in languages. Learners of different languages, such as English and Yoruba, need to be aware of how this concept operates in order to ensure grammaticality and good communication. To help learners, there is the need to empirically determine the nature of raising in the languages being learnt. There is significant research on raising in English, but the same cannot be said of many African languages, including Yoruba. In view of the long-standing encounter between English and Yoruba and the position of English in Nigeria, as official language, it is important to examine how raising manifests in the two languages.

Yoruba is a major language in Nigeria. Today, Yorubá speakers are found in so many places in the world, and Yoruba is being studied across the globe. Native speakers of Yorubá could be found mostly in Nigeria, where Yorubá is spoken by about 30 million people (Adesola, 2005). Greenberg (1963) classifies Yorubá under Yoruboid, which is under the Kwa sub-phylum of Niger-Congo, though Williamson and Blench (2000) place it under the West Benue-Congo languages, where it shares class with Edoid, Akokoid and Igboid.

English as a second language in Nigeria has such significance that cannot be undermined. Based on the number of speakers of English, estimated at 43 million (Graddol, 1997) and the

roles it plays in communication among Nigerians, Sunday (2004) posits that English is no longer a foreign language in Nigeria; it is the major official language (Sunday, 2010; 2013). Hence, the need to gain competence in the use of English is taken seriously by many Nigerians. In the light of this, there have been many contrastive studies that investigated the likely difficulties in the learning of English structural properties. Just as Radford (1988) observes, in the cognitive domain, the structural properties of a language are crucial to language acquisition and use.

Claims on raising as a rule generally have not been widely and critically examined in many African languages, including Yoruba. Another trend in the issues concerning the rule of raising in the literature is the difficulty learners of English encounter in the acquisition or learning of raising structures; Robyn (2012) is a major work in this regard. The inadequacy of critical evaluations of the rule of raising in African languages and little research attention devoted to investigating the likely difficulty in the learning of raising structures by Yoruba learners make this study imperative. The stance of many contrastive linguists is that investigating the similarities and differences of a linguistic phenomenon in a learner's first and second languages promises to remove learning difficulties. Therefore, this paper evaluates previous claims on raising in Yoruba, brings to the fore the peculiarities of raising in Yoruba, and compares these peculiarities with raising in English. The goal is to advance arguments on raising structures in relation to Universal Grammar and identify learning difficulties for second language users of English and Yoruba.

## **Literature Review**

Kiparsky and Kiparsky (1970) came up with the term raising after different scholars had described it in their own terms. Arguments in favour of what is today known as raising could be traced to the work of Poutsma (1928), who called it 'the shifting of subject'. However, Rosenbaum (1967) was the first to look at arguments in favour of the movement of an NP from a subordinate clause to the superordinate clause, which raising is all about, within the purview of transformational theory.

Raising is a linguistic problem whose justification arguments by several scholars, notably Poutsma (1928), Rosenbaum (1967), Ross (1967), Lakoff (1968), McCawley (1970), Chomsky (1970), Silva (1973), Postal (1974), have been inconclusive. While some other scholars, like Freidin (1970) and Shopen (1972), argue against raising as a syntactic phenomenon, a host of the earlier-mentioned scholars have advanced convincing arguments in favour of raising, classifying raising generally as raising to subject and raising to object. However, there is strong disagreement on the validity of the analysis claiming raising (of subject) to object, especially between Chomsky (1970) and Postal (1974). While the former is of the view that the arguments on subject-to-object and object-to-subject raising in English are not plausible, the latter demonstrates that these raising rules simply exist. In Silva's (1973) opinion, considering the evidence for and against, there is no reason to believe that there is no rule of raising subject to object or object to subject even though some data question the validity of this claim in English.

Rosenbaum (1967) observes that there is always a change in the form of the finite verb of the subordinate clause, which becomes non-finite after movement. He identifies the extraction and landing sites of moved elements as subject-to-subject position, object-to-subject position and subject-to-object position. Rosenbaum (1967) describes this movement as 'pronoun replacement.' While the first two positions are plausible, there have been many arguments by Ross (1967), Lakoff (1968), McCawley (1970), and Chomsky (1971), among others, invalidating his claim of subject-to-object position.

Postal (1974), among others, is a classical work devoted to the justification of subject-to-object and object-to-subject raising using English data to bear witness to his argument. He evaluates Chomsky's claim on the rejection of subject-to-object raising and object-to-subject raising. He concludes that Chomsky's claims are theoretically dubious and can quickly be eliminated on empirical grounds. Silva (1973) supports Postal's argument.

Furthermore, Silva (1973) submits that raising is a plausible rule, as evident in some other languages, like German, French, Romanian and Hungarian. These languages, however, show some peculiarities in the applicability of the raising rule. He contrasts such peculiarities with those that have been claimed in English. He is convinced about the reality of a rule called raising but indifferent on whether object-to-subject or subject-to-object raising is permissible, especially in English.

Robyn (2012) investigates the acquisition of subject-to-subject raising in English. He asserts that the acquisition of some passive verbs by English children is delayed because such verbs involve raising. He submits that this claim is cross-linguistic, especially in Indo-European language families.

A contrastive analysis of raising in English and Yoruba will throw more light on the parametrical variations in raising. This is why this study examines how raising manifests in the two languages.

## **Theoretical Framework**

Chomsky's Principles and Parameters Theory (PPT) served as the theoretical framework. The PPT model was particularly chosen because it is rich in principles that elegantly deal with movement of elements in given constructions. The theory is also known as Government and Binding (GB) theory. Haegeman (1994) points out that Chomsky (1991) is reserved about the use of the label GB because the label PPT is all-encompassing. Nevertheless, the difference between PPT and GB is only that of nomenclature.

The Principles and Parameters Theory is an advanced version of Chomsky's Universal Grammar which emphasises the commonness of the grammars of world languages. While the principles are the core features that all languages of the world must have, the peripheral features relate to how these features are realised across languages. According to Schneider

(1998), the principles stand for the language universals that everyone is born with, while the parameters are products of language acquisition. The principles are embedded in the grammar of a natural language, while the parameters are dictated by the particular language acquired.

Furthermore, PPT is modular in nature. Lamidi (2013) observes that it encompasses interacting modules or sub-theories that ascertain the grammaticality of given constructions in a language. These are Bounding Theory, Government Theory, Theta Theory, Case Theory, Control Theory, X-bar Theory, and Binding Theory (Chomsky 1982). Also, this theory proposes two levels of representations, namely D-structure and S-structure. Between these levels is the transformational component, where movement transformation takes place.

The X-bar Theory accounts for heads, specifiers and complements in sentences and clauses. The Bounding Theory is the theory that constrains wrong movement of elements from one place to another in a given construction. The Control Theory deals with the PRO and its interpretation as a way to save the violation of theta criterion and case filter. The Binding Theory handles the relationship that holds between two or more NPs (names, pronouns and anaphors) in a given construction, which informs the interpretation of such NPs. The Theta Theory deals with the assignment of semantic roles ( $\theta$ -roles), such as goal, agent, patient and instrument, to arguments in a sentence. The Case Theory accounts for some of the formal properties of overt NPs. It is related to Government Theory in that it is assigned under government. The Government Theory concerns the relationship that holds between two items in a category on the condition that no barrier comes between the governor and the governee (Carnie, 2006; Cook and Newson, 2010; Ayinde, 2017).

Black (1998) postulates that grammar within the framework of PPT, generally, can be split into two main components: levels of representation and a system of constraints. These according to Lamidi (2013), are the sub-component of rule systems and the sub-system of principles, respectively. The former entails the order of grammar in PPT, while the latter encompasses all the modules mentioned above and their application. In the organisation of grammar in PPT, there are lexicon, the D-structure, transformational component, S-structure, which splits into logical form (LF) and phonetic form (PF). These are shown in the diagram below:

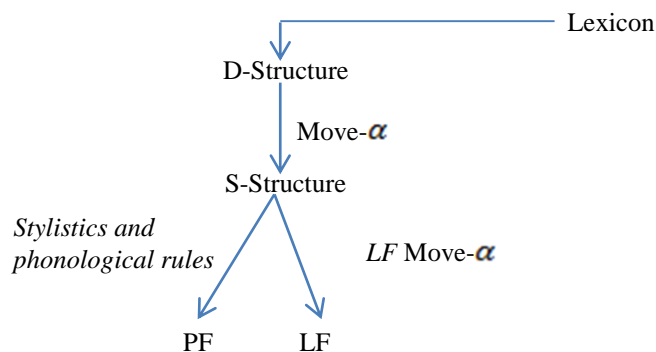


Figure 1: The organisation of grammar in PPT (Black, 1999:2)

## **Methodology**

The data for this study were drawn from two main sources – primary and secondary sources. Yoruba sentences were obtained from naturally-occurring discourses among native speakers of Yoruba. The acceptability of these sentences was confirmed by twenty native speakers of Yoruba in Oyo, Oyo State, Nigeria. The sentences were first documented, before interview was conducted. Then the sentences were read to these native speakers and their responses were recorded. The researchers' intuitive knowledge of Yorùbá also helped in this regard. The secondary sources were textbooks in both languages under study, particularly, *Yorùbá metalanguage* by Bamgbose (1984), for Yoruba; and *Analyses of Negation in English* (Lasnik, 1972), *Introduction to government and binding* (Haegeman, 1994), *Transformational Grammar: a first course* (Radford, 1988), and *Syntax* (Carnie, 2006), for English.

## **Analysis and Discussion**

### **Raising in English: Subject to subject**

Polinsky (2013) observes that, in English, raising is possible with items like *seem*, *appear*, *happen*, *be likely*, *be apt*, *turn out*, and *begin*. These verbs and adjectives are capable of moving NP elements from a subordinate or infinitival clause to a superordinate or matrix clause through a movement transformation known as raising. Hence, they are called raising verbs and adjectives in English. Therefore, NP-raising is a transformational movement that raises an NP from the subordinate clause to the super-ordinate clause. Also, this kind of movement has been observed to be inevitable due to the nature of those verbs that engender it. They are one-place predicates; they take only one argument and a clausal complement. In addition, the English raising adjectives are capable of functioning as predicate in raising construction. Hence, Haegeman (1994) identifies these adjectives as predicate adjectives. Raising adjectives and verbs are related in that they both induce raising. The following are examples:

1. (a) [IP e seems [IP Poirot to have destroyed the evidence]].  
(b) Poirot seems to have destroyed the evidence. (Haegeman 1994:308)
2. (a) [IP e seem CP [to me CP [to be unhappy]]]  
(b) John seems to me to be unhappy. (Radford 1988: 434)

At the D-structure (1a), *Poirot* originates as the subject of the infinitival clause and it is raised to the subject position at the S-structure (1b) by the raising verb '*seem*'. In (1a) and (2a), '*seem*' is a one-place predicate that is capable of assigning case to only its external argument. Therefore, '*Poirot*' and '*John*' become stranded because '*seem*' cannot assign structural case. Also, the infinitive '*to*' is too weak to assign case to these arguments. Yet, the case filter test must be passed for these constructions to be grammatical. The violation of case filter accounts for the ungrammaticality of the following:

3. \* It seems Poirot to have destroyed the evidence.

4. \* It seems John to me to be unhappy.

The only way to pass the case filter test is for these arguments to be raised to the subject position of the matrix clause. In this way, these arguments '*Poirot*' and '*John*' take the nominative case since this kind of movement is unusual with a verb that can assign both nominative and accusative cases. Therefore, any NP that serves as an internal argument for a one-place predicate verb, such as 'seem', must be raised to the subject position of the matrix clause, and such verbs are called raising verbs.

Furthermore, the theta roles of these raised arguments also justify the fact that they originate as the internal arguments of the raising verb. This is because '*Poirot*' and '*John*' are in a theta-bar position and, as such, have no thematic relation with the verb '*seem*'. Also, they have been assigned theta roles of 'agent' by the verbs of the embedded clauses. *Poirot* retains its thematic role of agent, as assigned by the verb of the subordinate clause 'destroy'; while '*John*' takes the thematic role of theme, as assigned by 'be'.

Moreover, the NP-movement analyses of the constructions above can be justified with the binding conditions. The Principle A of the Binding Theory states that an anaphor must be bound in its binding domain (Buring, 2005). This is referred to as clause-mate condition by Haegeman (1994). This means a binder and its bindee must be in the same governing category. Also, it is important that an anaphor agrees with its antecedent in terms of number and gender. Any anaphor-antecedent relationship that violates this rule engenders ungrammaticality. Nevertheless, the following construction seems to violate the clause-mate condition, yet it is grammatical.

5. John seems to me [S\_\_ to be happy with himself]

The only explanation that can save this construction from contradicting Principle A of the Binding Theory is to argue that '*John*' originates as the subject NP of the embedded clause and had fulfilled Principle A before being raised to the subject position of the matrix clause. The number and gender agreement shows that the anaphor cannot be given any other antecedent apart from '*John*'. Therefore, 'seem' is a raising verb that inevitably raises the subject of the embedded clause that serves as its complement. This means that 'seem' and other verbs that fall into this category are raising verbs in English that induce NP-movement from the subject position of the embedded clause to the subject position of the matrix clause.

Adjectives too are capable of inducing raising in English. These class of adjectives are called raising adjectives. Haegeman (1994) observes that raising adjectives behave exactly like raising verbs, in that they raise NP elements from the subject position of an infinitival or embedded clause to the subject position of the matrix clause. The following are examples:

6. (a) It is certain that the weather would change.  
(b) The weather is certain to change.
7. (a) It is likely [CP that John will leave].  
(b) John is likely to leave (Haegeman 1994: 320)



Here, (6b) and (7b) are paraphrases of (6a) and (7a), and they are typical raising constructions in which raising is induced by raising adjectives. The NP-movement analysis of (6b) and (7b) would justify the postulation that the NPs 'John' and 'the weather' are in a derived position. Their base positions are the subject positions of the infinitival clauses. This is evident through their theta roles that have been assigned by the verb 'leave' and 'change' of the infinitival clauses. Moreover, these verbs can only assign theta roles but cannot assign nominative case. Hence, 'John' and 'the weather' are raised to the subject position by these adjectives to be assigned case by the TENSE-INFL of each of the matrix clauses. This allows a postulation of the following D-structure for (6b) and (7b):

8. [<sub>IP</sub> e is likely [<sub>IP</sub> John to leave]].
9. [<sub>IP</sub> e is certain [<sub>IP</sub> the weather to change]].

From the above, the NP-movement analysis explains why and how 'John' and 'the weather' have been moved. Therefore, this kind of movement is an NP-movement which is induced by raising (adjectives) in English. Similarly, raising adjectives have been observed to only take clausal complement as in 'CP' as their complement and the subject position of the CP must be empty and cannot be occupied by another argument since the position has been previously occupied by the moved NP. This accounts for the ungrammaticality of the following:

10. \* John is likely *Jane* to leave.
11. \* The weather is certain *the day* to change.

Apart from the point of view advanced above, that these constructions are ill-formed due to the case filter condition, it could also be said that the ungrammaticality of these constructions is due to the violation of the Trace Erasure Principle, which does not allow the occupation of an extraction site of a moved element by another (Radford, 1988).

In summary, English shows evidence of raising structures in which NP elements are moved from the subject position of the infinitival clause to the subject position of the matrix clause as a result of the idiosyncratic feature of the lexical items known as raising verbs and adjectives.

### **Raising in Yorubá**

Here, relevant data in Yoruba shall be considered in order to find out if Yoruba actually has a raising rule similar to that of English. First, there is obviously evidence of raising rule in Yoruba, especially with some verbs like *nira*, *wúwo*, *wuyì*. However, Yoruba has some other verbs that, though they allow infinitival complements, cannot be called raising verbs because they lack the features of a raising verb. Similarly, there is strong evidence that the phenomenon of raising object to subject in Yoruba mandates a temporal landing of the moved element at the SPEC position of the subordinate clause; this is termed adjacency condition.

## Object to Subject

Object-to-subject raising is a raising rule in which an NP is moved from the object position of a subordinate clause to the subject position of the superordinate clause. In Yoruba, an NP in the object position of the subordinate clause is raised to the subject position of the superordinate clause. Yorùbá has raising constructions in which raising is induced by raising verbs. Raising verbs in Yorùbá include *nira*, *wuwo*, and *wuyì*. These verbs raise NPs from the subject or object position of the subordinate clause to the subject position of the matrix clause. Just as the case is in English, Yorùbá has raising verbs. The following are examples:

12. (a) Ó nira láti jì owo fun Kunle.  
It difficult to steal money for Kunle 'It is difficult to steal money for Kunle.'
- (b) *Owo<sub>i</sub>* nira láti jì fun Kunle<sub>t</sub>  
Money difficult to steal for Kunle. 'Money is difficult to steal for Kunle.'
13. (a) Ó wúwo láti so òrò náà  
It heavy to say word the 'It is heavy to say the utterance.'
- (b) Òrò<sub>i</sub> náà wúwo láti so<sub>t</sub>.  
Word the heavy to say. 'The utterance is heavy to say.'
14. (a) Ó wuyì láti jé omoluabi.  
It honourable to be righteous 'It is honourable to be righteous.'
- (b) Omoluabi<sub>i</sub> wuyì láti jé<sub>t</sub>.  
Righteous honourable to be. 'Being righteous is honourable.'

Raising as a rule as engendered by the raising verbs in 12b, 13b and 14b must have applied to the derived subjects of the superordinate clause. First, (*owo*) *money*, (*oro*) *utterance* and *omoluabi* (righteousness) in (12b), (13b) and (14b), respectively, bear the theta role of theme, which must have been inherited from their original positions as the object complement of the verb of the infinitival clauses. This is because these NPs are now in a theta-bar position and, as such, cannot be theta-marked by the verbs of the matrix clauses. Therefore, the derived subjects in (12b), (13b) and (14b) are not theta-marked by the verbs of the matrix clauses; rather, they bear the theta roles inherited from the D-structure.

A further justification for raising rule analysis of the derived subjects in (12b), (13b) and (14b) is that the verbs of the infinitival clause '*ji*' (steal) and '*so*' (say) and '*je*' (be) are verbs that subcategorize for a complement, but they are stranded in (12b), (13b) and (14b) above. This means some elements must have left their complement positions in the D-structure. Therefore, another argument cannot occupy this position at the S-structure. This accounts for the ungrammaticality of the following:

15. \**Owo<sub>i</sub> nira láti jì ile fun Kunle<sub>t</sub>*  
Money difficult to steal house for Kunle
16. \**Òrò<sub>i</sub> náà wúwo láti so<sub>t</sub> oro*



Utterance the heavy to say word

17. \* *Omoluabi wuyi láti jé, Oba*  
Righteousness befits to be king

Having justified the foregoing structures as raising structures, we shall proceed to the justification for the Yoruba *nira*, *wúwo*, and *wuyi* as raising verbs. To start with, Haegeman (1994:319) observes that raising adjectives and verbs have the following features:

1. They take one argument.
2. They do not assign external theta role.

The Yorùbá raising verbs fulfil the two conditions. All these verbs (*nira*, *wúwo*, and *wuyi*) take only one argument each, which are complementiser phrases (CPs). This is shown in the following:

18. [IP Owo *nira* CP [IP *lati ji fun Kunle*]]  
19. [IP Òrò náà *wúwo* CP [IP *lati so*]]  
20. [IP Omoluabi *wuyi* CP [IP *lati je*]]

Another argument in support of this is that these verbs are not capable of assigning theta roles; hence, the arguments at the surface structure have no thematic relation with these verbs. These arguments are assigned theta role by the be-verb, which is covert in Yoruba, of the embedded clauses. Therefore, the following D-structures can be proposed for the structures (18b), (19b) and (20b) above.

21. [IP [NPe] *nira* [IP *lati ji owo* [fun Kunle]]].  
22. [IP [NPe] *wúwo* [IP *lati so òrò náà*]].  
23. [IP [NPe] *wuyi* [IP *lati jé omoluabi*]].

These D-structures show that the subject positions of the matrix clauses are empty. This is in conformity with the universal properties of NP-movement (Ajongolo, 1997). Also, the raised NPs originate as the internal arguments of the verbs of the infinitival clauses. This shows that raising in Yorùbá is from the object position of the embedded clause to the matrix clause, unlike in English, where the NP is general raised from a subject position to another subject position.

This analysis further establishes the validity of raising from object to subject position as a rule in Yoruba, unlike English, where the applicability of the rule is controversial. It must be noted further that raised objects of the infinitival clauses in raising in (12b), (13b) and (14b) above had a temporary landing at the SPEC position of the infinitival clause in the CP, making them adjacent to the raising verbs, which, in turn, raise them to the subject position accordingly. This is illustrated in the following:

24. [IP [e] nira owó [láti jí [fún Kúnlé]]]

25. [IP [e] wúwo òrò náà [láti sọ]]

26. [IP [e] wuyì omólúàbí [láti jé]]

This analysis gives preference to the following S-structures over those of (18b), (19b) and (20b) above:

27. Owó<sub>i</sub> nira \_\_t<sub>i</sub>\_\_ láti jí<sub>i</sub> fún Kúnlé.

28. Òrò náà<sub>i</sub> wúwo\_\_t<sub>i</sub>\_\_ láti sọ<sub>i</sub>.

29. Omólúàbí wuyì \_\_t<sub>i</sub>\_\_ láti jé<sub>i</sub>.

In this way, the presence of the trace in the subject position of the infinitival clause accounts for the ungrammaticality of the following:

30. \*Owó nira *omọ* láti jí \_\_\_\_\_ fún Kúnlé.

31. \*Òrò wúwo *baba* láti sọ \_\_\_\_\_

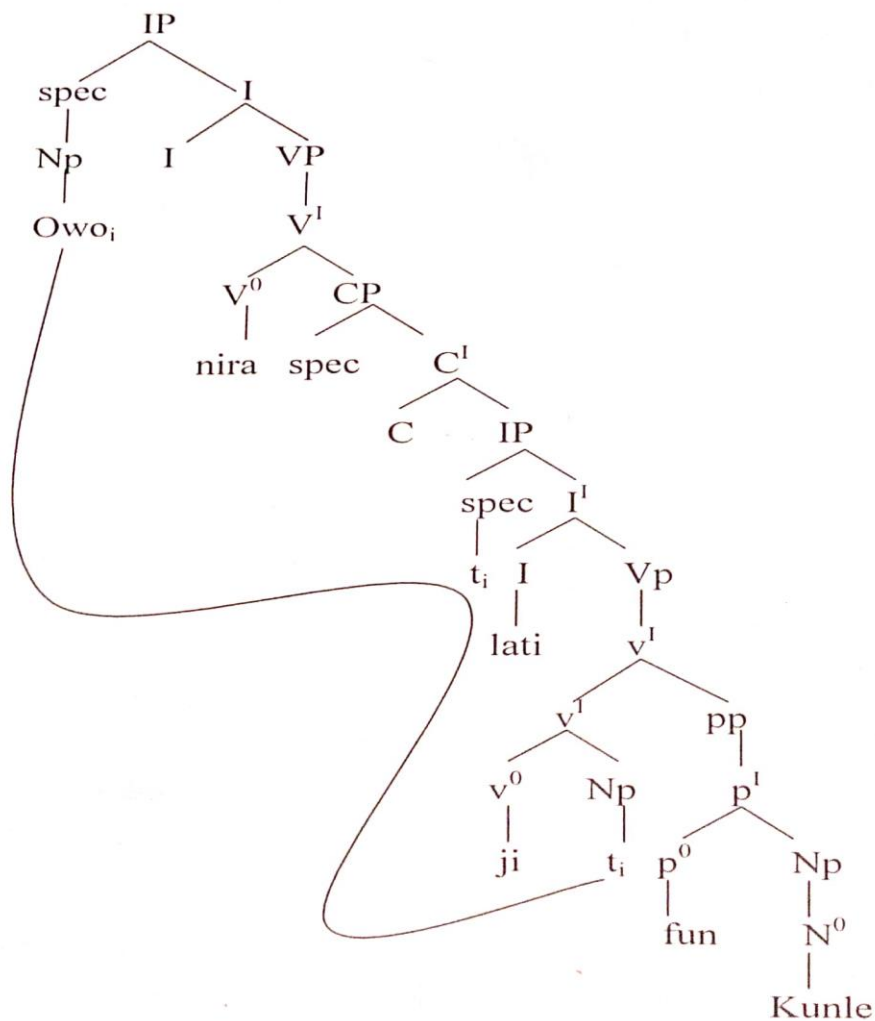
32. \*Omólúàbí wuyì *èniyàn* láti je \_\_\_\_\_

The possibility of structures such as (33), (34) and (35) is blocked by the trace erasure principle. Radford (1988: 579) states the trace erasure principle as follows:

No moved constituent can erase the trace of another constituent (i.e. no constituent can be moved into an empty category position occupied by the trace of another moved constituent).

This implies that an element cannot be inserted or moved into an empty category that was previously occupied by another element. Therefore, the ungrammaticality of (33), (34) and (35) above is due to the fact that the italicised NPs occupy the positions that had been occupied by the raised NPs in (30), (31) and (32).

The following is a diagrammatic representation of the foregoing movement analysis:



As seen in this tree diagram, unlike Wh-movement where elements are moved to the SPEC position of the CP because movement is always to A'- position, NP-movement is always to the SPEC position of IP because movement is always to an A-position. Baltin and Collins (2001:226) state that 'the trace of an element in an A-position is thought to behave, for the purposes of the binding theory, as an anaphor, while the trace of an element in an A'-position is thought to behave as an R-expression.' Moreover, the verb 'nira' functions as the head of the VP because it is predicative.

Unlike English, in which all raising verbs and adjectives are responsible for all raising structures, Yoruba shows evidence of some raising constructions that contain verbs that could not be held responsible for raising. However, after critical evaluation of these verbs, it was concluded that there are two possible explanations of such data: first, these verbs are not raising verbs; second, they are raising verbs that show distinct features from what has been

known of raising verbs in the literature. However, our analysis favours the former position over the latter considering the following:

33. (a) Ó wù Ayo láti jé Ààre.  
It wish Ayo to be president 'Ayo wishes to become the president'.  
(b) Ààre<sub>i</sub> wù Ayo láti jé<sub>i</sub>.  
President wish Ayo to be 'Ayo wishes to become the president'.
34. (a) Ó pé Kúnlé láti se sùúrù.  
It pays Kunle to do patient 'It pays Kunle to be patient'.  
(b) Sùúrù<sub>i</sub> pé Kúnlé láti se<sub>i</sub>.  
Patience pays Kunle to do 'Patience is better for Kunle'.

The NPs in the subject position of (33b) and (34b) are in a derived position. They have been raised from their extraction sites as objects of the verb in the infinitival clauses. The first observation to note from (33b) and (34b) above is that, unlike English, the subject of the infinitival clauses 'Ayo' and 'Kunle' take exceptional cases, which are assigned by the verbs of the matrix clauses. Hence, these verbs, unlike their English counterparts, are capable of assigning exceptional case. This contradicts the long-standing assertion that a raising verb does not assign accusative case (Haegeman, 1994). Further arguments in favour of the raising rule analysis of the above structures follow.

First, the theta roles borne by the subjects (*Ààre*) president and (*sùúrù*) patience in (33b) and (34b) above are those of theme, which had been inherited from their original positions as the object complements of the verb of the infinitival clauses. This is because these NPs are now in a theta-bar position and, as such, cannot be theta-marked by the verbs of the matrix clauses. This is the same with the argument position of the paraphrases in (33a) and (34a), where the expletive it ('O') is not theta-marked because these verbs cannot theta-mark an external argument. Therefore, the derived subjects in (33b) and (34b) are not theta-marked by the verb of the matrix clause; rather, they bear the theta roles inherited from the D-structure.

Another important justification for raising rule analysis of the derived subjects in (33b) and (34b) is that the verbs of the infinitival clause *se* (do) and *je* (be) are verbs that subcategorize for a complement, but they are stranded in (33b), and (34b) above. This means some elements must have left their complement positions in the D-structure. Therefore, another argument cannot occupy this position at the S-structure. This accounts for the ungrammaticality of the following:

35. \*Ààre wù Ayo láti jé Ilé  
President wish Ayo to be house \*Ayo wishes to become the president house.
36. \*Sùúrù pé Kúnlé láti se Ìbàdàn.  
Patient pays Kunle to do Ibadan \* It pays Kunle to be patient Ibadan.

Apart from the argument of the trace erasure principle, which is violated here, another way to account for the ungrammaticality of (35) and (36) above is to claim that the verbs have

been incapacitated to assign case at the S-structure. Hence, the NPs 'Ile' (house) and 'Ibadan' violate case filter. These facts further buttress the point that some elements have been moved from the D-structure complement positions in (33b) and (34b) above. Therefore, the D-structure of these constructions can be proposed as follows:

37. [IP e wù Ayo [IP láti jé Ààre]].

38. [IP e pé Kúnlé [IP láti se sùúrù]].

From this D-structure, it is obvious that the NPs in subject positions of the matrix clauses in (12b) and (13b) originate as the internal arguments of the verbs in embedded clauses before being raised to the subject position in the S-structure. Therefore, since raising involves overt raising of an NP element to the subject position of the matrix clause from the embedded clause, these structures are qualified to be called raising structures. However, the Yorùbá 'verbs' differ from what is known of raising verbs generally. In English, for instance, such raising verbs as *seem*, *appear* and *happens* are raising verbs and, as such, cannot assign accusative cases because they are one place predicates. This is why they necessarily raise subject of the infinitival clause to become their own subject. It is, thus, more logical to conclude that due to the fact that verbs such as 'wu' and 'pe', within or outside the raising structures, are generally two-place predicate, they are not raising verbs. The following are examples:

38. Ogede wu mi je.  
Plantain wish me eat 'I wish to eat plantain'

39. Iseode pe Bade.  
Hunting pays Bade 'Hunting pays Bade.'

In (38) and (39) above 'wu' (wish) and 'pe' (pays) assigns nominative cases to *ogede* (plantain) and *ise ode* (hunting) and accusative to 'mi' (me) and Bade, respectively. Therefore, it may be concluded that, in Yoruba, raising may not be mandatorily induced by verbs or adjectives, but sometimes as a result of the way of language use by speakers, that is style or preference.

In addition, cyclic movement of raised NP also occurs in raising structures in Yoruba. This is because the subject position of the infinitival clause has been occupied. This is similar to English, where raising structures involving verbs show evidence of cyclic movement.

In summary, Yorùbá has raising structures that have verbs that lack the universal features of raising verbs, hence raising can be said to be motivated rather than induced. However, there are raising structures in which raising verbs (such as *nira*, *wúwo* and *wuyi*) induce raising. What is peculiar to this raising structure is that elements are raised from object positions and raised element land temporarily at the SPEC position of the infinitival clauses to fulfil the adjacency condition before being raised by the raising verbs.

## **Contrastive Comments**

Raising structure is an NP movement derivation in both English and Yorùbá and their elements are moved upward; they are raised in status. Movement of elements in both languages is to the left, and also to the subject position of the matrix clause from the embedded or infinitival clause.

English shows evidence of raising structures that exclusively involves verbs which induce raising and are called raising verbs. This is present in Yorùbá also. Although there are other raising structures in Yorùbá that include verbs, the Yorùbá verbs cannot be called raising verbs.

Also, in English, raising is possible from subject position of the infinitival clause to the subject position of the matrix clause. Yorùbá, conversely, shows no evidence of subject-to-subject raising, but object-to-subject raising.

Moreover, raising is evident in English and Yorùbá, and it is induced by verbs in both languages. However, while English verbs raise NP elements from the subject position of the infinitival clause to the subject position of the matrix clause, Yorùbá verbs raise NP elements from the object position of the infinitival clause to the subject position of the matrix clause.

Similarly, raising is cyclic in raising constructions that involve verbs in both English and Yoruba. Although cyclicity has been mentioned as a rule in the literature, previous works have been silent on the fact that a raised element lands temporarily to fulfil adjacency condition. This is a condition that implies that the raisee must be adjacent to the raiser.

In conclusion, raising can be accepted as a cross-linguistic rule, as shown in English and Yoruba, though there are peculiarities of raising in both languages. Also, Yoruba favours the raising of object to subject as a rule that truly exists.

## **General Findings**

The following are the findings of the study:

### **i. Yoruba justifies object-to-subject raising**

Yorùbá raises an NP from the object position of the subordinate to the subject position of the superordinate clause and differs from English in the sense that it shows no evidence of subject-to-subject raising at all.

### **ii. Yorùbá has raising verbs**

Yoruba has raising verbs (*nira*, *wuwo*, *wuyi*) that induce raising. Like English raising verbs, they are one-place predicates; they do not assign external theta role and are incapacitated for licencing case.



### **iii. Adjacency is a condition for raising in English and Yorùbá**

Adjacency, which implies that the raisee must be adjacent to the raiser, is a rule in Yoruba and English.

### **iv. Yoruba does not have passive verbs**

Passive verbs are found wanting in Yoruba because Yoruba is a language that permits only active voice. English, on the contrary, has both voices and, as such, has passive verbs that induce raising.

## **Learning Difficulties and Their Implications**

The differences in the derivational processes of raised NP in English and Yorùbá could pose difficulties for a Yorùbá learner of this syntactic phenomenon and others; especially as Yoruba differs in that it raises object rather than subject, which is established in English. Similarly, though raising verbs, which seem to trigger raising in English, are also present in Yorùbá, Yorùbá has raising structures that include some verbs that are not responsible for raising. This could engender confusion if necessary clarification is not made. Also, the ‘be-verb’, which occupies the Tense-INFL position of matrix clauses that have raising adjectives in English, is covert in Yoruba. This can hinder the understanding of ‘be-verbs’ in English.

## **Conclusion**

This paper evaluated raising as a rule in Yoruba while contrasting it with what has been known of raising in English. It found that Yoruba favours some arguments on raising more than the other, especially object-to-subject raising. The paper placed the manifestations of raising as a rule side by side those of English and stated the converging and diverging points. This was done with a view to illuminating what might be called the trouble spots for Yoruba learners of English, especially with regard to certain structures. The study offered insights into more linguistic problems that raising as a universal concept might engender. It brought in adjacency condition, which previous works have been silent on, in explicating the analysis. This paper also found the reality of raising without raising verbs as a unique feature of Yoruba.

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