

## Analysis of Experiential Metafunction of Yoruba Riddles

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### Abstract

The Language use in riddling is primarily influenced by the descriptive nature of the genre. In representing reality in riddles description, speaker has no choice than to convey the logic through experiential meaning of processes, participants and circumstances. However, various structural aspects of text produced during riddling have been analyzed but the transitivity system through which experiential interpretation is coded in riddles has not been given adequate attention. It is against this background that this work describes the experiential elements involved in the transitivity system of riddles. The study is carried out within the framework of functional grammar. The data for the analysis were generated from the different published texts on Yoruba riddles. The study established that Yoruba riddles are inherently characterized by relational and existential processes. In addition to that, majority of riddles with derived and non-derived topics are construed through either material or mental processes together with their inherent participants. In respect of form, the riddles' circumstantial meaning is expressed through comment constituents.

**Keywords:** Ideational meaning, Processes, Participants, Circumstantial elements

### Introduction

Riddle as a text is organized internally as pattern of ideational, interpersonal and textual meanings. Riddles in its ideational meaning construes riddles' statements as a representation of ideas, it describes how a quantum of human experiences and understanding of world reveal identity of a given object. Riddles as text are produced with relational clauses; in which one thing is said to be something else. That is, a relationship of being is set up between two separate entities. In most instances, relationship of being is set between the metaphorical elements used in signifying the object in focus and the object itself (Halliday & Matthiessen 2006, 2010, 2014). The basic division of a given riddle in Yorùbá language is usually structured in terms of topic and comment constituents.

	Topic Constituents	Comment constituents.
Example (1)	Kí lẹ̀ bọ̀ sódò? 'What enters river'	tí kò ró pómú? 'That makes no sound'
Example (2)	Òsúpá abẹ̀ ití 'a moon under the shrub'	a- ràn- má- délé- òlẹ̀ 'one-that evades a lazy man's house when it emerges'

The topic expression in each of the samples denotes expression with which the riddle is introduced. It is within this constituent that the element which metaphorically stands as topic in relation to the riddle's proposition is located (Saka 2016: 246). Semantics means that in every riddle, the code (topic) of the riddle is conveyed to the listener in the topic constituent. Meanwhile, comment expressions such as *tí kò ró pómú?* 'That makes no sound' and *a- ràn- má- délé- òlẹ̀* in the above examples present additional information needed in complementing the idea grasped from the topic expression. When we consider the nature of relationship that holds between riddles in terms of dependency (taxis) as argued in Halliday (2014:445), the riddles examples in (1 & 2) are characterized by expansion relations<sup>15</sup>. The hypotactic<sup>16</sup> comment constituent in (1) is expanded from the topic clause 'Kí lẹ̀ bọ̀ sódò? 'What enters river' whereas the paratactic<sup>17</sup> comment clause in (2) 'a- ràn- má- délé- òlẹ̀' 'one-that evades a lazy man's house when it emerges' is expanded from 'Òsúpá abẹ̀ ití' a moon under the shrub'. In every riddle, the object (topic) of the riddle is conveyed to the listener in the topic constituent that is, the first sentence/ utterance thrown by the speaker. Meanwhile, if topic- expression is considered as one of the fundamental presentational clause in building-up a particular

<sup>15</sup> Projection and Expansion are two forms of logico-semantic relationship through which meaning relations between the two riddle's constituents are revealed.

<sup>16</sup> It is the degree of interdependency between clauses of unequal status.

<sup>17</sup> This is the relation between clauses of equal status.

riddle, it should however be emphasized from logical point of view that, two forms of Yoruba riddles are classified. They are riddles with derived topic expression and riddles with un-derived topic expression. Riddles with derived clause are those riddles that their topic expressions are driven by movement operations. That is, the internal structure of their topic constituents is triggered by various transformational processes such as dislocation, nominalization, relativization, focusing and Wh- Movement. Consider the samples below:

Example (3) *Oré bábá mi oyaya, wón nà mí lókan è kò le paré*  
 Cane father my fearful, pro flog pro prep-one it neg Asp remove  
 ‘My father fearful cane, I was beaten by one of which remains indelible’.

Example (4) *Òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta, a yín in léèkán-ná, ó ̀se èjè*  
 Dead year three, pro pinch pro prep- fingernails, neg do blood  
 We pinch three years corpse, no blood comes out’

The topic clause of each of the examples (3) and (4) above are dislocated constructions. The dislocated constituents are in boldface while their corresponding anaphoric pronouns are in italics. Meanwhile, the underlying structure of each of the examples above is given below:

*Wón nà mí lókan ọ̀ré bábá mi oyaya kò le paré*  
*A yín òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta ní èèkáná, [òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta] ̀se èjè.*

From the foregoing, it is clearly shown that there is difference between the riddles’ structures in (3 &4) and their corresponding underlying structures. The syntactic difference noticed points to the fact that movement operation has affected some if not all parts of the basic statements thus, give room for the surface derived topic expression carried by each of the riddles in (3& 4) above. Now, both the syntactic and phonological processes involved in their derivation are shown below.

- |     |                       |  |
|-----|-----------------------|--|
| (a) | Underlying sentence → | <i>Wón nà mí lókan [ọ̀ré baba mi oyaya] kò le paré.</i>                                    |
|     | Movement rule →       | <i>Oré baba mi oyaya<sub>i</sub>, wón nà mí lókan è<sub>i</sub> kò le paré.</i>            |
|     | Riddle →              | <i>Oré baba mi oyaya, wón nà mí lókan è kò le paré.</i>                                    |
| (b) | Underlying clause →   | <i>A yín òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta ní èèkáná, òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta ̀se èjè.</i>                           |
|     | Movement rule →       | <i>Òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta<sub>i</sub>, a yín in<sub>i</sub> léèkáná, òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta ̀se èjè.</i> |
|     | Substitution rule →   | <i>Òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta<sub>i</sub>, a yín in<sub>i</sub> léèkáná, ó<sub>i</sub> ̀se èjè.</i>   |
|     | Riddle →              | <i>Òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta, a yín in léèkáná, ó ̀se èjè.</i>                                       |

The noun phrases *Oré bábá mi oyaya* ‘My father fearful cane’ and *òkú ọ̀dún m̀éta* ‘corpse of three years’ are the dislocated expressions in the riddles above. However, while the dislocated NPs moved, they marked the SPEC of CP<sup>2</sup>.

On the contrary, the non- derived riddles are riddles that the internal constituents of their topic expressions cannot be traced to any underlying expression. Consider the examples below:

Example (5) *À ní lù nígbó ijan; A kò gbọ nígbó ijan; Òkè ijan ní mì tìtì.*  
 ‘We beat it in Ijan forest, we could not hear the sound but its sound disturbs the forest’

Example (6) *Àpò pẹ̀lẹ̀bẹ̀; Ó gba ogóje agbònrín*  
 ‘A small bag contains a hundred and forty antelopes’

Example in (5) contains sequential sentences with lexical items ‘igbó (forest) and ‘ijan’ repeated twice in the construction. Also sample (6) contains two basic clause, with lexical item ‘Àpò pẹ̀lẹ̀bẹ̀’ and the italicized anaphoric pronoun ‘Ó’ at the second line. In other word, the explanation here suggested that the sequence patterns of the examples (5) and (6) contain basic clauses without any traces of movement operations.

Considering riddles as a discourse text that present information about objects around us through logic, we could see how reasonable it is in examining its transitivity system involving in the logic. It is on that background information that the present study examined and explained the experiential mode of ideational meaning in Yorùbá riddles within systemic functional framework.

### Theoretical Framework

The present study is carried out within the systemic functional grammar of Halliday. (SFG: henceforth) SFG as linguistic approach dwells much on the fundamental functions of language than other formal grammatical theories. It sees clause as a composite entity that constituted not only dimensional structure but of three mode of meaning. The theory postulated that a given basic sentence is designed to perform three different functions

at the same time. It is that three mode of meanings that it termed metafunction. They are metafunction of textual, interpersonal and ideational. In this theory, priority is given to grammar as a resource for making meaning. Semantics means that, an expression is considered as a network of interrelated meaningful choices. Each of the meaning is construed by configuration of certain function. The three functions do not occur in isolation each occurs in association with other function from the same strand of meaning. (Halliday 2014: 49)

The ideational metafunction interprets sentences in- relation to its contextual representation. This particular mode of meaning comprises of two components. They are logical and experiential mode of meaning. The thrust of this study is on the experiential aspect of ideational meaning. The sentence in its ideational function construes a quantum of human experience; consisting inner and outer world experiences. (Halliday & Matt 2014:105). Within the experiential mode of meaning, the sentence is represented in terms of process, participants and circumstances.

The systemic functional grammar is very useful as a theoretical tool for the nature of this work. The fact being that, both functional terms and functional role (the part played by each element in the organic representation of the text) of riddles structural elements are expounded. The functional elements such as the information units, the transitivity system and the mood intent of the riddles provide grammatical interpretation of grammatical structure in terms of overall meaning potential of the riddles.

As far as the linear representation of riddles is concerned, riddles are interpreted as a representation of some processes ongoing in human experience. Along this line, the experiential function of the riddles' statements is concerned about our experiences and understanding of the world. In dealing with experiential interpretation of a text, transitivity principle as one of the grammatical systems in syntax is analyzed. As argued in Halliday (2014: 245), the transitivity system of a clause comprises of processes, participants and the circumstances. Processes as experiential element construe finite verbs which predicate the clauses, however such verbs are usually unfold through time. There are several of them and they are labeled according to the kind of action or happening they suggested. The major ones that are identified in Yoruba riddles are material, mental, behavioural, relational, verbal and existential processes. Each of these processes has designated inherent participants through which the process is extended. The participants are the conscious being that involved or associated with the processes presented during the course of riddling.

Material processes in riddles represent doings and happenings. They express notion that an entity does something which may be to another entity hence making it possible to probe such lexical verbs. In line with this process type, unfolding of the process is usually extended between two inherent participants. These participants are Actor and goal. In most of times, the actor initiates the deal while the outcome is vested on the goal. The material process can be creative (the outcome is one the participants) or transformative subtype where change of some aspects of an already existing actor or goal marked the outcome.

The mental process is referred to as process of sensing. The process constructs action as either flowing from person's consciousness or as impinging on it rather as material acts Halliday (2014: 256). Its subject is usually corresponds to the speaker. That is, its subject is a nominal group denoting a conscious being. They contextually denote process of emotion, cognition and perception. The behavioural clauses suggest physiological and psychological behaviours such as breathing. They are partly like the mental verbs. Behavior (the conscious being that is behaving) and the phenomenon mark its inherent participants. The verbal clauses on the other hands are realized by a verbal group where the lexical verb is one of saying. The verb may be unaccented as in material or relation clauses and also presenting features of dialogic exchange. Some of the participants find in verbal clauses are receiver (whom the saying is directed) and the target (element that is function as the entity targeted by the process of saying). Relational processes involve lexical verbs in which one thing is said to be something else. That is, a relationship of being is set up between two separate entities. Meanwhile, the circumstances as another experiential element are additional attending information associated with the clauses in their representational.

The systematic functioning of the three elements above construes human experience. In a nut shell, experiential aspect of riddles meaning is functionally concerned about the process, the participants and the circumstance surrounding the events or situations described in the description. All the three experiential elements: the process, the participants and the circumstances are realized by patterns of lexical choices in the riddles. Both the process and the participant suggest distinct meaning whereas, the circumstance arguments the configuration of process and the participant. This system of augmentation can be in projection or expansion relation.

### Experiential Interpretation of Riddles

The two major aspects of ideational metafunction are logical and experiential strands of meaning. As discussed earlier in this work, the experiential aspect of meaning deals with coherent theory of experience involving three elements. These experiential elements are processes, participant and circumstances. This mode of meaning examines how processes types (the verbs), the participants (people involved in riddling description) and the circumstances are reflected in the semantic structure of the riddles; as it is discovered in the analyses, it is this semantic information that actualized the activity described in the analog with which the riddle is produced. In an attempt to examine the area in which the riddles description is affected by experiential meaning, the focus of the next section is on type of processes with which the riddles activity is activated, kind of participants accompanied those processes along with their semantic role and the circumstances associated with each of the processes.

### Processes in Riddles

Human experiences about happenings of the world are established through various processes, ranging from material, mental, verbal, behavioural, relational and existential processes. Material process construes experience relying doing and happening. Such as kill, beat, eat and so on. Events of which suggest sensing or abstraction processes like thinking, liking, feeling or seeing are presented in mental processes. That is, events relating to perception and cognition are presented in mental processes. The behavioural process is located at the boundary between material and mental processes in revealing behaviour of the object in focus. The relational process relates one entity to another, thus construes one thing to be something else. That is, a relationship of being is set up between two separate entities. In-between the mental and relational processes are verbal process which reports or quotes direct speech of speaker. Existential process represents that something exists. This process falls between the relational and material processes. As a process type, it allows the addressee to associate the targeted object with something introduced. Existential clause is the process of living. The entity that is being said to exist is referred to as existent. This sometimes presented as new information. Also, any construction involving existential event is interpreted as presentational construction. In this work and for the sake of clarity, same set of riddles samples are used in illustrating the afore-mentioned experiential elements. Table (1) and (2) exemplify processes in derived and non-derived riddles, table (3) and (4) present different participants inherently involved in the processes identified in tables (1&2) while circumstances meaning associating with identified processes are considered in table (5) respectively.

**Table (1): Processes in Derived Riddles**

Derived Riddles	Translation	Material Process	Mental Process	Behavioural Process
7. Èyè bàbá àlọ kan láéláé. Orí igi ní kọlé sí, ilẹ ní ti yé eyin rẹ.	An ancient bird father of riddles. It builds its nest on the tree and lay its eggs on the ground'	kọ 'build', yé 'lay'		
8. Ilé bàba mi kan láéláé. Yàrà kan soso tó ní, fọfọ ni wọn n kún inú rẹ.	An ancient house of my father, the only room it has is fully loaded.		ní 'have', kún 'full'	
9. Ìkòkò baba mi kan láláé. Bí a pọnmí sí í, kí í kún.	An ancient pot of my father, no amount of water fetched into it, make it full.	pọn 'fetch' kún 'full'		
10. Babalawo kan òkè òhún. A ko lè dọrùn rẹ ká má bá asọ tuntun.	One 'Ifa' priest of a remote place, there is no time you see him that he will not wear a new cloth.		dọrùn 'look through its neck', bá 'meet'	

11. Adàbà kénké, oجوم ní pàrà ojà.	A smallish dove, it perambulates market everyday	pàrà 'perambulate'		
12. Èru isu kan, à-je káyé kòrun.	A load of yam, capable of being eaten at both earth and heaven.		je 'eat'	

As shown in the table above, the most frequent process is material processes. Each of the material processes in the table above identifies actions usually perform by the riddles' referents in focus in respect of time. For instance in the table above, the material processes such as 'kò' 'build' and yè 'lay' in (7), 'pònmi' fetch water' and kún 'full' in (9), pàrà 'perambulate' in (11) construe each of the structural descriptions as sequence of concrete action or habit associating with each of the hidden objects in focus. Each of the processes is used as meant by the listeners while attempting to solve the code. In sample (7), the verbs 'kò' build and 'yé' lay egg are doing processes construe the actions habitually associated with the coded object. These two actions are special characteristics or features that distinguish the focus object from other objects in its semantic range. Most of these material processes represent a doing because the unfolding of the process is usually extend in-between the two participants: an actor and a goal. Hence, the actor is seen as the initiator of the doing while the outcome is vested on the goal.

In contrast, the processes 'ní'have, 'dòrun' look through neck 'je' eat in (8), (10) and (12) denoting mental actions, sensed by the speaker in the life of the described objects. In each of these mental clauses, the identified mental processes project another clause, this semantically means that in 'Ilé bàba mi kan láéláé, yàrà kan soso tó ní; the verbs 'ni' have and 'kún' full construed abstract doings that could only be sensed by the speaker himself in relation to the object of the description and thus further project 'fòfò ni wòn ní kún inú rè' with a view to expanding the projecting clause. The projected clause specified in a greater detail the specific feature with which the code (the phenomenon) can be identified. Functionally, that identified verb described the scope of the number of rooms available in the house owned by the coded object. By using this construction, the speaker assumed that it is only if and iff, the hearer could picture the unique room in that house, there is probability for them to discern the riddle's code correctly. Table (2) below exemplify processes in non- derived riddles.

Table (2)

Non-Derived Riddles	Translation	Material Process	Mental Process	Behaviour Process	Verbal Process
13. Ikòkò dúdú fẹ̀yìn tìgbó	The black pot leans its back against the forest'	fẹ̀yìntì 'lean on'			
14. Gbogbo ilé yíi şebè kò kún ìgbakò	The entire household cooks soup yet it does not fill a wooden spoon.	şebè 'cooked food'			
15. A bù ú bù ú kò lójú. A tapo sí I, ó dọbè.	We cut it severally bu it has no opening, when we add oil into it, it turns into soup.	bù 'cut', ní 'have' tasí 'put-in', dì 'become'			
16. Kí a mú pátá jiyán, kí a şo pònèlè nù.	Eating 'pata' with pounded yam and throw away the 'pònbele'	mú 'take', Je 'eat', şonù 'throw away'			
17. Rànwú rànwú kò ní kele, Jagunjugun kò níbon, Tòpo-tòpo kò ládaá Mèta là ápa á, mèta là á mò on.	A wool-has no gun, an oil producer has no cutlass. We kill them in threes, we identify them in threes.		ní 'have' pa 'kill'; mò 'know'		
18. Lábándé kì í yáná, Abòrisà kì í sòtútù, Fògòròrì kì í gbò ariwo. Mèta là á pa á, mèta là á mò on.	'Lábándé does squat by fir, Abòrisà does catch cold Fògòròrì does not hear noise It is in threes we kill them. We kill them in three, we identify them in threes.			yáná 'sit beside fire' sòtútù sleeping in cold area', gbàriwo	

				'hear noise'	
19. A ní kó wẹ̀, ó wẹ̀. A ní kó yarun, o ní ikú dé.	'We ask it to take its bath, it complies, we ask it to comb its hair, it proclaiming death.	wẹ̀ 'bath', yarun 'combing'			ní 'says'
20. A gé e lóri. Ó ni òun yòò bá olóro kije.	'We cut its head, it vows to be with 'Oro' cult worshipper till seven days'	gé 'cut'			ní 'says'
21. Ó ni igba ọwọ́, ó ni igba ẹ̀sẹ̀. Ó tún ní iyà atínrín ló ń jẹ̀ un..	'He has two hundred hands and two hundred legs yet it complains of inability to work'				ní 'says'

The most frequent process as shown in table (2) is material processes. The reason for this is that material processes construct riddles' description as a sequence of concrete characteristics that brought about identity of the encoded object. Meanwhile, it is not only the actions that are capable of doing by each of the code but also their habitual behaviours are embedded in those identified material processes. Take for instance; the object's behavioural action is denoted in the use of ni- the high tone syllable (HTS) in sample (18). Functionally, this HTS serves as interpersonal feature of exchange in that environment. As a finite element of mood, it denotes tense thus suggesting habitual involvement of the object in focus in the activity mentioned in the sentence. However, before we conclude the analyses on riddles' processes, it is asserted that somehow both relational and existential processes are not phonetically realized at the internal structure of riddles in Yoruba, but their semantic effect is usually felt on the riddle' interpretation. Depending on the structural configuration of a given riddle, they may or not syntactically marked as the other processes but their effect always felt on both resources (structural and information) that are accountable in interpreting riddles (Marcac 2013). The relation process upholds that something is said to be something else that is, a relation of being is set up between two separate entities. In such a case, the relation is set between the riddle's code and its referent (answer). Functionally, this process characterizes and identifies entities. For example, in "adaba kenke, ojojumo nii para oja; answer to this riddle is owó. On that premise, we could apparently see how relation is set between adaba kenke and owó. The NP adaba kenke is functionally identifying owó. Also, the thematic element (first element with which speaker begins his sentence) is also doubled as 'àdàbà' in that structure, thus going by the Halliday 's view that 'theme is one of the features of existence (Halliday 2014: 306-308). It is that thematic element that assists and informs the riddles the existence of entity that is about to be introduced: 'the riddle's answer'. This solution to the riddle is presented as new information. It is on this fact that the topic clause which carries the theme could be described as the riddles' presentational clause.

Contextually, the so called presentational constituent introduces features, habits or characteristics of interest of which is necessary and germane in solving riddles. What these analyses suggest is that in riddles, since there is always an entity which signifies the riddle's referent metaphorically, however the peculiar feature which connects the signifier and signified as sets a relation of existence between the two entities. For instance, the clause 'ojoojumo nii para oja' going to marker everyday in the sample (11) above suggests the specific feature that set relationship between 'àdàbà and 'owó'. In addition to that, there is this lexical word 'láléláé' which is sometimes used while presenting riddles' statement in Yoruba, the word as no representational function in the experiential structure of riddles suggesting that, it is neither a process, participant nor a circumstance rather, it indicates feature of existence thereby form part of subject and by so doing, preserve the interpersonal exchange. In conclusion, the relational and existential processes present no distinct kinds of structural configuration but they account for the majority of riddles' statements.

### Participants in Riddles

Participants are the conscious being that involved or associated with the processes presented during the course of riddling. Tables 3 and 4 below present inherent participants together with their semantic roles that are associated with the processes identified in table (1) and (2) above.

**Table 3: Semantic Roles of Participants in Derived Riddles**

Derived Riddle	Material process		Mental Process		Behaviour Process	
	Actor	Goal	Senser	Phenomenon	Behaver	Phenomenon
Èyẹ baba alọ kan láéláé (2ce). Ori igi ní kólé sí, ilẹ ní tí yé eyin rẹ.	èyẹ	ilẹ; eyin				
Ilẹ bàba mi kan láéláé. Yàrà kan soso tó ní, fọfọ ni wọn ní kún inu rẹ.			mi	ilẹ, yàrà		
Ikòkò baba mi kan láláé (2ce). Bí a pọnmí sí í, kí í kún.	a 'we'	Ikoko				
Babalawo kan òkè òhún. A ko lẹ dọrùn rẹ ká má bá asọ tuntun.			a 'we'	aso tuntun	babalawo kan òkè òhún.	orùn
Àdàbà kéké, ojojumọ ní parà ojà.	àdàbà	ojà				
Èrù isu kan, à-jẹ káyé kọrun.	[e]	erù isu				

From the standpoint of processes type identified in table (1), all the material clauses in (7 & 11) involved creative sub-type of material process. In this kind of material processes the outcomes that is, the solutions to the riddles are denoted by one of the participants involved in the description. 'Èyẹ' bird, 'ilẹ' nest and 'eyin' egg in (7) performed a semantic role of actor or the doer of action, the direct goal is 'eyin' while 'ilẹ' marked the locative role respectively, however 'èyẹ' as one of the participants is designated and corresponds as the hidden solution to the riddle. But example (9) presents transformative type of material clause, in such a sequence; change of some aspects of an already existing actor or goal marked the outcome and also, the goal is usually exists prior to the onset of the unfolding of the process. As shown above, information about goal 'ikòkò babá mi' is put forward before we could know exactly what happens to it. However in the mental clauses presented in 8, 10 and 12, the subject is the speaker who senses the mental doing associating with each of the code. The table (4) below illustrates the participants of the processes type associated with riddles in table (2)

**Table 4: Semantic Roles of Participants in non- Derived Riddles**

Non-Derived Riddles	Participants in Material process		Participants in Behaviour Process		Participants in verbal Process	
	Actor	Goal	Behaver	Phenomenon	Sayer	Target
Ikòkò dúdú fẹyin tigbó	ikòkò	ìgbó				
Gbogbo ilẹ yìi şebẹ kò kún igbakọ	gbogbo ilẹ	ìgbakọ				
A bù ú bù ú kò lójú. A tapo sí I, ó dọbẹ.	a; a	u; epo;o				
Kí a mú pátá jiyán, kí a sọ pònbelè nù.	a; a	iyán; pònbelè				
Rànwú rànwú kò ni kele, Jagunjagun kò nibon, Tópo-tópo kò ládáá			rànwú rànwú, jagunjagun, tópo-tópo.	kele, ibon, ádá.		

Mèta là ápa á, mèta là á mò on.						
Lábándé kì í yána, Abòrisà kì í sòtùtù, Fògòròrí kì í gbò ariwo. Mèta là á pa á, mèta là á mò on.			labande, abòrisà, fògòròrí.	iná, òtùtù, ariwo.		
A ní kó wẹ, ó wẹ. A ní kó yarun, o ní ikú dé.					o	ikú
A gé e lóri. Ó ni òun yóò bá olórò kije.					E	olórò
Ó ni igba ọwọ, ó ni igba ẹsẹ. Ó tún ní iyà atírín ló n jẹ un.					ó	iyà atírín.

From the table (4) above, the participants under the material processes are similar to those discussed under derived riddles in table (3) above aside the participants of verbal processes. A careful study of riddles and their corresponding participants in table (2) shows that, the non-derived form of riddles are characterized by verbal process that is, ‘process of saying’. In this process, different participants are identified. Some of them are: sayer, receiver and target as shown in samples (19-21). In (19), a ‘we’ is the receiver (both the listeners and presenter), ‘ó’ is the sayer while ikú denotes the target; in sample (20), e is the sayer, while the target is represented by ‘olórò’ and in (21) ‘ó’ suggests the sayer while ‘iyà ‘atírín’ marked off the targeted code.

Functionally, the identified participants brings us closer to the nature of riddles as a descriptive discourse using behaviours and habitual actions associating with intended hidden object of the riddle’s logic.

### Circumstances in Riddles

Following from what we explained earlier in this work that riddles’ sequence consists of two or more clauses of which is delineated into two information units that is, the topic- comment constituents. The first constituent serves as an initiating expression encoding the topic of description while the second constituent expands the semantic notion presented in the first constituent by either by expanding or projecting it. It is discovered that the attending circumstances that surround the processes in riddles are syntactically revealed through comment constituents. What this suggests is that the comment constituents are structured circumstantially. Examples of expanding riddles of the elaboration<sup>18</sup> subtype are analyses in (8, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 18). Those samples in (7, 9 and 11) involve hypotactic enhancement<sup>19</sup>. Sample in (12) illustrates parataxis elaboration<sup>20</sup> while those samples in (19, 20 and 21) are in hypotactic projection<sup>21</sup>.

Based on the meaning of expansion that is established between the topic and comment clause in riddles, the circumstantial type associated with processes in table (1& 2) is presented in table (5) below:

**Table (5) Type of Circumstantial elements in Riddles**

Riddles Realization	Logico-semantic Relation	Circumstances Type	Process
A	Enhancing:		

<sup>18</sup> This is one of the forms of expansion logico-semantic relation in which one clause expands another by restating or specifying in greater detail the expanded clause.

<sup>19</sup> Semantics relation involving binding of unequal elements in which one expands another by qualifying it with some circumstantial features such as location in time or space of the manner of the unfolding of the process.

<sup>20</sup> Semantics relation that links clause of equal status meanwhile in such a context, the secondary clause specifies the primary clause in great detail.

<sup>21</sup> The second type of logico-semantic relation in which comment constituent is projected through the topic constituent which instates it as an idea in riddles.

Èyè baba alò kan láéláé (2ce). Ori igi ní kólé sí, ilè ní tí yé eyin rẹ.	Hypotactic	Location: place	Material: kò and yé
Adàbà kénkè, oجومو ní pàrà ojà.	Hypotactic	Location: place and time	Material : pàrà
B	Elaborating:	Role: Attribute/Identity	
Ilé bàba mi kan láéláé. Yàrà kan soso tó ní, fòfò ni wòn n kún inú rẹ	i. Hypotactic	Identity	Mental: having/ possession
Ikòkò dúdú fẹ̀yìn tìgbó	ii. Hypotactic	Depictive Attribute.	Material: fiti
Èru isu kan, à-jẹ káyé kòrun	iii. Paratactic	Identity	Mental: act of eating
C	Extending:		
Kí a mú pátá jiyán, kí a sọ pònbelè nù.	Hypotactic	Commutative Accompaniment	Material: jé and sọ
D	Projection:	Matter/ angle	
A ní kó wẹ, ó wẹ. A ni kó yarun, o ní ikú dé	i. Hypotactic	Matter	Verbal: ní
Ó ni igba ọwọ, ó ni igba ẹ̀şẹ. Ó tún ní iyà atínrín ló n jẹ un	ii. Hypotactic	Matter	Verbal: ní

From the table above, the circumstantial elements occur freely in all types of processes and with essentially the same significance in their projection for the fact that all circumstantial clauses are activated in comment constituents. In other word, we say that comment constituents are always meant to elaborate the semantic ideas initiated at the topic constituent in all instances of Yoruba riddles. However, if we consider the type of syntactic dependency (hypotactic or paratactic relationship) and semantic relations (projection and expansion relationship) that hold between the riddles' constituents, some combination are common with some process while some are quite rare with the other process type. For instance, circumstance of matter / angle is fond within the hypotactic projection of verbal riddles while identity /attributive is uniquely associated with expansion of elaborating sub-type as shown column labeled 'B' in the table above. Consequently, in a technical term, we say that expansion is the major relation that exists between the topic- comment units in both derived and non-derived riddles except in reported riddles where a logical hypotactic projection is ensued between the sayer and the verbiage so as to register the targeted idea.

The circumstance of location in time construes the distance and time duration that the processes unfold. For instance, 'oجومو' everyday' suggests time in-relation to frequency that the object involved in the activity while 'ojà' market also, indicates the location/place where the object is mostly found. The two noun phrases are hypotactic circumstantial elements in the clause 'oجومو ní pàrà ojà' of example (11). The only feature with which the listeners could identify the house described in (8) is mainly if they can imagine and guess the identity of 'the room' hypotactic circumstantially mentioned in the description. Also, the paratactic circumstantial clause 'a-jẹ káyé kòrun' in (12) attributively suggests the most pressing feature with which the object bring to fore in the description can be identified. Each of the circumstances projected in verbal riddles presented in (19, 20 &21) designate the actual matter or semantic idea of the whole description. The circumstances of elaboration specify the role in which one of the participants participates in the process. That is, such participant is elaborated circumstantially. In addition, attributive of identity (comment clause) is added to material process fond with topic clause as a depictive. The circumstances of matter under verbal process relates to that which described or narrated in the riddle's expression. Above all, the study established that circumstances argument the semantic information initiated by participants of the

process that characterizes the identity of the hidden object. It also specifies in a greater detail the identity information needed in solving riddles' logic.

#### Conclusion

The study is able to present functional analysis of sequence representation of experiences during the course of riddling in Yoruba Language. The theme is discussed in relation to the logico- semantic relationships that exist between the riddles two information units. Considering the communicative functions of experiential elements on the overall interpretation of riddles, the experiential sequence identified in riddles helps in associating one process to one participant thus preserves interpersonal exchange. Also, in line with the experiential mode of meaning; the riddlees have the opportunity to determine the relationship that exist between the participants thus; understand how information is organized in an attempt to discern riddles' logics. Any attempt in discerning riddle's descriptive statement depends on the meaning relation and semantic intent of various lexical choices in the text. Apparently, the riddle's referent mainly turns out to be lexical item referred to only by NP which could be actor, a goal, phenomenon or target in either material, behavioural, verbal or mental processes. This structural information indicates that the riddlers choose his/her lexical items carefully in order to preserve coherency.

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