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BASIC AND DERIVED SENTENCE-TYPES IN IZI

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1. Aim

This paper[1] has a two-fold aim. The first is to illustrate a method of describing sentences which utilizes transformational statements within a hierarchical framework. The second is to give an adequate outline of Izi[2] sentences so that the general system can be understood even though there is not space for all the details[3] in this paper.

2. Basic and derived sentence-types

When sentences are examined, various underlying structures can be postulated. These are termed sentence-types. Each sentence-type can be regarded as a rule which generates sentences.

When sentence-types are compared it is found that some sentence-types are closely related to others. In such instances it is possible to state the relationship between sentence-types by making a transformational statement[4] showing how one sentence-type is derived from another. This reduces the number of basic sentence-types which are needed to generate all possible grammatical sentences.

Thus each sentence which occurs, or can occur, may be referred in its structure either

(a) directly to one of the basic sentence-types, or

(b) to one of the basic sentence-types together with one of the transformational statements.

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1 This paper was first presented at the 10th West Africa Languages Congress held in Accra in March, 1972. It arises out of the field work of Paul and Inge Meier of the Institute of Linguistics, the Nigeria branch of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, and carried out in association with the University of Nigeria and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. This field work commenced in 1964 but was interrupted from 1967-71 by the civil war. John Bendor-Samuel has worked with the Meiers, collaborating in the analysis of the language throughout this period. He is responsible for the form of this present paper. Mrs. Meier has supplied the Izi examples.

2 Izi is a Kwa language, closely related to Igbo, and spoken by approximately 200,000 people to the east of Abakaliki, Anambra State, Nigeria.

3 A full phonological and grammatical description of Izi entitled "The Grammar of Izi, an Igbo language" has been published in the Summer Institute of Linguistics Publications in Linguistics and Related Fields, Oklahoma series.

4 It is hoped that the use of the term 'transformational' will not be misleading. This grammatical description is not modelled on the work of Chomsky, but is essentially a structuralist hierarchical description.

Conversely, these basic sentence-types, together with the transformational statements which account for the derived sentences, can generate every grammatical sentence.

Within the framework of a hierarchical grammar, this method of description can be employed to reduce the number of basic structural types at each rank. For instance, just as the number of sentence-types can be reduced, so can the number of clause-types. This descriptive device may also help to show the relationship between grammatical units perhaps more clearly than a listing of types can do.

Izi sentences have been analysed in this way. Sections 3 to 6 give an outline of the basic sentence-types, and Section 7 gives the transformational statements.

All sentences are described as comprising an obligatory nucleus and an optional margin. Since the margins of all sentences are similar, it makes the description more economical to describe the margin separately instead of with each sentence-type. For reasons of space, this paper does not give details of the sentence margin.[5]

3. Single clause sentence-types

Many Izi sentences consist of a single clause. All sentences of this type are referred to as ST 10 sentences.

Two single clause sentence-types are established:

ST 11 - General

ST 12 - Phrasal

3.1 ST 11 - General

These sentences consist of a class V (verbal) clause of any clause type.

ST 11 sentences are marked by one of the independent non-subordinate aspects.[6]

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5 It may, however, be of interest to add that the margin may be one of the following: vocative, interjectural (yes, no, please, etc.), calling, and appositional (where additional information explaining and clarifying part of the previous sentence is added).

6 Details of the verb system including the aspects are given in "Some Contrasting Features of the Izi Verbal System", John Bendor-Samuel and Inge Meier, J.A.L. 6.1, 1967, pp.30-41.

Examples:[7]

(1) ó ðje ózî ré — She is working well. BB164
she is working work well
V Clause CT 11

(2) ó tó !nwûkwárû lẹ ẹ̀ká ðnó — It did not happen there. IW28
it not happened in place that
V Clause CT 13

3.2 ST 12 - Phrasal

These sentences consist of a class NV (non-verbal) clause of the following types:

CT 21 - Demonstrative

CT 22 - Phrasal

CT 23 - Interjectural

Examples:

(3) ðnó ọ̀tụ̀tàrà — That is the Otutara feast. 1061
that Ọtutara feast
NV clause CT 21

(4) é, kẹ́ nwí!íbó m̀bámụ̀ — Yes, the one of N.M. OP182
yes one of Nwibo Mbamu
NV clause CT 22

4. Subordinative sentence-types

Sentences may consist of two clauses; one clause (termed the subordinate clause) is in subordinative relationship to the other clause (termed the head clause).

Several different sentence-types of this structure are set up. All such sentences are referred to as ST 20 sentences.

The following sentence-types are established:

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7 Izi examples are written phonemically. Tones are symbolised ´ high, ` low, ! downstep, ǐ upstep. In some syllables it will be noticed that there is no tone marking; in this case there is elision of the vowel and of the tones concerned. Occasionally, it will be seen that a low tone occurs immediately preceding a syllable; this symbolises a lost low tone, which raises a preceding high tone, as for instance with the marker `bẹ́ in example (19).
Most examples are drawn from texts from which an exhaustive concordance has been made under the Linguistic Retrieval Project of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Oklahoma Research Institute and sponsored by Grant GS-934 of the National Science Foundation. The references given for some of the examples refer to this concordance.

ST 21 - Conditional

ST 22 - Unmarked conditional

ST 23 - Unfulfilled conditional

ST 24 - Unfulfilled

ST 25 - Purpose

ST 26 - Temporal

ST 27 - General Inclusive

This paper will deal only with ST 21, 22, 23, 24 and 26.

4.1 ST 21 - Conditional (temporal)

These sentences consist of two class V clauses, the second of which is subordinate to the first. The relationship of the two clauses is marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. The sequence of clauses, which is fixed.
b. The particle mę̀ which occurs between the two clauses.
c. The verb of the head clause is always in the aspect Base B future (or NB indicative).[6]
d. The verb of the subordinate clause is always in either A conditional, NB conditional or NC conditional aspects.

Examples:

(5) ó ó!mé mu ę̀phǫ́ mę̀ mú ríá !yá
it will do me stomach if I would eat it
V clause CT 12 V clause CT 11
V: B fut mę̀ V: A cond

It will trouble my stomach if I eat it.

(6) mú !é-ku ìyà mę̀ ó rwúa ę̀!phǫ́
I will call him when it has just reached
V clause CT 11 V clause CT 13
V: B fut mę̀ V: A cond

I will call him when it is time.

4.2 ST 22 - Unmarked conditional

These sentences consist of two class V clauses, the first of which is subordinate to the second. The relationship of the two clauses is marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. The sequence of clauses, which is fixed.
b. The verb in the head clause is always found in Base AB future aspect[6].
c. The verb in the subordinate clause is always found in one of the following aspects: Base A conditional; AB conditional; NB conditional; NC conditional.

(7) ó shíwá ìtè, mú ìèríá n!rí
she cooked already pot, I will eat food
V clause CT 11 V clause CT 11
V: Base A cond. V: Base AB fut

If she has already cooked, I will eat.

(8) ẹ̀ká hàkǫ́, l'ó¹ɔ́rík ǫ́
hand are together it will eat together
V clause CT 13 V clause CT 13
V: Base A cond V: Base AB fut

If hands are equal, they will eat together (Proverb)

4.3 ST 23 - Unfulfilled conditional

These sentences consist of two class V clauses, the second of which is grammatically subordinate to the first though from the translation the first clause appears to be semantically subordinate to the second. The relationship of the two clauses is marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. Either the particle ǫ̀ǫ̀mẹ́ or the particle ǫ́bụ̀lẹ́ precedes the head clause.
b. The particle mẹ̀ precedes the subordinate clause.
c. The verb of the head clause is in one of the following aspects: Base B non-future, C non-future.
d. The verb of the subordinate clause is in one of the dependent aspects: Base A non-future, AB future.
e. The sequence of the clauses is fixed, though a feature of clause reversal occurs.

In the clause reversal form the verb previously in a dependent aspect occurs as a complex type 22 verb and is always marked by the future independent aspect. The other clause is unchanged. There does not seem to be any particular difference in meaning associated with the clause reversal.

Examples:

(9) ǫ̀ǫ̀mẹ́ í ìpfu ópfú mẹ̀ ǫ̀ húmá !ngú
if you are talking talk he saw you
V clause CT 11 V clause CT 11
V: Base B non-fut mẹ̀ V: Base A non-fut

If you had been talking, he would have seen you.

(10) ńnà mú gégè á!bárụ́ mụ́ mba ǫ́bụ̀lẹ́ ó mèbyìhùrù
father my would reproach me repr. if it spoilt
V clause CT 12 V clause CT 13
V: Base A non-fut ǫ́bụ̀lẹ́ V: Base C non-fut

My father would have reproached me if it had spoilt.

4.4 ST 24 - Unfulfilled

These sentences consist of two class V clauses, the second of which is subordinate to the first. The relationship of the two clauses is marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. The sequence of the clauses, which is fixed.
b. The particles ǫ̀phụ́, ẹ̀bẹ́ or ǫ̀bẹ́, one of which always occurs between the two clauses.

c. The verb of the head clause is in one of the following aspects: Base A non-future, AB future, B non-future, B future, C non-future.
d. The verb of the subordinate clause is always in the negative conditional aspect, Base NB.

Examples:

(11) ó tó !shídú lẹ̀ èzá, èbé ó !shídú ìlẹ̀ ényígbá
he not is from Eza, and not he is from Enyigba
V clause CT 13 V clause CT 13
V: Base C non-fut V: Base NB

He is not from Eza and he is not from Enyigba. 1081

(12) ọ̀ sṵ́ lẹ́ yá gbùru éswí láàbọ̀, ọ̀bẹ́ ya á!kádṵ́ mmá
he said that he killed cow two and not he is more good
V clause CT 11 V clause CT 14
V: Base C non-fut V: Base NB

He said that he killed 2 cows, and yet he is not better. UL30

4.5 ST 26 - Temporal

These sentences consist of two class V clauses, the second of which is subordinate to the first. The relationship of the two clauses is marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. The sequence of the clauses, which is fixed.
b. One of the following conjunctions always occurs between the two clauses:
tẹ̀mṵ́, tẹ̀mṵ́, tẹ̀máànṵ́ 'before'

je àsṵ́(rṵ́), je àdṵ́(rṵ́) 'until'

ọdụmẹka 'if not, then ...'
c. The verb of the head clause is in one of the following aspects: Base A non-future, B non-future, B future, C non-future.
d. The verb of the subordinate clause is always in Base A non-future or AB future aspects.

Examples:

(13) ànyí àwájẹ́ !jí ọ̀bụ àwáwá tẹ̀máànụ á ìànmáá !yá
we split usually yam that splitting before one plants it
V clause CT 11 V clause CT 11
V: Base B non-fut V: Base AB fut

We usually split the yams before we plant them. FA 22

(14) ó mẽnyàá ìje àdúrú ìànyí gúde í!yá
he did for a while until we caught him
V clause CT 13 V clause CT 11
V: Base A non-fut V: Base A non-fut

He ran for a while until we caught him. C312

5. Coordinate sentences

Sentences are found with two class V clauses in cooordinative relationship to each other. Several different coordinative sentence-types are set up. All

such sentences are referred to as ST 30 sentences.

The following sentence-types are established:

ST 31 - Conjunction

ST 32 - Concomitant

ST 33 - Sensient

This paper will deal only with ST 31, the most common cooordinative sentence-type.

5.1 ST 31 - Conjunction

These sentences consist of two class V clauses in a coordinative relationship. The relationship of the two clauses is marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. One of the following conjunctions always occurs between the two clauses:

kẹ̀lẹ́	'because, the reason'
ẹ́ká	'because'
ọ̀ọ̀lẹ́	'but'
gbàhálẹ́	'unless'

b. The verbs of the two clauses are in any of the non-subordinate aspects: Base A non-future, AB future, B non-future, B future, C non-future.

Examples:

(15) ṭ nwụ̀hụ̀rụ̀ ọ̀ọ̀lẹ́ ìànyí nọ̀kwá
you died but we are here
V cl. CT 13 V cl. CT 13
V: Base C non-fut V: Base SC non-fut

You died, but we are here alive. PR158

(16) mú· á!tụ ṭyẹ́ mìkpọ́rọ́ gbàhálẹ ọ́ rwọ̀rụ̀ mụ àrwọ́rwọ́
I will throw him prison unless he begged me begging
V clause CT 12 V clause CT 11
V: Base B fut V: Base C non-fut

I will put him in prison unless he will have begged me. EL

6. Serial Sentence-types

Sentences may consist of two or more clauses following one another in a string relationship. Clauses in such a construction are of types 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Such clause strings are marked by the following syntagmatic features:

a. The sequence of the clauses, which is fixed.
b. The deletion of the NPS (nominal phrase functioning as subject) of all clauses after the first clause.
c. The deletion of the NPO (nominal phrase functioning as object) where a subsequent clause shares the same NPO as the clause immediately preceding it.

d. The negative transformation only occurs with type 42a and 42b.
e. The verbs in all the clauses may be suffixed by one or more extensor suffixes; usually, however, only the verb of the first clause is suffixed. The most frequently occurring suffixes are:

-nʒ́ 'after all'
-kwá 'emphatic'
-áhá 'start' and
-chá 'all'

f. Each of the verbs in the clauses occurs in certain aspects only and according to these patterns of aspect the meanings are expressed. The verb of the first clause may occur in any of the non-subordinate aspects: Base A non-future, AB future, B non-future, B future, C non-future. The verb aspects of the subsequent clauses are restricted.

Two main patterns occur and are termed punctiliar and progressive. The combinations of patterns of aspect are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Combinations of Aspects in Serial Sentence Types

	Initial clause	Intermediate Clause	Final clause	Meaning
	Punctiliar			
1.	Base A non-fut	Base A non-fut	Base A non-fut	Actions are successive
or	Base AB fut			
or	Base B fut			
or	Base C non-fut			
	Progressive			
2.	Base B non-fut	Base B non-fut	Base B non-fut	a) Actions done sucessively and continuously (uncompleted). b) Actions are simultaneous
3.	Base B fut	-	Base B non-fut	Simultaneous actions in the future.
4.	Base A non-fut	Base B non-fut	Base B non-fut	The last two actions are
or	Base C non-fut			simultaneous.
5.	Base A non-fut	-	Base B non-fut	Successive actions with the
or	Base C non-fut			last action continuing.
6.	Base A non-fut	Base A non-fut	Base B non-fut	Two or more actions (past)
or	Base C non-fut			with the last action still going on.

Several different serial sentence-types are set up. All such sentences are referred to as ST 40 sentences. The following serial sentence-types are established:

ST 41 - Main serial
ST 42 - Clause pairing
ST 43 - Connective serial

The present description will be limited to ST 41[8]. ST 41 sentences are

8 Some aspects of the analysis of ST 42 and 43, clause pairing and connective serial sentence-types, are discussed in "Verb Clusters in Izi", J.W.A.L. V.2 (1968) pp.119-128.

marked by all the syntagmatic features so far listed. There is a loose relationship between the verbs in ST 41 and any verb may occur in any clause in contrast to ST 42 and 43.

Examples:

(17) ɪ̀ ìɪ̀jérwʊ́á tsʊ́á ẹ́nwʊ̀rʊ̀ yé l'ʊ̀pyí
you reach beat snuff put in the horn
Base AB fut Base A non-fut A non-fut

You reach, beat snuff, put it in the horn. MA15

(18) ò shɪ́á jí èrí
she cooked yam is eating
Base A non-fut B non-fut

She cooked yam and is eating it now.

7. Transformation of sentences

In addition to sentences whose structure can be referred directly to one of the basic sentence-types described in Sections 3 to 6, there are other sentences whose structure is described as derived from one of these sentence-types by means of a transformational statement. Thus a set of derived sentence-types is established.

Each such sentence-type is given a reference number in the same way as the basic sentence-types. Such derived sentence-types, however, have two reference numbers, that of the derived sentence-type itself and also that of the underlying basic sentence-type.

7.1 Focus transformation by frontshifting

Sentences of all types may be transformed into sentences in which either a clause or a phrase within one of the clauses of the sentence is frontshifted and followed by the frontshifting particle `bẹ́, bringing the frontshifted element into special focus. Frontshifting occurs very frequently and does not carry as much emphasis as the emphatic transformation. All sentences of this type are referred to as type 50.

7.1.1 ST 51 - Clause frontshifting sentences

In a sentence of ST 21 or ST 26, one of the clauses may be frontshifted and this has the effect of putting the clause into focus. The clause is followed by the particle `bẹ́.

The transformation consists further of the following changes:

In ST 21 - the particle ę́ is omitted.

In ST 26 - the verb which follows `bę́ is always in one of the independent aspects Base B non-future, Base B future, or Base C non-future. Any dependent aspect of the first clause of ST 26 is thus replaced by an independent aspect in ST 51.

Examples:

(19) ST 21

ànyí`	ájɨ̀kàkwà	mę́	ǫ́	dʉ́ru	ɨphé	!dʉ́	ę̀jɨ	!dʉ ɨyá ɨnʉ́
we shall refuse		if	it is	thing	which	is bad		is in it
V clause CT 13			V clause CT 14					
V: Base B fut			V: Base A cond					

We shall refuse if there is anything bad in it. IW10

ST 51

ǫ́	dʉ́rú	ɨphé	dʉ́	ę̀jɨ	!dʉ ɨyá	ɨnʉ́	`bę́ ànyí` ájɨ̀kàkwà
V clause CT 14							V clause CT 13
V: Base A cond							V: Base B fut

If there is anything bad in it, I shall refuse it.

(20) ST 26

mʉ́`	á!byáádá	tę̀máànʉ́	1'ɨ́ɨ̀tʉ́gbʉ́á
I will come	first	before	you will leave
V cl CT 13			V cl. CT 13
V: Base B fut			V: Base AB fut

I will come to you first before you leave.

ST 51

tę̀máànʉ́	1'ɨ́ɨ̀tʉ́gbʉ́á	`bę́	mʉ́` á!byáádá
	V cl CT 13		V cl. CT 13
	V: Base AB fut		V: Base B fut

Before you leave we will come to you.

7.1.2 ST 52 - Phrase frontshifting sentences

In Phrase frontshifting sentences a Nominal Phrase, an Adverbial Phrase in which an NP functions, or a Verbal Extension is frontshifted, preceding a clause nucleus, and thus brought into focus. The frontshifted phrase is marked by the particle `bę́ which follows the phrase.

In the case of all ST 20, frontshifting of phrases in the head clause is possible but there is no frontshifting of phrases of the subordinate clause.

In the case of all ST 30 and ST 40, frontshifting of phrases in the first clause is possible. With ST 33 and ST 40, frontshifting of phrases in the second and following clauses is also found.

The verbs which follow `bę́ are always found in one of the independent aspects: Base B non-future; Base B future, Base C non-future or the respective negative aspects.

A dependent aspect of a sentence to be transformed is replaced by an independent aspect in the transformation.

If an AP type 21 is frontshifted the particle `bę́ is absent.

Examples:

(21) ST 21

ó` ó!mé ìnwókɛ́ ònɔ ɛ̀phɔ́, mɛ̀ ó rí á !yá
it will do man that belly if he eats it
V: Base B fut V: Base A cond

ST 52

nwókɛ́ ònɔ́ `bę́ ó` ó!me ɛ̀phɔ́, mɛ̀ ó rí á !yá

focus on NPO

(22) ST 33

mú ìàsú lɛ́ mú` é!jé ì1'ɛ́gú Then I will say that
I will say that I will go to farm I will go to the farm. 10115
V: Base AB fut

ST 52

1'égú `bé mú` á!sú lé mú` é!jé Then to the farm I will say that I will go.

Focus on AP V: Base B fut

7.2 Emphatic transformation

Sentences of all types can be transformed into emphatic sentences, ST 60. Such a transformation consists of an introductory phrase which precedes the rest of the sentence. It may also precede a clause in the sentence.

Any nominal phrase in the sentence may be emphasized. When a post-verbal nominal phrase is emphasized, the focus transformation always occurs, i.e. the emphasized nominal phrase is frontshifted.

When a nominal phrase functioning as subject is emphasized, two possibilities exist:

(a) emphasis without bringing into focus.

In this case the introductory phrase precedes the sentence which is otherwise unchanged (except that a pronoun functioning as NPS is in its emphatic form).

(b) emphasis with bringing into focus.

In this case the frontshifting particle ˋbɛ̰ follows the NPS. The NPS then becomes the head of a sentence construct R1.
The introductory phrase consists of one of the following:

ɔ̰ɔ̰	'it is ...'
ɔ̰ kwà	'it is ...'
ɔ̰ bʊ̰rʊ̰	'it was ...'
ɔ̰ tɔ̰ !bʊ̰dʊ̰	'it is/was not ...'

Examples:

Emphasis on NPS

(23) (a) ɔ̰ɔ̰ ʊ̰ nwɛ̰gɪ̰rɪ̰má èméje ɪ́!yá
it is children doing it usually OP140

(b) ɔ̰ɔ̰ ʊ̰!nwɛ̰gɪ̰rɪ̰má ˋbɛ̰ ìèméje ɪ́!yá ìnʊ̰
it is children doing it usually
frontsh. particle
particle of R1

It is children doing it usually.

Emphasis on NPO

(24) ɔ̰ kwà ńká ˋbɛ̰ ùnúˋ ákàgbùà
it is long life you shall live all R512

It is a long life that you will all have.

Emphasis on AP

(25) ɛ̰ɛ̰phɔ́ l'ʊ̰tsʊ̰ ˋbɛ̰ é èjéje ɔ́kpùrú ɔ̀nɔ́
it is only in morning one goes usually pond that

It is only in the morning that one usually goes to that pond. S87

7.3 Interrogative transformations

Sentences of all types can be transformed into interrogative sentences,

ST 70. Several types of transformation are found, as follows:

ST 71 - Low tone interrogative
ST 72 - tɔ̰ interrogative
ST 73 - 2nd and 3rd person interrogative
ST 74 - Imperative interrogative
ST 75 - Cohortative interrogative
ST 76 - bʊ̰ interrogative
ST 77 - nɛ̰nʊ̰ interrogative

For reasons of space, this paper will be limited to ST 71 to 74, which are in fact the most commonly occurring interrogative sentence-types.

7.3.1 ST 71 - Low tone interrogative

Sentence types ST 11, ST 20, ST 30 and ST 40 may be transformed into a low tone interrogative sentence in the following way. All statements below apply to the head clause in the case of ST 20, and to the first clause in the case of ST 30 and ST 40:

a. The NPS consists of a pronoun or pronominal.
b. The aspect of the verb is one of the following:
   Base B non-fut interrogative
   Base B future interrogative
   Base C non-future interrogative
   (Note that, with the interrogative aspects, all pronouns and pronominals are marked by low tone, instead of the high tone that occurs in the corresponding indicative aspects.)

Examples:

(26) mú nụ̀màrụ̀ l'é djèru ǫ̀gwǫ̀
I heard that one lent money BR 84

mù̀ nụ̀màrụ̀ ... Did I hear ...?

(27) ànyí àwájẹ́ !jí ǫ̀bụ àwáwá tẹ̀máànụ á !ànmáá !yá
we split yam that splitting before one plants it

One usually splits the yam before one plants it. FA 22

ànyì àwájẹ́ ... Does one split the yam ...?

7.3.2 ST 72 - tǫ̀ interrogative

The particle tǫ̀ 'or' may be added to the sentence. This particle may precede or follow the sentence. The low tone is optional.

Examples:

(28) tǫ̀ mú sụ̀rụ̀ g'á `tá !rụ́shi ǫ́rú?
I said that one not work work

tǫ̀ mú sụ̀rụ̀ g'á rụ̀a ǫ́rú dụ ẹ́jɨ̀ l'ẹ̀ká ǹnó?
I said that one work work which is bad in place that

Did I say one should not work? Or did I say one should do bad work there? BB 40

(29) tǫ̀ ǫ̀ dụ̀rụ ǫ́phụ̀ !ányí àkpá
it is those which we are causing

Is there anything which we are causing? EB 14

7.3.3 ST 73 - 2nd and 3rd person negative interrogative

In a sentence which is marked by negation and where the head of the NPS

is a 2nd or 3rd person singular pronoun, the interrogative transformation is achieved by dropping that pronoun altogether. The negative particle in the VP which always harmonizes with that pronoun then indicates the subject.

Examples:

(30) ɨ́ tɨ̀ɨ̀ nṵ́dṵ́ !mṵ ákṵ́ You are not giving me kernels.
you neg give me kernels

tɨ̀ɨ̀ nṵ́dṵ́ !mṵ ákṵ́ Are you not giving me kernels? OP124

(31) ǫ́ tǫ́ !dṵ́dṵ ǫ́phṵ ɨ́ tàrṵ̀ There is nothing that you eat.
it neg is thing you eat

tǫ́ !dṵ́dṵ ǫ́phṵ ɨ́ tàrṵ̀ Is there nothing which you eat?

7.3.4 ST 74 - Imperative interrogative

A ST 80 Imperative sentence may be transformed into a question by adding a 1st or 3rd person functioning as subject, to precede the verb in the imperative aspect. Most frequently, it is a first person pronoun as Imperative interrogative sentences usually follow an imperative sentence and are asked as a clarification of it. Infrequently the NPS may consist of a nominal. The pronoun in this transformation is on high tone, which contrasts with the low tone of the pronouns in the interrogative aspects.

Examples:

(32) mú rìá !yá Am I to eat it?
I eat it
V: Base A Imp

(33) mú bya? Am I to come?
I come
V: Base A Imp

7.4 ST 80 - Imperative sentences

Sentence-types ST 11, ST 20 (except ST 23), ST 31, ST 33 and ST 40 may be transformed into an imperative sentence-type as follows. The statements below apply to the head clause in the case of ST 20 and to the first clause of ST 30 and all clauses in the case of ST 40:

a. The NPS is deleted (except ùnú '2nd plural')
b. The verb is transformed to the Base A Imperative or Base NA Imperative aspect.

Examples:

(34) rìnṵ́á ǫ̀wáà Eat this! OP 208
eat this

(35) nú !mụ ɨyá gẹ̀ mɨ́ kǫ́
give me it that I tell (story)

Give it to me so that I may tell the story! SA 9

7.5 ST 90 - Cohortative sentences

Sentence-types ST 11, ST 20 (except ST 23), ST 31, ST 33, ST 42 and ST 33 may be transformed into a cohortative sentence-type as below. The statements apply to the head clause in the case of ST 20, to the first clause in the case of ST 30 and to all clauses in the case of ST 40:

a. The particle gẹ̀ occurs initially in the clause.
b. The verb following gẹ̀ is in the Base A cohortative or Base NA cohortative aspect.

Examples:

(36) gẹ ànyí jé lẹ mgbábù gẹ̀ mú góshí !ngu ɨyá
we go to garden that I show you it

Let us go to the garden so that I may show it to you! OP157

(37) gẹ ńdzù dɨ́ phé-ˋó May they live long! PR 105
life be to them

8. Conclusion

The use of basic and derived sentence-types seems to provide, in Izi at least, a simple description of the different sentence structures of the language; simpler and less repetitious than a description which merely lists each sentence-type. It is comparable to the matrix type displays that have been developed by K. L. Pike.

One practical question arises, however. What are the criteria for handling a specific structure as a derived sentence-type rather than as a basic sentence-type? Why not have fewer basic sentence-types and more transformational statements and derived sentence-types or vice versa?

Two criteria have been used implicitly in this description:

a. There must be a close formal and semantic relationship between the basic sentence-types and the derived sentence-types. Both have been regarded as essential, so that two sentence-types have not been regarded as consisting of a basic sentence type with a transformational statement yielding a derived sentence-type unless the two sentence-types are clearly closely related in structure and in meaning.

b. The transformational statements should be applicable to a substantial percentage of the basic sentence-types. What should that percentage

be? Conceivably it might be possible, for instance, to reduce the number of subordinate sentence-types by deriving one of them from one of the others by means of a transformational statement, but such a statement could not be used with any other basic sentence-types. In such circumstances two separate sentence-types have been established.

If these two criteria are not both reasonable and sufficient, then it is not clear what criteria should be followed.