

We shall first show the salient features that characterize such loose appositions (i.e. features which distinguish them particularly from many of the appositive constructions discussed in detail in Owolabi (1976)). Secondly, we shall discuss their various types and finally, their derivation will be discussed.

2. Characteristics of Loose apposition

The following are the main characteristics of the loose appositive construction in Yorùbá:

First and foremost, as in other languages, there is, in pronunciation, always a pause⁴ between the two grammatical units that make up the construction. For instance, the appositives in the loose appositive constructions in (1)-(6) above are separated from the units to which they are in apposition by an obligatory pause represented by a comma in each of these examples.

Secondly, perhaps as a direct consequence of the first characteristic stated above, the mid tone junction⁵ which occurs (obligatorily or optionally) between two juxtaposed nouns or nominals never occurs between the nominal components of the loose appositive construction. For example, (1)-(3) above which contain loose appositive constructions whose component units are nominals can

co-reference has to be amplified or extended to include situations (such as in (4) and (5)) where one of the apposed units is a presupposition of the other. For the view that the notion of co-reference could be widened as indicated above to cater for apposition of sentences, see Burton-Roberts (1975:410 fn.8).

⁴ Howlands (1954:380) also notes that the constituent units of an appositive construction in Yoruba may be separated by a pause. Thus, he remarks as follows:

A type of combination occurs in which we may say that the second nominal, which is an Independent form, is in apposition to the leading nominal ... there is here the possibility of an alternative pronunciation with intervening pause ... Examples (underlining ours) òbínríń onísowò kán wá l'òdè 'there is a woman trader outside', awá Yorubá kí ísè bẹ́ 'We Yorubas do not do so'. Frequent combinations of this type are formed by putting awún in front of a second nominal to indicate plurality.

It should be noted, however, that Howlands has chosen the wrong examples here for the appositive constructions (underlined) cited by him have no alternative pronunciation with intervening pause.

⁵ For a detailed discussion of this mid tone junction, see Owolabi (1976: 30-31 fn.16).

not have variants (7)-(9) respectively:

- (7) Bólá ra Gbohùngbohùn un ìwé'íròhìn Yorùbá
 $\begin{matrix} a & & b \end{matrix}$
- (8) Bólá wá Ìbádán an Ilú tí ó tóbi jù lo ní Nàìjíríá
 $\begin{matrix} a & & b \end{matrix}$
- (9) Bólá a enì tí a ò fẹ́ẹ́ rí, wà ní ìbí
 $\begin{matrix} a & & b \end{matrix}$

Thirdly, the semantic notion 'KIND OF' which, as noted in Owolabi (1976: 31-32), is present in all 'regular' or non-idiomatic noun-noun constructions in Yoruba is not present in the loose appositive constructions whose component units are nominals. For instance, whereas a given regular or non-idiomatic N_1 - N_2 construction could be construed as a kind of N_1 , a N_1 - N_2 construction which is an instance of the loose appositive construction could not be so construed. Thus, while the regular N_1 - N_2 constructions in (10) below could be interpreted as 'a kind of okùnrin 'man'' or 'a kind of ìwé 'book'' as the case may be, those in (11) which are instances of the loose appositive construction, could not be interpreted as 'a kind of Gbohùngbohùn' etc.:

- (10) (a) okùnrin alágbára
 $\begin{matrix} N_1 & N_2 \end{matrix}$
 'a powerful man'
- (b) ìwé òjò
 $\begin{matrix} N_1 & N_2 \end{matrix}$
 'Ojo's book'
- (11) (a) Gbohùngbohùn, ìwé'íròhìn Yorùbá
 $\begin{matrix} N_1 & N_2 \end{matrix}$
 'Gbohùngbohùn, the Yoruba newspaper'
- (b) Ìbádán, Ilú tí ó tóbi jù lo ní Nàìjíríá
 $\begin{matrix} N_1 & N_2 \end{matrix}$
 'Ibadan, the biggest city in Nigeria'
- (c) Bólá, enì tí a ò fẹ́ẹ́ rí
 $\begin{matrix} N_1 & N_1 \end{matrix}$
 'Bola, the person whom we do not want to see'

Another way of stating this third characteristic of the loose appositive construction is to say that whereas the N_2 in all other regular N_1 - N_2 constructions restricts or limits the reference of N_1 to one particular entity,

the appositive in the loose appositive construction does not behave in this way. Instead, it functions semantically only as an incidental afterthought added after the unit to which it is in apposition.⁶

Fourthly, unlike many of the appositive constructions discussed in Owolabi (1976), the structural relationship between the two component units of the loose appositive construction is not that of head-to-modifier. Instead, each of the two units is more or less structurally independent in the construction.⁷ This claim is supported by the fact that the two component units are obligatorily separated by a pause as noted above.

Finally, as can be seen from (1)-(6) above, the component units of the loose appositive constructions in Yoruba may be nominals or NPs (as in (1)-(3)) or full sentences (as in (4)-(6)). On the other hand, the component units of the restrictive appositive constructions are either nominals or adverbials.⁸

3. Types of loose apposition

In this section an attempt is made to subcategorise loose appositions on the basis of their syntactic and/or semantic behaviour. The following are the subcategories of loose appositive constructions distinguished:

(a) Presupposing loose appositive construction

By presupposing loose appositive construction we mean simply a loose

6 For similar views, see Lee (1952:268-26-), Norwood (1954:269-270) and Zandvoort (1962:202) among others.

7 The claim that the component units of the loose appositive construction do not relate to each other structurally as head-to-modifier but that each unit is independent is not at all novel. For instance, Norwood (1954:270) makes the following remark (among others) about the loose appositive in present-day English:

The appositive and its first noun are not a modifier head construction. They are, instead, separate and, roughly equated.

Similarly, Sopher (1971:401) in his discussion of the appositive (underlined here) in the sentence:

'Mr. Sanders, the butcher, has a sharp tongue' remarks that:

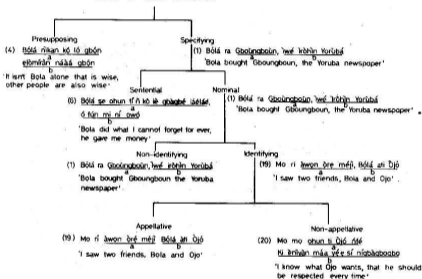
'It is not subordinated since - though by position an adjunct of the subject - it is structurally independent and can itself function as the subject of the sentence.'

8 In restrictive appositive constructions with adverbials as component units, the appositive is always an adverbial introduced by bi 'like' as (underlined) in the following sentence, for instance:

Ṣàdè árin áfiṣiṣiṣi bi Ójò

'Ṣàdè is walking sluggishly like Ojo'

TYPES OF LOOSE APPOSITION



as shown by (16) below which is the variant of (6) containing this apposition marker.

- (18) Bólá gè chun tí ñ kò lè gbàgbé lèlèlè, Iyẹn ní pé ó fún mí ní owó
 'Bola did what I cannot forget forever, that is to say he gave me money'

(ii) nominal specifying loose appositive construction

The component units of this subcategory of specifying loose appositive construction are always nominals as exemplified by the loose appositive constructions underlined in (1)-(3), repeated below for convenience, as well as those underlined in (19) and (20).

- (1) Bólá ra Gbohùngbohùn, ìwé ìròhìnin Yorùbá
 'Bola bought Gbohungbohun, the Yoruba newspaper'
- (2) Bólá nọ Ìbàdàn, ìlú tí ó tóbi jù lọ ní Nàìjíríá
 'Bola knows Ibadan, the biggest city in Nigeria'
- (3) Bólá, gní tí a ò fẹ́ sí, wà ní ibí
 'Bola, the person whom we do not want to see, is here'
- (19) Mo rí àwọn ọ̀rẹ́ méjì, Bólá àti Ọ̀jó
 'I saw two friends, Bola and Ojo'
- (20) Mo nọ chun tí Ọ̀jó fẹ́, kí àniyàn maa yé ọ sí nigbàgbọ̀
 'I know what Ojo wants, that he should be respected every time'

Unlike the presupposing loose appositive construction and the sentential specifying loose appositive construction, the vast majority of nominal specifying loose appositive constructions do not permit the insertion of the apposition marker Iyẹn ní pé between their component units. For instance, of the nominal specifying loose appositive constructions underlined in (1)-(3), (19) and (20) above, only the one in (20) permits the insertion of this apposition marker between its component units. Thus, while (1)-(3) and (19) have no variants (21)-(24) respectively, (20) has a variant (25).

- (21) Bólá ra Gbohùngbohùn, Iyẹn ní pé ìwé ìròhìnin Yorùbá
 'Bola bought Gbohungbohun, that is to say the Yoruba newspaper'
- (22) Bólá nọ Ìbàdàn, Iyẹn ní pé ìlú tí ó tóbi jù lọ ní Nàìjíríá
 'Bola knows Ibadan, that is to say the biggest city in Nigeria'

(19) Mo rí àwọn ọ̀rẹ́ méjì. Bọ́lá àti Ọ́jó

'I saw two friends, ^a Bọ́lá and ^b Ọ́jó'

In the case of the subcategory of non-appellative identifying nominal specifying loose appositive construction on the other hand, the appositive, which is always a nominalized sentence, does not perform a naming function. Rather, it identifies the nominal unit to which it is in apposition by explicating or defining it. Examples include the loose appositive construction in (20) repeated here:

(20) Mo mọ́ ohun tí Ọ́jó fẹ́, kí ànìyàn mọ́ yé ẹ̀ sí ní-gbàgbogbo

'I know what Ọ́jó wants, that he should be respected every time'

The various types of loose apposition set up in this section can now be shown diagrammatically as in (26) below.

4. Derivation of loose apposition

In our opinion, any proposed derivation for loose apposition in Yorùbá must take into consideration the following facts of the construction:

- (a) That the component units do not relate to each other as head-to-modifier but that they are more or less structurally independent (stated as the fourth characteristic of loose apposition in section 2 above).
- (b) That the construction has no relative clause paraphrase.
- (c) That in certain cases, the component units function in the same way syntactically with respect to the same constituents of the sentence in which they occur (see fn 3 above). Thus, for instance, in (1), which is repeated below, both the appositive and the unit to which it is in apposition are capable of functioning as the object of the verb rà 'to buy' as shown by 27(a)-(b):

(1) Bọ́lá ra Gbohùngbohùn, ìwé ìròhìnín Yorùbá

'Bọ́lá bought Gbohùngbohùn, the Yoruba newspaper'

(27) (a) Bọ́lá ra Gbohùngbohùn

'Bọ́lá bought Gbohùngbohùn'

(b) Bọ́lá ra ìwé ìròhìnín Yorùbá

'Bọ́lá bought the Yoruba newspaper'

- (d) That the component units are co-referential (see fn 3 above).
- (e) That although the structure is not the same as that of co-ordination¹², it resembles it.¹³ Notice, for instance, that the units involved in both apposition and co-ordination belong to identical grammatical classes.
- (f) That the construction is not homogeneous (as can be seen from the various subcategories set up in section 3 above).

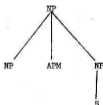
The first two points jointly rule out relative clauses as sources of loose appositive constructions. Notice, for instance, that while the derivation of loose appositive constructions is incompatible with the first point because this will make the appositives attributes of the units to which they are in apposition, the second point implies that relative clauses are, in fact, not at all available as sources of the loose appositive constructions.

In the light of the facts stated above, therefore, it seems that the following general deep structure tree configurations can be given for the loose appositive constructions. (APM: apposition marker)

(28)(a)



(b)



With the exception of the non-appellative identifying nominal specifying loose appositive constructions whose general deep structure tree configuration is 28(b), all the various types of loose appositive constructions set up in section 3 above have 28(a) as their general deep structure tree configuration.

¹² See Sopher *op.cit.* p.401.

¹³ See Quirk et al (1972:620) and Burton-Roberts (1975:406).

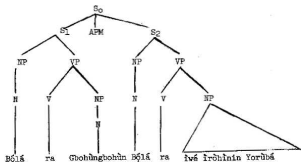
In each of the deep structure tree configurations 28(a) and (b), co-reference (stated as the fourth fact about loose apposition above) is indicated by APM, i.e. apposition marker. This APM will eventually be realised as a comma or iyen ni pé 'that is to say', as the case may be.

Notice also the similarity between these general deep structure tree configurations and co-ordinate structures (stated as the fifth fact about loose apposition above).

For the purposes of explaining the derivation of those loose appositive constructions whose general deep structure tree configuration is given as 28(a), we shall use, as an example, (1) whose deep structure can be diagrammed roughly as (29).

- (1) Bólá ra Gbohùngbohùn, ìwé ìròhìn Yorùbá
 'Bola bought Gbohungbohun, the Yoruba newspaper'

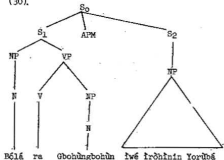
(29)



The derivation of (1) from (29) proceeds as follows:

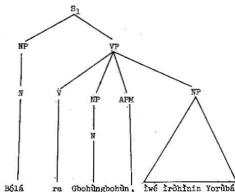
Firstly, the subject NP Bola and the verb ra of S₂ which are identical with the subject NP and the verb of S₁ respectively are deleted to yield the following configuration:

(30).



Next, APM and the NP Iwé Iròhìn Yorùbá are shifted under the VP of S_1 and the nodes S_2 and S_0 are automatically pruned one after the other (since they no longer branch) to yield (31) which is the surface P-marker for (1).

(31)

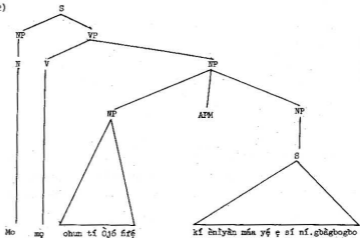


On the other hand, for the purpose of explaining the derivation of the non-appellative identifying nominal specifying loose appositive constructions whose general deep structure tree configuration is given as 28(b), we shall use as an example (20), whose deep structure can be diagrammed roughly as (32).

(20) Mo nọ ohun tí Ọjọ sífẹ́, kí ànnyàn nǎa yẹ́ ẹ́ sí ní.gbàgbọ́

'I know what Ojọ wants, that he should be respected everytime'

(32)



In order to derive (20) from (32), APM is simply re-written as a comma.

References

- Dangboise, App. 1965 Yoruba Orthography. Ibadan: Ibadan University Press.
- Burton-Roberts, N. 1975 'Nominal Apposition', Foundations of Language Vol. 13 No. 3, pp.391-419.
- Delorme, E. and R. C. 1972 'Appositive NP Constructions: we, the men; we men; I, a man; etc.', Foundations of Language Vol. 8 No. 1 pp.2-29.
- Haugen, E. 1953 'On Resolving the Close Apposition', American Speech XXVIII, pp.165-170.
- Hockett, C. F. 1955 'Attribution and Apposition', American Speech XXX, pp.99-102.
- Langacker, R. W. 1972 Fundamentals of Linguistics Analysis, Chicago: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
- Lee, Donald W. 1952 'Close Apposition: An Unresolved Pattern', American Speech XXVII, pp.268-275.
- Norwood, J. E. 1954 'The Loose Appositive in Present-Day English', American Speech XXIX, pp.267-271.
- Owólabí, D.K.O. 1976 Noun-Noun Constructions in Yorùbá: A Syntactic and Semantic Analysis. Ibadan University Ph.D thesis.
- Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G. and Svartvik, J. 1972 A Grammar of Contemporary English, London: Longman Group Ltd.
- Ross, John Robert 1969 'A proposed rule of tree-pruning' in Reibel and Schane (eds), pp.288-299.
- Rowlands, E. C. (1954) 'Types of word junction in Yoruba', BSOAS, XVI/2 pp.376-388.
- Sopher, H. 1971 'Apposition', English Studies, Vol. 52 No. 5 pp.401-412.