A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MORPHOLOGICAL MUTATIONS-CLIPPINGS AND BLENDS/PORTMANTEAUX IN ENGLISH AND URHOBO LANGUAGES

Princess O. IDIALU, Ph.D.

Abstract

Language, the major means of human communication, grows and changes in form as nations garner new experiences and engage in new technologies. The creation of new words to capture the new experiences and technologies becomes inevitable. This work researches into neologisms in the forms of clippings – shortening of words; and blends – combination of parts of two or more source words in both the English and the Urhobo languages. The exploratory, descriptive, quantitative and comparative research methods were used, while data collection was done through library search, interviews and extensive internet search. From the result of the analysis of accessed data, English has back clips (52%) and fore-clips (19%) as its two most frequently occurring types of clips; the Urhobo has the most frequenting occurring as the median clips (44%) and fore-clip (38%) as the next most frequent. Again, while the English language has the most blend as the (BE) (41%), followed by (WE) (19.1% and ((BW) at (13.7%), the Urhobo blend patterns are more varied with (BW) as highest (25.5%); followed by (MW) (15.7%) and (WE=O) (11.8%) respectively. This shows that there are word mutations appearing in clips and blends, and, therefore, recommend that these are studied and included in our daily use, especially in informal settings.

Keywords: Comparative analysis, Morphological Mutations, Clippings, Blends, English, Urhobo, communication.

Introduction

Language is a living thing; and one of the characteristics of living things is that they grow. The two languages in focus in this paper are the English and the Urhobo languages. The Urhobo people have their geographical base in Delta State, in South-South of Nigeria. It is one

__

***Princess O. IDIALU, Ph.D.** is of the General Studies Unit, Wesley University, Ondo, Nigeria
Email: idialuprincess72@gmail.com

of the minority groups, totalling approximately two million people. Words and expressions through which languages are manifested have been observed to undergo mutation processes as they also grow to reflect changes in human life and experiences. Language dynamism is, therefore, a reflection of societal growth, changes, developments, and great scientific revolutions that mandate language to communicate these experiences (White, 2014). Some language scholars (Bieswanger, 2007; Yousefi, 2009; White, 2015; Sanchez, 2017; Utulu, 2017) aver that technological and geographical discoveries as a result of diverse migrations, bring about changes that result in national and international advancements as well as disastrous/malevolent experiences. And these may call for neologisms developed through word compounding, word loans, calques and so on, to ensure proper and easy-to-understand naming of such phenomena in all phases of human endeavour at different epochs. This is specifically for language enrichment in order to cater for current human experiences.

Mirzaie (2014) emphasises that the longevity of neologisms (often brought about as a result of novel human experiences) is often dependent on a diversity of factors that may include but not limited to the following. The life-span of newly created words depends a great deal on the frequency of their usage and level of acceptability. The high acceptability level of neologisms that resonate with the users of a language makes them more frequently used. This ultimately enhances their speed at getting widespread usage in speech communities. With time, and as these expressions become more stable and easily identifiable with their referents, they find their ways into standard dictionaries for further perpetuation. For example, Nduka Orijinmo, writes on reactions that greeted the decision of lexicographers (directed by a Nigerian consultant, Kingsley Ugwuanyi) of Oxford English Dictionary to include twenty-nine Nigerian English words/ expressions into that dictionary in January 2020. One of the reasons put forward is that their decision could have been as a result of the widespread usage of the words that were included.

Again, changes in tastes, likes and dislikes as result of cultural assimilations that lead to shifting emphasis on the use of certain things, or a dwindling focus on certain concepts that have been overtaken by modern life-styles. Levchenko (2010) also opines that technological upgrades could lead to dropping of certain used terms (making them obsolete) and forming of new terms to accommodate the neo-cultural and technological experiences. Other things that engender the modification of old words or the formation of new ones are political, economic and socio-cultural changes. Migrations also cause people to encounter new ideas, concepts and terms that lead to transfer of such expressions to other nations. Vocabulary expansion could also

be as a result of long strides in scientific discoveries that are cognised into language through formation of new terms (Tonukari, Ejobee, Aleh, & Orjinta, 2014).

Clips and blends are lexemes that are associated with specific (sometimes professional) groups that later become widely known and accepted as standard vocabulary. Sanchez (2017) points out that they are most often initially accepted within their groups because of the ease with which they express ideas that are easily understood within such groups, without recourse to the longer form of such terms. According to him, in schools for instance, it is easy to understand exam for examination; lab for laboratory and math for mathematics. In medicine there is vet for veterinary, and then the police and other bodies also have their clippings and blends and so on, as we shall see later in this work. What is clear is that languages that allow for coinages multiply their vocabulary and attract the interest of hearers and readers by such neologisms. The wordplay that is apparent adds to the excitement that accompanies the discovery of fresh ways of self-expression.

Purpose of the Study

Word formation processes in languages have been an area of interest in the works of language and linguistics scholars. Aspects like derivation, compounding, conversion, coinage and affixation in various languages have been delved into by Orie, 2005; Onose, 2009; Wagna, 2010; Yuka and Adeyini, 2010, among others. However, scholars (Bieswanger, 2007; Yousefi, 2009; Mirzaie, 2014; White, 2015 and Sanchez, 2017) who have carried out researches on clips and blends in English have not compared these with Nigerian languages, let alone with clips and blends in Urhobo. Orie (2009) delved into borrowed prefixes in Yoruba while Yuka and Adeniyi examined clipping of names alone in Edo language. Onose (2009) and Tonukari, Ejobee, Aleh, & Orjinta (2014) who researched into the coping mechanisms to address modernism in English and Urhobo languages and effects of modernity and Pidgin English on Urhobo language respectively, did not consider clippings and blends in both languages. The topicality of this article, therefore, is that it takes a critical look at clips and blends/portmanteaux in both English and Urhobo languages, and making a comparative analysis of these aspects of word formation in both languages.

There have been calls by language scholars and linguists for more research into minority languages to ensure that they are accorded more recognition and to design means to ensure their survival. Urhobo language happens to be one of the minority languages in Delta State in Nigeria. A comparative study of morphological

mutations, especially clippings, and blends/portmanteaux in both English and Urhobo languages is a novel area that would provide documented data that could be accessed by other scholars or linguists who may be interested in researching into modern trends in language dynamism and evolution or alterations in linguistic patterns. Some researches on the effects of English loan words, modernity and Pidgin English on Urhobo language (Onose, 2009; Ugorji, 2013; Tonukari, Ejobee, Aleh, & Orjinta 2014) have been delved into. Akpojisheri & Ekpe (2016) have also done a comparative study of negation in English and Urhobo while Aziza and Utulu (2018) have researched into compounding in Ewulu and Urhobo languages. These studies have touched on features of the Urhobo language and its interaction with the English language to some extent, but have not investigated morphological mutations in both languages in the aspects treated here.

Clarification of Terms

The terms used in this study are clarified as follows: **Morphological Mutations**; this describes the changes that take place in the form of words as a result of new word formations, reduction or joining of different words to achieve particular effects or for the expression of new meanings. **Clipping**; this is the process of cutting some parts of a word in order to produce a shorter version or form of such words. **Blends/Portmanteaux**; these are combination of parts of words that form news words for the expression of new ideas, concepts or experiences.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework that guides this research is Relevance Theory. According to Nordquist (2020), this theory initially proposed by Dan Sperber and Deirdre Wilson is applied in cognitive and pragmatic linguistics. It appeared first in a seminal book published in 1986 and revised in 1995. As the name implies, the theory is borne out of decoders' anticipation that utterances from encoders should convey messages that are relevant and worthy of the effort that they put into the communication process. The theory presupposes that the receivers of encoded messages should understand them based on their abilities and preferences. This means that utterances should be easy to comprehend, not just for the contents, but encoders should take into consideration the communicative skills of receivers.

Wilson (2014) also emphasises that Relevance Theory also presupposes that the decoder has to comprehend the communicator's message based on literal, non-verbal cues and real-world knowledge. This means that inferences should be drawn from ideas and information

plainly stated – explicature; and those that are implied – implicature. This theory is relevant to this article because of its emphasis on the cognitive and pragmatic aspects of communication. Communication is effective only if the encoder and decoder are on the same page and there is mutual understanding of communication codes. Hence, processes of word formation through morphological mutations, whether they are clippings or blends/portmanteaux should be understood by all in a community to make for ease in communication and pragmatic language use.

Methodology

The exploratory, descriptive, quantitative and comparative research methods were adopted in this study. This was done through an explorative search for data on clips and blends in both English and Urhobo languages. The data collected were categorised and quantified for ease of description for each of the two languages; after which a comparative analysis of the clips and blends in both languages was done to determine patterns of similarity and differences. The data for this work was collected from primary sources (through interviews); and secondary sources – library and extensive internet search (Wikipedia, Google, internet sites and blogs). The interviews were done through interactions with native speakers of Urhobo. It was discovered that there are many anglicised Urhobo words to accommodate emerging new technologies and experiences (*ibredi*, for bread; *iboro*, for ball; *ifotografa* for photographer and so on) but such anglicised forms were excluded from this work.

Clips and their Types

The postmodern age is characterised by speed and brevity and this robs off not only on how things are done, but also on how language is expressed. Jamet (2009) sees clipping as trimming off, deleting parts of lexemes while retaining their original meanings and usage. According to White (2015), the high frequency of usage of clips depends on the discourse context; which are more often informal. Clippings could be in form of, phonemic respellings – e.g. every1 (everyone) phonic respellings – e.g. 'cos (because), acronyms –e.g. WAEC (West African Examinations Council), initialisms – e.g. BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) which makes language more simplified for better efficiency in communication. The main form of clippings according to scholars (Yousefi, 2009; Jamet, 2009; Yule, 2010; and White, 2015) are about four: apocopation (also called back clipping) in which the back part of the word is cut as in: ad for advertisement and exam for examination; aphaeresis (also called fore-clipping) where the front part of the word

is clipped, such as: phone for telephone, gator for alligator; and syncope (also called middle clipping). Examples of syncope are flu for influenza and fridge for refrigerator. In the English form the median clips have their middle forms retained. However, from the samples gathered in this study, there are no examples (in Urhobo) of where the words have only their middle forms retained; but there are many with their middle forms clipped in Urhobo and for the purpose of clarity the ones with their middle forms clipped among the Urhobo words will be called median clips. The ones with their middle forms retained in English will be called syncope clips. Complex clipping is clipping of a source and retaining the other source, such as in cablegram – cable telegram, op art - optical art; org-man – organisation man; linocut – linoleum –cut.

The postmodern age is characterised by quick fixes, and instants – instant foods, photos and so on. In like manner, in order to hasten communication and to make expressions trendier and make people feel a sense of classiness, some words are shortened. With time they gain acceptance and even get registered into dictionaries. These are called clips in the English language. According to Yule (2010), some of these clips called hypocorisms, are reduced forms which are long words that are reduced to monosyllables with –y or –ie added to the end. Thus, moving pictures becomes "movies," television – "telly" and bookmaker – "bookie." They are different from portmanteaux or blends because they are just words with some of their parts cut and not amalgams like the blends.The argument in favour of clips especially as it pertains to names (like Liz, Ron, Jowho, K¹vw¹) is that it makes them trendier, and the reduction of polysyllabic words like cellular phone to cell, burger for hamburger makes for simplification and less complexity in utterance (Hamans, 1997).

The following are some of the English language clips.

Table 1: Clips in English Language

	Full Word	Clip	Type of clipping
1.	Gasoline	Gas	Back/Apocopation
2.	Mathematics	Math	Back/Apocopation
3.	Doctor	Doc	Back/Apocopation
4.	Tablet	Tab	Back/Apocopation
5.	Professor	Prof	Back/Apocopation
6.	Laboratory	Lab	Back/Apocopation
7.	Brassiere	Bra	Back/Apocopation

8.	Representative	Rep	Back/Apocopation
9.	Memorandum	Memo	Back/Apocopation
10.	Advertisement	Ad	Back/Apocopation
11.	Examination	Exam	Back/Apocopation
12.	Photograph	Photo	Back/Apocopation
13.	Dormitory	Dorm	Back/Apocopation
14.	Condominium	Condo	Back/Apocopation
15.	Fanatic	Fan	Back/Apocopation
16.	Cabriolet	Cab	Back/Apocopation
17.	Gymnastics/Gymnasium	Gym	Back/Apocopation
18.	Mummy	Mum	Back/Apocopation
19.	Chemistry	Chem.	Back/Apocopation
20.	Polytechnic	Poly	Back/Apocopation
21.	Muttonhead	Mutt	Complex Apocopation
22.	Popular concert (traditional jazz)	Pop	Complex Apocopation
23.	Public house	Pub	Complex Apocopation
24.	Permanent wave	Perm	Complex Apocopation
25.	Facsimile	Fax	Complex Apocopation
26.	Typographical error	Typo	Complex Apocopation
27.	Middle	Mid	Back/Apocopation
28.	Electrolytes	Lytes	Front/Aphaeresis
29.	Telephone	Phone	Front/Aphaeresis
30.	University	Varsity	Front/Aphaeresis
31.	Parachute	Chute	Front/Aphaeresis
32.	Alligator	Gator	Front/Aphaeresis
33.	Cockroach	Roach	Front/Aphaeresis
34.	Pyjamas	Jams	Front/Aphaeresis
35.	Robot	Bot	Front/Aphaeresis
36.	Aeroplane	Plane	Front/Aphaeresis
37.	Turnpike	Pike	Front/Aphaeresis
38.	Influenza	Flu	Syncope
39.	Detective	Tec	Syncope
40.	Refrigerator	Fridge	Syncope

41.	Apollinaris	Polly	Syncope
42.	Headshrinker	Shrink	Complex syncope
43.	Chemistry panel	Chem. panel	Complex
44.	Physical education	Phys-ed	Complex
45.	Political science	Poly sci	Complex
46.	Television	Telly	Hypocorism
47.	Moving pictures	Movie	Hypocorism
48.	Barbecue	Barbie	Hypocorism
49.	Handkerchief	Hankie	Hypocorism
50.	Bookmaker	Bookie	Hypocorism
51.	Australian	Aussie	Hypocorism
52.	Breakfast	Brekky	Hypocorism

Table 2:Clips in Urhobo Language

Full Word	Clip	Type of Clipping
1. Ọsẹmẹr'ode	Ọsẹode	Median
2. Ejaiyinfe	Ejaife	Median
3. Uwevwinrẹga	Uwẹnga	Median
4. Ọyọnrọmọ	Ọyọnmọ	Median
5. Ọyọnrigho	Ọyọngho	Median
6. Ẹdẹ-reki	Ẹdẹki	Median
7. Ẹdẹ-iruo	Ẹdiruo	Median
8. Uwevwinrewviẹ	Uwenvwiẹ	Median
9. Amẹnrisagwẹ	Amisagwẹ	Median
10. Amẹnribi	Amibi	Median
11. Owoevri	Owevri	Median
12. Ọmọrudo	Ọmudo	Median
13. Okọrọdjẹvwenu	Okọenu	Median
14. Igho-ọyowho	Ighowho	Median
15. Adaigho-ọyefua	Adaighofua	Median
16. Ọnanaọvwẹn/Ọnanaọmẹ	Ọnovwẹn/Ọnomẹ	Median
17. Ekan-akpọ-ọyanmrẹn	Ekankpọamrẹn	Median
18. Ẹberitaba	Ẹbitaba	Median
19. Ughiẹrẹvwẹn	Ughiẹvwẹn/Jẹrẹmi	Median
20. Akpọrobọmen	Akpobọmen	Median
21. Akpọnanavwoba-a-a	Akpọvwoba-a	Median
22. Ughie-ivẹ/Uje-ivẹ	Ughiuvẹ/Ujuvẹ	Complex Median
23. Ọmọtẹ	Mọtẹ	Front/Aphaeresis
24. Ọdanfe	Dafe	Front/Aphaeresis
25. Ibrigho	Brigho	Front/Aphaeresis
26. Ọghẹnẹkẹvwẹ	Kẹvwẹ	Front/Aphaeresis
27. Ọghẹnẹyinvwẹdẹ	Vwẹdẹ	Front/Aphaeresis
28. Ọmọphran	Ọphran	Front/Aphaeresis
29. Umukoro	Mukoro/Koro	Front/Aphaeresis
30. Owho-rọdilolo	Ọdilolo	Front/Aphaeresis
31. Owho-rokiriagbara	Okiriagbara	Front/Aphaeresis
32. Ọmọtẹjowho	Jowho	Front/Aphaeresis
33. Owho-rorhuarọ	Orhuẹro	Front/Aphaeresis
34. Owho-rokranbọ	Okranbọ	Front/Aphaeresis
35. Ọghẹnẹ-egwuọlọ (Ẹgwuọlọ-Ọghẹnẹ)	Ẹgwuọlọ	Aphaeresis (Back)
36. Owhoromuabọ	Omuabọ	Front/Aphaeresis
37. Ẹmẹghiarẹ	Aghiarẹ	Complex Aphaeresis
38. Ebe-avwomuehun	Umuehun	Complex Aphaeresis
39. Ọghẹnẹyoma	Oyoma	Complex Aphaeresis
40. Owhoroyorhon	Uyorhon	Complex Aphaeresis
41. Uhwokori	Kokori	Complex Aphaeresis
42. Eberavwọtsushovwin	Ọtsushovwin	Complex
43. Ikwegbọ-ọvo	Ukwọvo	Complex
44. Ikwegbiyorin	Ikwiorin	Complex
45. Owowiyẹrẹn	Owowo	Complex
46. Eshare-ighwurẹ	Shaighwurẹ	Complex
47. Ọghẹnẹ-avwẹroso/Owho-avwẹroso	Avwẹrosuọ	Complex
48. Taphrun-meketa	Tameta	Complex
49. Urhie-aphẹlẹ	Sapẹlẹ	Complex
50. Ọrọphia-phrontọ	Afin-otọ	Complex

Analysis of the Foregoing Clips

One hundred and two clips were studied. Fifty-two were English clips while fifty were taken from the Urhobo language. The English clips occurred in the following order: Back clips, also called apocopation were twenty (38.5%); Complex back clips (containing compound words) were seven (13.5%); Fore-clips (aphaeresis) were ten (19%) and syncope clips (words with their middle forms retained) were five (9.7%); Complex clips were three (5.8%) and hypocorisms were seven (13.5)%. The Urhobo clips had the following pattern: The median clips (words with the middle parts cut) were 22 (44%). Front clips (aphaeresis) were 14 (28%); Complex fore-clips were 5 (10%); and Complex clips were 9 (18%).

From the presented data in Tables 1 and 2, it was discovered that while there were 38.5% of back clips + 13.5% complex back clips, amounting to 52% of back clips alone in English; the Urhobo language presented no back clip. However, the Urhobo language had 44% median clips (words with the middle parts cut) while the 9.7% in English were syncope – those with their middle forms retained. Complex clips in English formed 5.8%, while that of Urhobo amounted to 10%. Fore-clips (aphaeresis) were 19% in English while in Urhobo they formed 28% + 10% (complex fore-clips) = 38%, doubling the quantity of English samples. It can be concluded that while the English language has more than half of its samples as back clips the Urhobo has no back clips but presents close to half of the accessed sample (44%) as median clips (words with their middle forms cut).

The complex clips were few in both languages 5.8% in English and 10% in Urhobo. There were no hypocorisms in Urhobo while English presented 13.5% hypocorisms. From this report, therefore, it could be stated that while the English has back clips (52%) and fore-clips (19%) as its two most frequenting occurring types of clips; the Urhobo has the most frequent occurring as the median clips (words with their middle forms cut) (44%) and the fore-clip 38% as the next most frequent. The morpho-syntactic structure of many Urhobo words which are sentence-like necessitates clipping such words particularly at the middle and creating blends for simpler and more fluent expressions. This could account for it having more median than other clips as the core of such expressions lie at the beginning and end of such expressions. Many Urhobo personal names are fore-clipped as there is a mutual understanding of the omitted front part by both encoders and decoders.

The Nature and Essence of Blends

Blends form an aspect of word formation in which different words are clipped and amalgamated to form a word that expresses a meaning that originates from a combination of the clipped words. They are lexicalised abbreviations that are clipped from their source words. They are not complex lexemes because they are not morphologically related to a syntagma. Zahra (2010) and Mirzaie (2014) have pointed out that morphological mutations in English word formation processes have resulted in neologism. One of the major purposes of such coinages is to make communication easier and faster, to capture and be able to communicate new experiences, innovations in technology and human relations. Examples of such morphological mutations abound in literature, linguistics and popular culture and in branding and scientific language. There is, therefore, the need sometimes, for semantic transformation of old terms and synthesising and cognising them in order to reflect the fast-flowing new concepts and phenomena evolving in this epoch of intensive scientific implosions. Another function of portmanteaux is that they widen the scope of the language through the creativity involved in arriving at neologisms through melting and smelting of different words to form words with distinct meanings (Levchenko, 2010).

Types of Blends

There are different types of blends according to how they are structured in different languages. Mirzaie (2014) pointed out some common patterns of blends in English. Though some of these patterns are common to both English and Urhobo languages, there were others that were discovered to be present in English only and not found among the Urhobo blends. There were yet other patterns that were found among the Urhobo blends and not in English. For instance, there are blends that are formed from the first part of the first source word and the first part of the second. Examples are: internet and Britcom (pattern not found in Urhobo). The end parts of the source words could also form blends as in netizens and *idjighere*. The whole part of the first source word and the end part of the second is used in motorcade and carjack (pattern not found in Urhobo).

Sometimes, the beginning of the first source word is added to the whole of the second source word as can be seen in emoticon and *emese*. The beginning of the first source word and the end of the second is found in malware and *eranwovwin*. The whole of the first source word could be merged with the beginning of the second as in retrospect. Blends that overlap were found in the two languages. Examples are carboxide, Hungarican, *ewanwo* and *ugw¹nga*. According

to Levchenko (2010), the import of clips and blends in languages, apart from serving the need for brevity or speed to effect efficient and fast communication is the need for paralinguistic restitution as a result of a lack of intonation and body language, especially in written language. There is also the need for phono-morphological approximation in speech and writing which is enabled by blends. Long and frequently used words and expressions are more often clipped than those that are only rarely used. In this article, we considered examples of morphological mutations that have resulted in neologisms and have found their way into the English language through clips, blends/portmanteaus.

Blends/Portmantaux in English Language
The following blends are classified according to the parts of the source words that are taken to form the blends. The following keys are used for ease of classification:

*(B+B) this is when the beginning of the first source word and the beginning of the second are joined.

*(B+E) occurs when the beginning of the first source word and the end of the second are joined.

*(E+E) occurs when the end of the first source word and the end of the second are merged.

*(B+W) means that the word is blended with the beginning of the first source word and the whole of the second.

*(W+E) means that the blending is with the whole of the first source word and the end of the second.

*(W+E=OV) occurs when the whole of the first source word and the end of the second are merged with an overlap in-between.

*(OV) means that there is a strong overlap of the blended words.

*(POV) means a perfect overlap where you can pronounce the two source words in the blend.

Table 3

Portmanteau Term	Source Words/Type	Meaning
1. Biopic	Biography + picture(B+B)	Motion pictures based on the lives of real; not fictional people
2. Internet	International/interconnected + network(B+B)	Global networks of computers
3. Netizen	Internet + citizen(E+E)	A person that often engages in internet activities
4. Webinar	Web + seminar (W+E)	A live presentation in real time where participants connect through the World Wide Web, by chat, video, or file-sharing
5. Weblog	Web + log (W+E)	Blog
6. Emoticon	Emotion + icon(B+W)	Emotions of a writer represented in graphic form
7. Malware	Malicious + software(B+E)	Computer programmes that are designed to damage or disable computer systems
8. E-dress	Email + address(B+E)	Email address
9. Motorcade	Motor + cavalcade (W+E)	Motor vehicles in procession
10. Electrocution	Electricity + execution (B+E)	Death by electricity
11. Hazmat	Hazardous + material(B+B)	Harmful material
12. Motel	Motor + hotel(W+E =OV)	Hotel with easy access to the lodgers' automobiles
13. Carjack	Car + hijack(W+E)	Forceful stealing of a car from its owner
14. Smog	Smoke + fog(B+E)	Mixture of harmful particles and gases, causing air pollution
15. Vog	Volcanic +smog(B+E)	Pollution caused by substances, like sulphur dioxide, emitted from volcanoes
16. Gasohol	Gas + alcohol(W+E)	A product made from alcohol used like gasoline
17. Pregnesia	Pregnancy + amnesia(B+E)	A loss of short-term memory because of pregnancy
18. Ridonkulous	Ridiculous + donkey (OV)	Very ridiculous
19. Spork	Spoon + fork (B+E)	A hybrid cutlery functioning as a spoon and fork and

			sometimes having a part that functions as a knife
20.	Streetball	Street + basketball(W+E)	A variation of basketball played on outdoor courts
21.	Ebonics	Ebony + phonics(B+E=O)	A form of English spoken by people of the Black race
22.	Chinglish	Chinese + English(B+E=O)	A form of English spoken by Chinese people
23.	Spanglish	Spanish + English (B+E=O)	A hybrid language combining English and Spanish
24.	Franglais	French + Anglais(B+W)	A combination of French and English
25.	Scanlation	Scan + translation(W+E)	Scanning, translation and editing of comics from a language into another
26.	Bollywood	Bombay Hollywood(B+E=O)	The Indian/Hindi film industry at Mumbai
27.	Cineplex	Cinema + complex (B+E)	A cinema with multiple theatres
28.	Clapter	Clapping + laughter(B+E)	An audience in prolong clapping and laughter
29.	Simulcast	Simultaneous + broadcast(B+E)	A programme that is broadcast across more than one medium or service at the same time.
30.	Podcasting	iPod + broadcasting (E+E=O)	Using the internet to make digital recordings of broadcasts to be downloaded into a computer
31.	Cosplay	Costume + play(B+W)	To dress up to resemble a fictional character
32.	Faction	Fact + fiction(B+E=O)	A mixture of fact and fiction in a literary work
33.	Britcom	British + comedy(B+B)	A British comedy, especially a television series
34.	Sitcom	Situation + Comedy(B+B)	A comedy TV programme with a storyline based around a particular humorous situation
35.	Infomercial	Information + commercial(B+E=O)	A TV programme that promotes a product by providing information about it
36.	Telethon	Television + marathon (B+E)	A long television programme

37.	Docusoap	Documentary + soap opera(B+B)	A hybrid drama, following the lives of real people
38.	Edutainment	Education + entertainment(B+E)	Games and other forms of entertainment that educate
39.	Cyberzine	Cyberspace + magazine(W+E)	A magazine published on the internet
40.	Three-peat	Three + repeat (W+E=O)	A third consecutive victory
41.	Oxbridge	Oxford + Cambridge (B+E)	A term used to describe both Oxford and Cambridge
42.	Dumbfounded	Dumb + confounded (W+E)	To be so confused that one is left speechless
43.	Chillax	Chill + relax (W+E)	To calm down or rest
44.	Snough	Sneeze + cough (B+E)	To sneeze and cough simultaneously
45.	Guesstimate	Guess + estimate (POV)	To estimate without sure facts and figures
46.	Chortle	Chuckle + snort (OV)	A joyful laugh sounding like a snorting chuckle
47.	Wordrobe	Word + wardrobe(POV)	The collection of words a person makes use of (vocabulary)
48.	Flare	Flame + glare (B+E=O)	Sudden burst of bright flame or light
49.	Stagflation	Stagnation + inflation (B+E=O)	A persistent inflation and unemployment accompanied by stagnant demand
50.	Bionic	Biology + electronics (B+E)	Designing electronics based on biological systems
51.	Animatronic	Animate + electronics (W+E)	Robots made to look like animals
52.	Cyborg	Cybernetic + organism (B+B)	A creature who is part organic but physiologically enhanced by mechanical elements
53.	Brunch	Breakfast + lunch(B+E)	A meal taken later than breakfast time but earlier than lunch
54.	Frankenfood	Frakenstein + food (B+W)	Genetically modified food
55.	Turducken	Turkey + duck + chicken(OV)	A dish comprising a deboned turkey stuffed with a deboned duck that has been stuffed with a small deboned chicken
56.	Hangry	Hungry + angry (B+W=O)	Hunger induced anger

57.	Chunnel	Channel + tunnel (B+E=O)	The Channel Tunnel that runs between the UK and France
58.	Chocoholic	Chocolate + alcoholic (B+E=O)	A person who eats too much chocolate
59.	Workaholic	Work + alcoholic(W+E)	One who feels compelled to work excessively
60.	Shopaholic	Shop + alcoholic (W+E)	A person who is addicted to shopping and buying things
61.	Vidiot	Video + idiot (POV)	One who habitually and indiscriminately watches TV or videotapes
62.	Prissy	Prim + sissy(B+E=O)	A well-mannered person who is sometimes seen to being excessively so
63.	Laysense	Layman + sense (B+W)	The common usage of a word
64.	Flexitarian	Flexible + vegetarian(B+E)	A vegetarian who sometimes eat meat
65.	Televangelist	Television+evangelist (B+W=O)	Preacher on TV
66.	Telecast	Television + broadcast(B+E)	A television programme
67.	Feminazi	Feminist + Nazi (B+W)	Extreme feminist
68.	Shero	She + hero (POV)	A woman admired for her courage, noble qualities and outstanding achievements
69.	Frenemy	Friend + enemy(B+W=O)	A supposed friend whose actions portray that he/she is an enemy
70.	Administrivia	Administrative + trivia(B+ W=O)	Unexciting administration activities
71.	Interpol	International + police (B+B)	An international organi-sation facilitating police cooperation
72.	Retrospect	Retro + spectacle (W+B)	Ruminating over/backward look at a past awesome event
73.	Brexit	British + exit (B+W)	The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union

Blends/Portmantaux in Urhobo Language

The following blends are classified according to the parts of the source words that are taken to form the blends. The following keys are used for ease of classification:

*(M+W) means that the blending is with a median or mixed clip of the first source word and the whole of the second.

*(M+W=O) means that the blending is with a median or mixed clip of the first source word and the whole of the second with an overlap within the blend.

*(E+W=O) means that the blend is done with the end of the first source word and the whole of the second with an overlap within the blend.

(E+W) means that the blending is with the end of the first source word and the whole of the second.

*(B+E=O) means that the blending is with the beginning of the first source word and the end of the second with an overlap within the blend.

*(B+E) means that the blend is achieved with the beginning of the first source word and the end of the second.

*(W+W) means that the whole of the first and second source words are merged to achieve the blend.

*(OV) means that there is an overlap in the mixing of the two source words.

*(POV) means that there is a perfect overlap of the two source words.

(E+E=O) means that the blending is with the end part of the first source word and the end of the second with an overlap within.

(E+E) means that the blending is with the end part of the first source word and the end of the second.

*(BW) means that the blend is with the beginning of the first source word and the whole of the second.

*(BW=O) means that the blend is achieved with the beginning of the first source word and the whole of the second with an overlap within.

Table 4

	Portmanteau Term	Source Word/Type	Meaning
1.	Obrẹdjọ	Owhorobrorhiẹn + ẹdjọ(M+W)	Owhorobrorhiẹn ẹdjọ
2.	Odjoko-otọ	Owhorọdjẹ + okoọtọ (M+W)	Owhorọdjo-okorotọ
3.	Oghinbi	Owhoroghiẹn + ibi (E+W=O)	Owhoroghinbi
4.	Iyẹnsiri	Iyẹnri + esiri (B+E=O)	Iyẹrin-esiri
5.	Obuẹbe	Ọbu + ẹbe (W+W)	Oburẹbe
6.	Oniọvo	Oni + ọvo (W+W)	Oniọvuọvo
7.	Odjuọdja	Odju + ọdja (W+W)	Ebe avwo duọdja
8.	Orẹsẹamẹn/Ogbehinamẹn	Orẹsẹ/Ogbehin + amẹn(W+W)	Orẹsẹ/Ogbehinoriẹ-evunramẹn
9.	Idjighere	Orọdjẹ + ughere (OV)	Orọdjẹ-evunrughere
10.	Ikwiorin	Ikwe + iyorin (B+E=O)	Ikwẹgbẹ-iyorin
11.	Emesẹ	Emọ + esẹ (B+W)	Emọrọsẹọvuovo
12.	Ọgbẹbe	Ọgba +ẹbe (B+W=O)	Ọgbarẹbe
13.	Oduvwinro	Owhoroduvwẹ + iro (E+W=O)	Owhororuiro
14.	Ishọshiọtayan	Ishọshi + atọta + yan (POV)	Ishọshi avwọtotayan
15.	Oriẹndan	Owho-ọriẹn + ẹdan (E+W)	Owho oriẹbe adan
16.	Okọrẹn	Oka + ọrẹn (B+W=O)	Oka ọphavwọrẹn
17.	Ogborere	Ogba + orere (B+W=O)	Ogba ọhevun orere
18.	Amiokribi (Amiotiẹn)	Amẹn + okribi/otiẹn (B+W)	Amẹn ohevun okribi/otien
19.	Oghẹrotọ	Owhooghẹrẹ + otọ (E+W=O)	Owhoroghẹrẹotọ
20.	Okọ-otọ	Okọ + otọ (W+W)	Okọ rọdjẹ-otọ
21.	Okọ-eshovwin/Okọ-enu	Okọ + Eshovwin /Enu (B+W=O)	Okọ rọdjẹ-eshovwin/enu
22.	Okọerharẹ	Okọ + erharẹ (B+W=O)	Okọerharẹọdjẹurhie
23.	Idjighere	Eberọdjẹ + ughere (E+E=O)	Eberọdjẹvwughere
24.	Idjighere-erharẹ	Eberọdjẹ + ughere + erharẹ(E+E+W=O)	Eberọdjẹvwughereve erharẹ
25.	Orẹsẹotọ	Orẹsẹ + otọ (W+W)	Orẹsẹ rọriotọ
26.	Orẹsẹamẹn	Orẹsẹ +amẹn (W+W)	Orẹsẹoriẹvunramẹn
27.	Osorọvwẹn	Osẹ + owho + merọvwọrẹn (POV)	Osẹrowho merọvwọnrẹn
28.	Oniorọvwẹn	Oni + owho + merọvwọrẹn (POV)	Onirowho merọvwọnrẹn
29.	Otuwovwin	Oto + Uwowvwin (B+W=O)	Ukpe iwho ria
30.	Oruisabatu	Owhorọrhuẹrẹ + esabatu (M+W)	Owhorọrhuẹrẹ-esabatu
31.	Obẹurhe	Ebe-ọbẹrẹ + Urhe (M+W)	Ebeavwọ bẹrẹ-urhe
32.	Ewanwọ	Ewun + awọ(POV)	Ewun ekwẹ phiawọ
33.	Uwvẹnga	Uwẹvwin + ẹga (POV)	Uwevwi avwọ goghẹnẹ
34.	Ogbindjede	Owhorọgbẹngbagbẹn + idjede(M+W=O)	Owhorọ gbodin vwidjede
35.	Amiedi	Amẹn + edi (E+W)	Amenrophrẹ-edi rhẹ
36.	Amisagwuẹ	Amẹn + isagwuẹ (B+W)	Amẹnrophrinsaguwẹ
37.	Amiukokodia	Amẹn + Ukokodia (B+W)	Amẹnrophrukokodia
38.	Amioviẹ	Amẹn + ovie (B+W)	Amẹnrophrinbiaro ayaviẹ
39.	Ekiasọn	Eki + asọn (W+W)	Ekiratwa vwasọn
40.	Obuepha	Ọbu + epha (W+W)	Oburọbepha
41.	Erankọn	Eravwẹn + akọn (B+E)	Eranwẹn ovwakọn họnran
42.	Eranwovwin	Eravwẹn + uwovwin (B+E)	Eranwẹn oriẹvun-uwovwin
43.	Ogbule	Ogba + Ule (B+W)	Owho oriẹolesua
44.	Omẹtọn	Owhoromẹ + ẹtọn (M+W)	Owhoromẹtọn
45.	Osiotọ	Eberosiẹ + otọ (E+W=O)	Eberosiẹvwotọ (Ushohọrẹ)
46.	Ọmovie	Ọmo + ovie (W+W)	Ọmo ovievwiẹrẹ
47.	Ẹdidje	Odẹ + idje (M+W)	Odẹrije
48.	Udjokẹrẹ	Eberọdjẹ + Okẹrẹ (M+W)	Eberọdjokẹrẹ
49.	Epkotiughe	Ekpoti + Ughe (W+W)	Ekpoti-awvọmrughe
50.	Odiọba	Odin + ọba (B+W)	Odinrọba
51.	Urhiẹphrun	Urhie + ẹphrun (W+W)	Urhierẹphrun

Data Analysis

One hundred and twenty-four blends/portmanteaux were studied. Seventy-three were English portmanteaux while fifty-one were taken from the Urhobo language. The English portmanteaux occurred in the following order: Blending of beginning of the source words (BB) were 9 (12.4%); the ones with end of the source words (EE) were two (2.8%); whole first source followed by end of the other (WE) were fourteen (19.1%); beginning of first source added to the whole of the second (BW) were ten (13.7%); the beginning of the first source added to the end of the second (BE) were thirty (41%); those that overlapped (OV+POV) were seven, including four perfect overlaps (9.6)%; the whole of the first source followed by the beginning of the second (WB) was one (1.4%). The Urhobo blends/portmanteaux had the following patterns: The ones with median clips from the first source word blended with the whole of the second source (MW) were 8 (15.7%). The pattern with the end of first source words merged with the whole of the second part (with many having overlaps) (WE=O) were 6 (11.8%). The pattern with the beginning of first source words merged with the end of the second part (with many having overlaps) (BE=O) were 4 (7.9%). Those with the beginning of first source words merged with the whole of the second part (with some having overlaps) (BW=O) were 13 (25.5%). Those that generally overlapped (OV) + perfect overlaps (POV) were 6 (11.8). One had the end of source words blended and overlapping (EE=O) (1.9%). One other also had end of the first two source words clipped with the whole of the third part, with overlaps within (EEW=O) (1.9%).

From the presented data in Tables 3 and 4, it was discovered that the Urhobo language has a more varied spread of blend patterns with those with the beginning of first source words merged with the whole of the second part (with some having overlaps) (BW=O) having (25.5%) followed by the ones with median clips from the first source word blended with the whole of the second source (MW) at (15.7%) and those with the end of first source words merged with the whole of the second part (with many having overlaps) (WE=O) at (11.8%). The least at 1% each were those with (EE=O) and (EEW=O) patterns. The English blends have a clear leading pattern with those beginning of the first source added to the end of the second (BE) having (41%); the two closest were (WE) having (19.1%) and (BW) (13.7%). It can be concluded that while the English language has the most (BE) (41%) blend patterns, the Urhobo has the most (BW) with (25.5%).

As nations garner new experiences and engage in new technologies, new words are created to capture experiences and technologies. Neologisms in the forms of clippings and blends/

portmanteaux are major tools by which languages manifest dynamism or evolution in linguistic patterns. A research into how such clippings and blends/portmanteaux manifest in English and the Urhobo languages adds to the corpus of researches with data made available for further linguistic analyses. A close examination of morphological mutations appearing in the forms of clips and blends/portmanteaux also presents a historical perspective of how languages continue to be stretched and creatively applied to extend or increase vocabulary for the expression of novel experiences or to address new phenomena. This paper is informative, in that it compares how these mutations influence word choices and expression in the two languages. Again, a minority language such as Urhobo needs more frequent and rigorous research to enable it achieve essential recognition and study that will prevent its extinction.

Conclusion

This work has delved into the study of morphological mutations in the aspects of clips and blends/portmanteaux in both English and Urhobo languages. Several reasons were adduced by scholars for the use of these clips and blends, some of which are the need for new words to express new experiences in the face of implosions in scientific and technological discoveries and globalisation. The main source of data for the Urhobo clips and blends were interviews with knowledgeable native speakers of Urhobo language, while data on the English forms were retrieved through library and internet search. Though the languages had different patterns of both clips and blends, there were also certainly (though not at equal percentages) some same patterns between the two languages.

References

Akpojisheri, M. O. & Ekpe, S. I. (2016). Aspects of the negation systems of English and Urhobo: A contrastive inquiry. *Annals of Humanities & Development Studies, 7*(1), 1-14.

Aziza, R. O. & Utulu, D. C. (2018). Compounding in Ewulu and Urhobo. *International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Studies, 5*(3), 24-30.

Bieswanger, M. (2007). 2 abbrevi8 or not 2 abbrevi8: A constrastive analysis of different stortening strategies in English and German text messages. *Texas Linguistic Forum 50*.

Retrieved from *http://studentorgs.utexas.edu/salsa/proceedings/2006/Bieswanger.pdf.*

The English online DictionaryVappingo (2020). Word blog. Generate press.

Giyatmi, Wijayava, R., & Arumi, S. (2017). English blends found in social media. *Junal Arbitrer*, *4*(2), 65-75.

Hamans, C. (1997). Clippings in modern French, English, German and Dutch. In R. Hickey, & S. Puppel (Eds.), *Language history and linguistic modelling* (pp.1733-1741)*.* Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Jamet, D. (2009). A morphological approach to clipping in English.*Journal of English Lexicology.* Open edition. Retrieved from *http://journals.open edition.org/lexis/884*

Levchenko, Y. (2010). Neologism in the lexical system of modern English. Master's thesis. Grin Publishing GmbH. Retrieved from *https://m.grin.com.*

Mirzaie, N. (2014). New blends in English language. *International Journal of English Language and Linguistic Research*, 2, 15-26.

Nordquist, R. (2020). What is relevance theory in terms of communication? Retrieved from thoughtco.com/relevance-theory-communication-1691907

Onose, I. J. (2009). Urhobo and English on the path of modernization in Nigeria. *International Journal of Creativity and Technical Development, 1*, 1-3.

Orie, O. O. (2005). Borrowed affixes in Yoruba. In F. O. Arasanyi & M. A. Pemberton (Eds.), *Selected proceedings of the 36th annual conference proceedings of African linguistics* (pp.155-160). Somerville: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. Retrieved from *www.lingref.com.document.*

Orjinmo, N. (2020). War of words as Nigerian English recognised by Oxford English Dictionary. 1st March, 2020. Retrieved from BBC News bbc.com.

Sanchez, A. B. (2017). Salience factors determining natural metonymic clippings illustrated through the medical lexicon. *Iberica*, *34*, 17-44.

Tonukari, U. E., Ejobee, L., Aleh, E. & Orjinta, A. I. (2014). Effects of modernity on African languages: A review of Naija and Urhobo languages in Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Humanities and Social Studies, 2*(1), 100-108.

Ugorji, C. U. C. (2013). Phonology of English loan words in Urhobo Corpus. In A. T. Akande &

R. Taiwo (Eds.), *Contact linguistics in Africa and beyond* (pp.182-196). New York: Nova Science Publishers Inc.

Utulu, D. C. (2017). The realisation of English dental fricatives and palate-alveolar affricates in educated Urhobo English: A statistical analysis. *OBITUN: Journal of the Humanities, 8*, 156-166.

Utulu, D. C. (2019). Some unique phonological features of spoken Urhobo English. *European Journal of Literature, Language and Linguistics Studies, 3*(3), 31-47.

Wagner, M. (2010). Word formation processes. How new words develop in the English language. *LING 301. Lexical Semantics.* Ms Kraft, 3-8.

White, J. R. (2014). Standardisation of reduced forms in English in an academic community of practice. *Pragmatics and Society*, *5*(1).

White, J. R. (2015). Processes of Variation in language economisation. *Ampersand, 2*, 72-82.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amper.2015.06001.

Wilson, D. (2014). Relevance theory. In Y. Huang(ed.), *Oxford handbook of pragmatics*(pp. 1-25). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Yousefi, M. (2009). Word formation processes in English. Retrieved from *https://v.translationdirectory.com.*

Yuka, C & Adeniyi, H. (2012). Clippings as a morphological process in Edo personal names. *Journal of Linguistic Studies (JoLS)*, 1-16.

Yule, G. (2010). A study of language. 4th edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Zahra (2010). Blending/portmanteau words. Retrieved from *Notes of a linguaphile* my-english-book.blogspot.com.