

Clitichood in Igbo Language: A Re-examination

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Abstract

The true nature of clitics in Igbo sometimes becomes challenging. This study subjects already identified clitics in Igbo to the test of clitichood using basic linguistic theory. Data for the study are restricted to secondary source which comprises published works on Igbo clitics. Typologically, there are simple and special clitics. Judging by the position of their attachment to hosts; there are proclitics, mesoclitics and enclitics. Their determined occurrence is not constrained by any phonological environment of their host. In situations where they co-occur with affixes, they are attached closer to the verb-root than the affixes. There sequence of four to five clitic clusters is possible in the Igbo language. The study supports the view that Igbo clitics can take prepositions as their host which some previous studies disagree with. Our findings show that classifying Igbo clitic types in accordance to whether they are positioned closer to the subject or object as subject clitic and object clitic (Anagbogu 2001) is quite misleading. Secondly, clitics in Igbo precede suffixes and that is the situation that accounts for the mesoclitics. The usage of 'kwa' as quantitative marker by Nweze (2011), does not comply with the characteristic nature of clitic. We therefore conclude that because a lexical item can function as a clitic does not mean that it can function as clitic in all situations.

Keywords: Igbo, clitichood, typology

1.1 Introduction

Clitic is derived from the Greek word *klitikos*; 'leaning', its root word is *klinein* 'to lean'. From the traditional grammar approach, clitic is defined as a 'little word', especially in reference to that which does not bear an independent accent and has to lean accentually on an adjacent word (Anderson, 2005). The hosts of clitics could be any word in the sentence; it attaches to. However, they influence the meaning of the words or sentences to which they lean. Various typologies of clitics exist, but having in mind that languages differ; it is pertinent that the clitics have varying ways of presentation. The study of clitics has been on for more than a hundred years and scholarly articles abound which serve as sources of inspiration that motivate more researches until this present day. Some works carried out on Igbo clitics identify the typology of Igbo clitics to include proclitics, enclitics and even mesoclitics.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The confusion in the identification of clitics in Igbo and their usage is what prompted this research. Despite the range of published works on clitics, a lot of challenges in the features of clitics still exist. In the Igbo language, various linguistic elements have been identified as clitics, their typologies, and possible places of attachment to hosts are illustrated in (Anagbogu 2001, Nweze 2009, Nweze & Obiamalu 2016, Egenti 2011, Nweze & Ikegwuonu 2012, Anyanwu 2012, Mbah et al 2012, Emenanjo 2015 and Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017).

Our objective is to clarify the status of existing clitics by recourse to basic linguistic theory for determining clitics. The outcome of this study provides guide materials for future scholars on other areas of research with regards to clitichood in Igbo. It would aid people that engage in the professional use of the Igbo language to effectively differentiate from these linguistic elements with less errors.

1.3 Methodology

This study is purely descriptive, hence qualitative in nature and anchors on basic linguistic theory. Secondary sources are used for data collection. Igbo as a tone language has three contrastive tones; high (´), downstep (˘) and low tone (ˋ). The high tones are left unmarked here in accordance with Green and Igwe's (1963) convention.

2.1 Literature Review

Clitic is a linguistic element with features that cut across the study of morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics and so on. The position of clitics in linguistic analysis provokes a lot of interest because of the features assigned to them. Sadock (1995) asserts that clitics are elements whose distribution linguists cannot comfortably assign to a single grammatical component. The concept of clitics according to Kari (2003) emanates as a problematic element in human languages because they are elements whose status, as words or affixes is not very clear. By this he means that they possess the qualities of words on one hand, because of their relative freedom. On the other hand, they exhibit the characteristics of affixes because they depend on hosts basically for phonological reason. According to him, clitics are 'hermaphroditic' in nature; this makes it hard to classify them purely as phonological, morphological or syntactic elements. Furthermore, there is a disagreement amongst linguists regarding the existence of endoclitics as some of the already identified endoclitics have been reanalyzed as morph metathesis, inflected clitics, in line with the general claim that clitics attach externally and never within a word.

Clitics unlike affixes enjoy a much larger freedom of attachment. This is evident in the fact that they can lean on more than one grammatical category as far as the host is located in the appropriate domain. They straddle between words and morphemes and between syntax and morphology; hence, the presence of clitics can be explained in terms of syntactic dependencies, though their position follows from morphological rules. There are clitics that can stand on their own while some are contractions of the full forms. These contracted forms still occupy the same position as their full forms in the syntactic structure of many languages. Pronominal clitics function as arguments in sentences where they occur in complementary distribution with overt subjects and objects (Zwicky 1977, Zwicky & Pullum 1983, Klavans 1995, Nevis 1989 and Anyanwu 2012).

Phonologically, clitics are adjoined to their host for the realization of their prosodic properties. They are phonological forms which could realize some grammatical elements, whose segmental content could be organized into syllables and possibly feet but not possible to be lexically assigned the status of phonological word (PWord). So, this also explains why clitics are dependent on other elements in the structure for its phonological status to be defined (Zwicky 1995, Kari 2003, Anderson 2005). The English auxiliary verbs as clitics have both their clitic and non-clitic forms (full forms). For instance;

1) She's going /ʃi:z gɔ:ɪŋ/

Here, /ʃi:/ is the subject of the sentence while /z/ is the verb, however, phonologically, the verb is dependent on the subject of the sentence. But considering the full form of the sentence;

2) She is going /ʃi: ɪz gɔ:ɪŋ/

The 's is the contracted form of the verb 'is'. Initially, it seems as if 's were a suffix that has been attached to the pronoun 'she', making it seem as if 's is the last part of 'she' phonologically. A careful analysis shows that 's is the main verb of the sentence. Gerlach & Gryzenhout (2000:1) regard clitics as weaker forms of the functional elements such as pronouns, question particles and so on. For instance;

3) He'll come tomorrow → he would come tomorrow

In Igbo clitics are not completely phonologically dependent because some tone-specific clitics can maintain their consistent tone pattern not minding their environment of occurrence, Mbah et al (2012).

Morphologically Clitics as elements are viewed as phrasal affixes which are attached to any word category that comes at the edge of a phrase. Their phenomenal feature is that they are reduced word forms which attach to the edge of a phrase. They are neither clearly independent words nor affixes but are morphemes that display actions that portray that they have a locus between words and morphemes. As dependent morphemes clitics may be found in clusters of two, three, four or five in some languages, however, this is dependent on the intended meaning of the sentence as expressed by the speaker (Katamba 1995, Mbah et al 2012). English auxiliaries and their reduced forms (phonologically reduced equivalents) function as clitics in some situations. These clitics maintain the position of the full forms in the sentence, which is usually the subject position. In most cases, they lean on the nouns and this is

not a position normally occupied by tense/aspect/mood as nouns do not inflect for such. These reduced forms are equally non-selective to their hosts as can be seen below;

- 4) The girl in there's singing.
- 5) The clothes she was washing's already dried.
- 6) The remaining money'd have been returned.
- 7) The student responsible've been caught. [cf: Spencer and Luís 2012]

The semantic nature of clitics serves different functions. The meanings they impose on their hosts vary from emphasis, ridicule, sarcasm, intensifiers, advice, frequency/repetition, additive, no longer, doubt/uncertainty, too and so on (Anagbogu 2001, Egenti 2011, Nweze & Ikegwuonu 2011, Mbah et al 2012, and Nweze & Obiamalu 2016).

Classification of clitics

Clitics are classified based on varying parameters. Zwicky (1977) distinguishes two of clitics types as simple and special. The clitics with regular syntax are the simple clitics whereas the other type with more idiosyncratic syntax is the special clitics. Simple clitics embrace the phonologically weak function words such as prepositions, auxiliary verbs, definite markers among others, and must be an attachment to the adjoining word for phonological accomplishment of clitics. Another classification of clitics is based on their grammatical function such as nominal, verbal, pronominal, adjectival, (ad/pre)positional and so on, in accordance with the grammatical category of the host on which the clitic is attached (Koshy, 2009). According to their position in sentences, some clitics occur at the initial word position, second position, penultimate position, as well as sentence final positions. However this varies with the language typology. Anagbogu (2001), Nweze (2010), Anyanwu (2012) and Emenanjo (2015) show the position of Igbo clitics to be at the subject/initial position, sentence final position, second position, and penultimate position.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This study is based on the operations of basic linguistics theory. This theoretical framework was developed by R. M. W. Dixon in 2010 and widely used in language description and linguistic typology. It operates by providing array of flexible, analytic framework in terms of which the grammar of each language can be formulated. This is possible because it makes available sets of grammatical categories and constructions types as well as varieties of interrelations between them, from which appropriate choices are made.

Applying basic linguistic analysis to the study of clitics, Dixon (2010:221) describes a clitic as a surface element part-way between a word and an affix in properties. He provides a list of clitic characteristics as follows:

- i) A clitic is a separate grammatical element, often to be regarded as a separate grammatical word. It cannot stand alone by implication it cannot make up a phonological word by itself. It must lean on a full word which is its host.
- ii) A clitic is generally 'added on' to its host and is unlikely to count as part of the word for purposed of stress assignment and phonological rule application.
- iii) A clitic is typically omni-locatable and can be added to any wide range of words (often to a word of any type)
- iv) Clitics do not enter into agreement with any word in a construction
- v) Clitic is added after derivational and inflectional processes are completed so that a proclitic precedes the first prefix and an enclitic follows the last suffix.

2.3 Empirical Review

Anagbogu (2001), in his categorization of clitics proposes that there are two types (proclitics and enclitics) in Igbo. The proclitics are subject clitics because they occur between the subject and the verb; whereas the enclitic which he refers as the object clitics are positioned between the main verb and the sentence final position as shown below;

- 8) Onye kwa kà ọ bù?
 Who Cl that 3sg be
 ‘Who exactly is he?’

-kwa as subject clitic (proclitic) is positioned after the subject before the verb.

Mbah et al (2012) in the study of the phonology of Igbo Morpho-syntactic clitics Igbo clitics observe that the majority of clitics have identical segmental shape. Many of them have CV structure while the rest have CVV and CCVV structure. Prosodically, some do not depend on the tone patterns of their hosts rather they maintain their own tonal patterns and this gives rise to tone-specific, tone-dependent and Obligatory Contour Principle (OCP) compliant clitics. Igbo clitics are not completely phonologically dependent because some tone-specific clitics can maintain their consistent tone pattern not minding their environment of occurrence.

- 9) Kèdù fù òke ka mmā ?
 Wh- Cl that pass beauty
 ‘Which one is even better?’ [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 186]
- 10) Ònye – zì kà ì kpòrò
 Who CL that 2sg call Pst
 ‘who then did you call?’ (enclitic) [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 179, 180]

Clitic clusters may occur in sequence or in alternation with words in a sentence. These are dependent on the intended meaning of the sentence as expressed by the speaker. They have the possibility of occurring in clusters of two, three, four and sometimes five. It is usually used to mark emphatic expressions as can be seen (11).

- 11) Kèdù – zì – nnọọ – kwa – zì ihe m mètè gị.
 What - CL – CL – CL - CL thing 1sg do pst 2sg [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 181]
 ‘What then really have I done to you again?’

In order to establish the clitics status of the PSCs in Igbo, Anyanwu (2012) shows instances where the substantive pronouns can occur which the PSCs cannot function as below;

i) *Pronouns in relation to preposition*

The ‘e/a’ cannot be preceded by prepositions in the Igbo language but this is not so for the substantive personal pronouns. An instance is shown by the data below

- 12) Ọ bù nà gị/ya kà Àda dàbèrè
 It be Prep 2sg/3sg that Ada lean-on-Pst benefactive
 ‘It is on you/him(her) that Ada relies’/ ‘Ada relies on you/him’
- 13) *Ọ bù n’ a kà Àda dàbèrè
 It be Prep CL that Ada lean-on-pst benefactive [cf: Anyanwu 2012: 379]

ii) *Pronouns and enclitics (such as –kwa and –nu)*

The substantive pronouns can co-occur with enclitics such as –kwa and –nu but the impersonal pronouns ‘e/a’ cannot function in such situations as below;

- 14) Mụ –kwa/nu ‘I certainly’
 * e – kwa/nu
- 15) Gị – kwa/nu ‘You (sg) certainly’
 *a – kwa/nu [cf: Anyanwu 2012: 379]

On enclitics in the Igbo language Udemmadu & Anidobe (2017) observe that prepositions can also host enclitics contrary to what previous scholars have identified. Semantically they also impose additional meanings of emphasis, inclusion and surprise to sentences as shown by *-du*, and *-cha*.

- 16) Ha bìàrà gbàsara nnọò okwu ahụ
 3pl come-pst prep-Cl talk Dem
 ‘They came because of the matter’ [Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017: 8]

- 17) Ònye – dụ tùrù gì òkwutē?
 Wh- Cl throw-Pst 2sg stone
 ‘Who was that that threw stone on you?’ [cf: Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:7]
- 18) Ndị à -cha bù nke ya
 Pl. Dem-Cl be Poss 3sg
 ‘All these are his’ [cf: Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:11]

In the study of the pronominal clitics in Igbo, Anyanwu (2012:378) shows that the dependent short and weak pronouns belong to the special clitics because they occur in a special position which is the subject position before the verbal elements as proclitics in (19 – 21).

- 19) I rì-rì nri
 2sg CL eat-Pst food
 ‘you ate food’
- 20) E - rì-rì nri
 Some person(s) CL eat-Pst food
 ‘some person(s) ate food’
- 21) O - tàrà anụ
 3sg CL chew-Pst meat
 ‘s/he ate some meat’ [Anyanwu 2012: 378]

(Kari 2003) in his study distinguishing between clitics and words in Degema, states that proclitics attach to the left of the verbs and auxiliaries whereas endoclitics attach to the right of the verbs and pronouns. For Degema, enclitics play vital role in the expression of different tense/aspect meanings. Therefore they are not restricted in their co-occurrence with other words that are adjacent to them.

- 22) mó = kpén ísama
 3sgPCL = wash shirts
 ‘S/he washes shirts’
- 23) mǐ = kó jí ə
 1sgPCL = EPAU come CM
 ‘I did come’
- 24) ɔ = kó mé = éń
 3sgPCL = give me = FE
 ‘S/he gave me’
- 25) á = jí = munu
 2plCL = come DE
 ‘you (pl.) are not coming again’
- 26) kú me aní
 give me = RE
 ‘please give me’ [cf: Kari 2003:91, 93, 96]

2.4 List of identified clitics in Igbo

A comprehensive list of Igbo clitics from many dialects and used in most of the works consulted are as presented below:

- i) Cha/che - optional pluralization/quantity marker ‘all’, ‘totality’, ‘, in addition’ indicates scorn. [Emenanjo 2015:138]
- ii) Dụ/(da, dī, dọ) – optional interrogative marker/ indicates scorn. [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
- iii) Fụ - now. [Emenanjo 2015:138]
- iv) Ga (gba/gbe, sa, ta, za) – all, totality. [Emenanjo 2015:138]
- v) Ga – optional plural marker [Mbah et al 2012:178]
- vi) kọ (dī, ra, tų) – also [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
- vii) kwa (kwọ, kọ) – also, too, in addition to, denoting repetition or emphasis [Emenanjo 2015:138] [Mbah et al 2012:178]

- viii) kwu - also, in addition to something else [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - ix) kpa - frequently/ shows finality, no to be argued [Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - x) li - actually, already [Emenanjo 2015:138]
 - xi) lili – really [Emenanjo 2015:138]
 - xii) n̄i - really [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xiii) n̄o/n̄o - really, quite [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xiv) n̄u - please, indicates politeness or mild request [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xv) n̄u - optional polite 2nd person plural marker [Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xvi) nwa – emphatic utterance marking ‘very’, ‘self’ [Emenanjo 2015:138]
 - xvii) nwa – emphatic pronominal or nominal phrase marker ‘very self’ [Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xviii) ozo - in addition [Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xix) ra – also [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xx) ri/li - really [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xxi) ri (li) - since already [Emenanjo 2015:138]
 - xxii) se - interrogative marker requesting confirmation [Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xxiii) si (sa, shi, su, ri) – optional pluralization/quantity marker ‘all’ (with overtones of distributiveness) [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xxiv) te - also, too, even [Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xxv) tu - indicates polite request [Emenanjo 2015:138]
 - xxvi) zi/zi (1) – also, too, again, then [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xxvii) zi/zi (2) – after, afterwards, now, after something else, eventually [Emenanjo 2015:138, Mbah et al 2012:178]
 - xxviii) i/i
 - xxix) o/o
 - xxx) a/e
- } dependent/non-substantive/pronominal subject clitics
 [Anyanwu 2012:377]

3.0 Data Analysis

For the analysis of the data, we describe all the clitics above with the characterization enumerated by Dixon (2010).

Cha/che

- 27) Àda nà Chike bù-cha ndi katolikì.
 Ada conj Chike be-Cl pl. catholic
 ‘Ada and Chike are all catholics’
- 28) Ndi à bià -chà - rà òriri
 Pl. Dem-Cl-Pst feast
 ‘All these came to the feasting’ [cf: Nweze and Obiamalu 2016: 100]
- 29) Ndi à -cha bù nke ya
 Pl. Dem-Cl be poss 3sg
 ‘All these are his’
- 30) Àto -cha di n’ ime ya
 Num –Cl be prep inside 3sg
 ‘As many as three are inside it’ [Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017: 11]

From the data (27-30) -cha has no inherent tone; rather its tone is determined by the preceding segments. In the available data it is non-selective of its host, and occurs nearer to the root than the suffix. The meaning implication of the clitic as used above is inclusion or addition.

Du/(da, di, do)

- 31) Ònye – du gà èje?
 Wh- Cl Aux pref-go
 ‘Who is it that will go?’ [cf: Nweze 2010: 64]

- 32) Ì mà -dì?
 2PCI know CI
 ‘Do you know?’ [cf: Mbah et al: 2012: 184]
- 33) Ònye – dù tùrù gí òkwutē?
 Wh- CI throw-Pst 2sg stone
 ‘Who was that that threw stone on you?’ [cf: Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017: 7]

Du/di in (31-33) depends on their host for their tone determination. It can be attached to different linguistic categories and take different positions in the sentence. In (32), *Í* is a pronominal subject clitics in support of Anyanwu (2012), it is a special clitic because of the position it occurs, the full form of the pronoun *gí*, cannot not occur in that environment. Semantically, the clitic *-dì/du* is used scornfully and derogatorily.

fú

- 34) Kèdù fù òke ka mmā ?
 Wh- CI that pass beauty
 ‘Which one is even better?’
- 35) Ejì m -fù akā na ò gā-àbia?
 Pref-hold 1sg CI hand that 3sg Aux-pref-come
 ‘Am I really sure will come?’
- 36) Ogè bià -rà -fù mgbè Ùju nà- àla.
 Oge come-pst -CI time Uju Aux pref-return
 Oge came when Uju was going. [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 186]
- 37) Ndi à -fù chò -rò nri
 Pl. Dem -CI want -suf food
 These very ones want food
- 38) Ndi à jè-kò -fù Àba
 Pl. Dem go -suf -CI Aba
 ‘These ones are right en route to Aba’
- 39) Ọ chòtara m -fù
 3sg check-pst 1sg -CI
 ‘He/she has just come to look for me’ [cf: Emenanjo 2015: 137]

Looking at the *-fú* in the (34-39), they are non-selective of their hosts; however in some cases they are tone-specific clitics. It can equally take the sentence final position as in (39). We see that it can also occur in cluster as in (36).

Ga (*gba/gbe, sa, ta, za*)

- 40) Anyi/ùnù/Okeke na Okàfò bù -gà ndi ìbèribè
 1pl/ 2pl/ Okeke conj Okafo be CI people foolishness
 ‘We/you/Okeke and Okafo are fools’
- 41) Anyi/ùnù/Okeke na Okàfò bù ndi ìbèribè -gà
 1pl/ 2pl/ Okeke conj Okafo be people foolishness CI
 ‘We/you/Okeke and Okafo are fools’ [cf: Nweze and Obiamalu 2016: 100]
- 42) Ndi à -gà bù òkém
 Pl. Dem -CI be mine
 These are all mine
- 43) Ndi à bù òkè m gā
 Pl. Dem be poss 1sg -CI
 These are all mine [cf: Emenanjo 2015:137]

The selection of hosts for *-ga* is non-restrictive as it attaches to different linguistic categories as in (40 - 43). It can also occur in different positions in the sentence, but in all positions as enclitics. From the data, its tone is dependent on the preceding host.

kọ

- 44) Ndi à -kò bù òkè m
 Pl. Dem -Cl be poss 1sg
 ‘These are also mine’
- 45) Ndi à bù -kò òkè m
 Pl. Dem be -Cl poss 1sg
 ‘These are also mine’
- 46) Ndi à bù òkè m -kò
 Pl. Dem be poss 1sg -Cl
 ‘These are also mine’

[cf: Emenanjo 2015:137/8]

In (44 - 46), *-kọ* can attach to different linguistic categories as host, all as enclitics. Its position in the sentence also varies as it can also occur at the sentence final position.

Kwa (kwọ, ko)

- 47) Onye à kwà bù enyì gị
 Person Dem Cl be friend 2sg
 ‘Just this person is your friend’
- 48) Àzụkà nà-kwà Irukà kà a kpòrò
 Azuka conj-Cl Iruka that someone call-pst
 ‘Azuka and also Iruka were called’
- 49) Ùfọdụ -kwā gà-àbịa
 Qnt -Cl Aux-pref-come
 ‘Some will definitely come’
- 50) *Ọ nà- eme kwà afọ
 3sg Aux pref-happen CL year
 ‘It happens every year’

[Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:7, 8]

[cf: Mbah et al 2012:181]

-kwa as object clitic (enclitic) occurs after the verb root.

[cf: Nweze 2011: 62]

The data (47 - 50) show *-kwa* as a tone dependent clitic. It can attach to any linguistic category as host even the conjunction and quantifier as shown in (48 & 49). We have not seen a situation where it precedes the hosts. The case of *Kwa* in (50) as represented by Nweze (2011) cannot be regarded as a clitic because in the sentence above, it functions as quantitative marker in Igbo. It marks the frequency of occurrence of a particular event. It is added to a restricted set of words and therefore cannot function as a clitic in such situations.

-kwu

- 51) Òbì bìtè-kwù-rù egò
 Obi borrow-Cl-pst money
 ‘Obi borrowed money in addition’
- 52) Anya -kwu bù akùkù àhụ mmadù
 Eye -Cl be part body person
 ‘Eye too is (a) part of human body’

[Mbah et al 2012:179, 184]

The data in (51 – 52) show that *-kwu* is a tone dependent clitic and can attach to different linguistic categories as enclitics as well as mesoclitics. When it is a mesoclitic, it occurs before the suffix, nearer to the verb root as in (51).

Nọọ/nọọ

- 53) Èberè gà-nọò àbịa echī
 Ebere Aux-Cl pref-come tomorrow
 ‘Ebere will certainly come tomorrow’
- 54) Ụnù -nọò chọrò itī ya ihe
 2pl -Cl want-pst pref-beat 3sg something
 ‘So you people wanted to beat him’

- 55) Nwayò nwayò nòò kà o jì èkwu okwū
 Slow slow -Cl that 3sg use pref-talk talk
 ‘He just talks slowly’
- 56) Ihe ahụ=ànṅṅ̄ me-re ya a-bia-la
 Thing Dem=Cl do-pst 3sg pref-come-Neg
 Just that thing made him not to come

The data as presented in (53 – 56) show that the clitic *-nṅṅ̄* can take any linguistic category as host. They are basically enclitics. Instances of auxiliary and preposition serving as host is shown in (53). It’s tone is not totally dependent on the host, because there are cases that vary as in (56).

-nu

- 57) Kpèe-nù ikpe ahù òfuma
 judge -Cl case Dem well
 ‘Judge that case well’ [Nweze & Obiamalu 2016:101]
- 58) Ndewo-nù!
 Thank Cl
 Hello all [Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:1]
- 59) Gbàba-nù egwū
 dance -Cl music
 ‘Please be dancing’
- 60) Gbabà -nù n’ ụlò
 run enter -Cl Prep house
 ‘You people should run into the house’ [Mbah et al 2012:188]

The data in (57 - 60), show that *-nu* can be attached to different linguistic categories as enclitic as it is seen following the hosts. Its tone assignment is not totally dependent on the host. The semantic implication of the clitic which is contextually based determines its tone.

-nwa

- 61) Gị -nwà kà ọ nà-akpọ
 2sg -Cl that 3sg Aux pref-call
 ‘You are the person he is calling’
- 62) Òshìmmìrì ukwu nwa ò nà-èrì mmadù?
 Sea big -Cl 3sg Aux-pref-eat person
 ‘Does the great sea drown people?’ [Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:6, 8]
- 63) Àda nà-eti iwu nkè ndi isi nwa
 Ada Aux-pref-beat command of those head Cl
 ‘Ada is autocractic because she is just the head’

The clitic *-nwa* in (61-63) attaches to different linguistic categories. From the data above we see it attach after the hosts, hence it is an enclitic. Its tone in (61) is specific whereas in (62 - 63), the tone pattern is determined by the preceding element. It can equally occur in sentence final position as shown in (63).

Ri/li – ‘really’

- 64) Òbì rì kà m sìrì nri
 Obi -Cl that 1sg cook-pst food
 ‘Obi really is the one I cooked for’
- 65) Bìà rì kà ì hụ
 Come -Cl that 2sg see
 Come (please) and see [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 186]

- 66) Aturū ochā rì nà- àga
 Sheep white -Cl prog pref-go
 ‘So, a white sheep is passing’
- 67) Olemàdòle rì dì mma
 Qnt -Cl be good
 ‘just a few are good’
- 68) Nnekà nà-echè banyere-rì ihe ahù e mere ya
 Nneka Aux-pref-think Prep-Cl thing Det someone do-pst 3sg
 ‘Nneka is thinking just about the thing done to her’
- 69) O kwùrù okwu ahù ọsọsọ rì
 3sg talk-pst talk Dem fast fast -Cl
 ‘So he said it quickly’ [cf: Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017: 8, 9]

The data shown in (64 - 69) are cases where *-rì* is used as enclitics. It can take any grammatical category as host. Its host does not determine its tone.

Rìj/lìj

- 70) Àkwà rìj kà o dinà nà ya
 Bed -Cl that 3sg lay in 3sg
 ‘It is even in the bed that s/he is laying’
- 71) Ûju rìj kà mmadù ncha nà – eche
 Uju -Cl that person all Aux pref-wait
 ‘It is even Uju that everybody is waiting for’ [cf: Mbah et al 2012:187]

From the data above, *-rìj* follows its host, hence it is an enclitic. It does not depend on the prosody of its host this makes it, tone specific as shown in (70 - 71).

sì (*sa, shi, su, ri*) – optional pluralization/quantity marker ‘all’ (with overtones of distributiveness)

- 72) Ọkà à sị
 Maize Dem -Cl
 ‘These maize’ [Mbah et al 2012:184]
- 73) Ndi à sị gafèrè n’ùle ahù
 Pl Dem -Cl go-cross-Pst in examination Dem
 ‘All these people passed the examination’
- 74) Ha bụsị òkè ya
 3pl. be -Cl (all) Poss 3sg
 ‘They are all his’
- 75) Ireka nyèsìrì yà nri ahù
 Ireka give-Cl-Pst 3sg food Dem
 ‘Ireka gave him all the food’ [Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017: 13]

The data in (72 - 75) show that *-sì* can attach to any linguistic category as a clitic. It occurs closer to the verb root in situation where it co-occurs with a suffix, by this it can occur both as an enclitic and a mesoclitic. It is a tone dependent clitic.

-Tụ

- 76) Nyètùrù
 Give-Cl-pst
 ‘Gave a fraction of’ [cf: Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:4]
- 77) Nyè-tụ m nchà
 Give-Cl-1sg Soap
 ‘(please,) give me a little soap’ [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 180]
- 78) Nyè-tụ-zie-nụ ha egō
 Give-Cl-Cl 1sg kernel 2pl
 ‘You give me a little of your kernel’ [cf: Mbah et al 2012: 181]

-tu as a clitic takes different linguistic categories as host (76 – 78). They mainly occur at the right side of the host making them enclitics. However, in (76) it is a mesoclititic with its tone assignment dependent on that of the host, while in (77 & 78) it does not depend on the host, it becomes tone specific. The meaning of the clitic in the above instances is diminutive. (78) shows that this clitic can equally occur with others in a cluster.

zi

- 79) Gĩni-zi mèrè?
 Wh-CI do-Pst
 ‘What then happened?’
- 80) Ebe ahù zì kà ọ nò
 Place Dem -CI that he stay
 ‘He later stayed in that place’
- 81) Ngwa ngwa zì kà m mèrè ya
 Quick quick -CI that he stay
 ‘I then did it quickly’ [cf: Udemmadu & Anidobe 2017:7, 8]
- 82) Gosi-zi-rà-kwue m akwà gĩ
 Show-CI-CI-CIOvs 1sg bed 2sg
 ‘Show me also your bed in addition’

As a clitic -zi attaches to different linguistic elements as host. In (79 - 82), all the cases where -zi occur are dependent on their host for their tone association. The meaning implied in the examples above is that of ‘again’ and emphasis. They never occur before their hosts, therefore they are enclitics. They can occur in clusters with other clitics.

4.0 Summary and Conclusion

The study has considered the stand of clitics in the Igbo language as have been recorded by previous works and discovered that just as is obtainable in many other languages of the world, Igbo clitics possess the features that have been identified. The typological features of Igbo clitics include both the simple and special clitics (mostly dependent short and weak pronouns). Morphologically, Igbo clitics include proclitic, mesoclititic, and enclitic, this classification is dependent on their position of attachment to their host. In situations where they co-occur with affixes, they are attached closer to the verb-root than the affixes. Phonologically, the clitics are sub-divided into three types for their tone association as tone-specific clitics (this implies that some Igbo clitics maintain their own tones, irrespective of the tonal status of their hosts), tone-dependent clitics and Obligatory Contour Principle compliant clitics. Semantically, the presence of clitics in the sentences is used to mark emphasis, frequency/repetition, intensifiers, sarcasm, ridicule, derision, seriousness, addition, no longer, doubt/uncertainty and so on. Igbo clitics attach to different linguistic categories as host. Our findings show that classifying Igbo clitic types in accordance to whether they are positioned closer to the subject or object as subject clitic and object clitic (Anagbogu 2001) is quite misleading. Secondly, some lexical items which have peculiar meanings because of their usage such as the quantitative marker ‘kwa’ Nweze (2011), does not comply with the characteristic nature of clitic. We therefore conclude that because a lexical item can function as a clitic does not mean that it can function as a clitic in all situations. We equally choose to adhere to the clitic types by their position of attachment to host as proclitic, mesoclititic and enclitic in accordance with the universal types of clitics.

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