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I. THE PROBLEM

In Igede, certain nouns in sequence were fusing, with the fused form sometimes having a specialized meaning. Were these fused forms simply following fusion rules which were normal to syntactic phrases, or were they a more closely bound morphological unit? A practical problem was also involved: how should these noun complexes be written—as two words or one?

ùbè útōjī
room medicine

ùbútōjī 'clinic'

(Notice that the final vowel and tone, of the first noun, - ùbè 'room, - completely elides.)

II. THE AIM

In view of the setting up of a new orthography, the aim, necessarily, was to determine the difference, if any between two nouns which are simply following normal fusion rules and two nouns which are more closely bound together as a single unit.

III. THE APPROACH AND RESEARCH

The first step was to find out the different slots in which each noun and each fused form could occur. In other words, in what slots can ùbè 'room', útōjī 'medicine', and ùbútōjī 'clinic' occur? Are they found in the same slots or in different ones? This was done to determine the restrictions, if any, on the occurrences of the two forms---the single noun and the fused form. I tested each and found that there was no difference in the slots in which they occurred.

ùbè nyāhí dāté
room our different

'Our rooms are different'

ō nùlā ùbè
he to repair room

'He repaired the room'

útōjī híìgu
medicine good

'The medicine is good'

alùbèkéè lá útōjī
white man to have medicine

'White men have medicine'

ùbútōjī jùwā ígēlāā
clinic be there in that place

'The clinic is over there'

hú ònyī kà ùbútōjī
to take child to go clinic

'Take the child to the clinic'

The following is a list of tested forms:

Igede Noun + Noun Forms

Noun ₁		+	Noun ₂		Fused Form
ùbè 'room'		+	útōjī 'medicine'	>	ùbútōjī 'clinic'
īmī 'hunger'		+	ēnyī 'water'	>	īmēnyī 'thirst'
ùhyè 'above, on ton of'		+	èkpà 'bamboo rack' (for storage)	>	ùhyèkpà 'rack for storage'
ùbè 'room'		+	ūpú 'writing'	>	ùbūpú 'school'
òhè 'god'		+	ōlùhyè 'it up above'	>	òhōlùhyè 'God'
ābwô 'hands'		+	ēlâ 'matter'	>	ābwēlâ 'character'
ēpwā 'house'		+	ējī 'ground'	>	ēpwējī 'village'
ūgbō 'train'		+	ōlùhyè 'it up above'	>	ūgbōlùhyè 'airplane'
*ēnū 'afternoon, sun'		+	útūrū 'morning'	>	ēnútūrū 'day'
īyō 'meat'		+	ēnyī 'water'	>	īyēnyī 'fish'
īhū 'year'		+	ômû ?	>	īhwômû 'last year'
īhū 'year'		+	ényì ?	>	īhwényì 'this year'

*(ēnū, útūrū, and ēnútūrū are all time words so they have certain restrictions in the slots wherein they may occur.)

Once again, notice that in noun₁ the final vowel and tone are dropped and are completely overridden by the initial vowel and tone of the second noun.

The next step proved to be very interesting and quite helpful. A test of internal expansion was tried for each of the fused forms. In a noun + noun relationship, only nyâ 'for, of (possessed by)' can occur between two nouns.

Not only do Igede speakers say:

ùbútōjī 'clinic'
room-medicine

but they also say:

ùbè ny(â) útōjī 'clinic'
room for, of medicine

without changing the meaning.

In applying this test to the other fused forms, it was discovered that some could be expanded (by *nyâ*) and some could not. Table I shows this.

TABLE I. Showing Expansion and Non-Expansion of Igede Fused Forms.

Fused Form		+ <i>nyâ</i> 'for, of'	- <i>nyâ</i> 'for, of'
ùbútōjī	'clinic'	x	
īmēnyī	'thirst'	x	
ùhyèkpà	'rack for storage'	x	
ùbūpú	'school'	x	
òhōlùhyè	'God'	-	x
āhwēlā	'character'	-	x
ēnwējī	'village'	-	x
ūgbōlùhyè	'airplane'	-	x
ēnūtūrū	'day'	-	x
īyēnyī	'fish'	-	x
īhwômû	'last year'	-	x
īhwényì	'this year'	-	x

Now we ask, -why this difference? What is the controlling factor here? It seemed apparent that there were differences in degrees of fusion in the Igede noun + noun relationship. Following this hypothesis, four degrees of noun fusion were set up: (a) obligatory absence of fusion, (b) optional fusion, (c) obligatory fusion₁ (with identifiable morphemes), and (d) obligatory fusion₂ (some parts unidentifiable).

(A) Obligatory absence of fusion. The loosest type of noun + noun relationship in Igede is found with certain nouns which cannot fuse and which have the obligatory particle *nyâ* occurring, which usually denotes a genitive relationship.

- (1) ōnyī nyâ Job 'Job's child'
child of "
- (2) òjè ny(â) ōlèh 'The man's bicycle'
bicycle of man

(B) Optional fusion. This type of noun + noun relationship is made up of a set of nouns which fuse but which also can be expanded without changing their meaning.

- (1a) $\bar{i}m\bar{e}ny\bar{i}$ 'thirst' - (b) $\bar{i}m\bar{i}$ $ny(\hat{a})$ $\bar{e}ny\bar{i}$ 'thirst'
 hunger-water hunger for water
- (2a) $\bar{u}b\bar{u}p\bar{u}$ 'school' - (b) $\bar{u}b\bar{e}$ $ny(\hat{a})$ $\bar{u}p\bar{u}$ 'school'
 room-writing room for writing

In fact, example (2b) occurs more frequently than (2a), which may be an indication that the form with $ny\hat{a}$ used to be the prevalent form, but through the years fusion has become more dominant.

(C) Obligatory fusion₁. In this type of noun + noun relationship there is a very strong degree of fusion; obligatorily so, in fact. These fused forms cannot be expanded, but the morphemes constituting the form are still recognizable and defineable by informants (see also, the list on page 2 for the full forms of the fusing nouns).

- (1) $\bar{a}bw\bar{e}l\bar{a}$ 'character'
 hands-matter
- (2) $\bar{e}pw\bar{e}j\bar{i}$ 'village'
 house-ground

There is a wider divergence from the meaning of the source morphemes when there is a tighter degree of fusion. That is, when two nouns fuse the meaning of the whole is often quite different from the meaning of the nouns as separate forms.

It was suggested that the vowels of these fused forms be considered in hope that this would give a clue to a controlling factor in optional fusion and obligatory fusion. This was done and the results are in Matrix I.

MATRIX I. Showing Relationship of Vowels to Optional Fusion and Obligatory Fusion.

Final Vowel of Noun ₁	Initial Vowel of Noun ₂	+ $ny\hat{a}$	- $ny\hat{a}$
- \bar{e}	\bar{u} -	x	
- \bar{i}	\bar{e} -	x	
- \bar{e}	\bar{e} -	x	
- \bar{e}	\bar{u} -	x	
- \bar{e}	\bar{o} -	-	x
- \bar{o}	\bar{e} -	-	x
- \bar{a}	\bar{e} -	-	x
- \bar{o}	\bar{o} -	-	x
- \bar{u}	\bar{u} -	-	x
- \bar{o}	\bar{e} -	-	x
- \bar{a}	\bar{o} -	-	x
- \bar{u}	\bar{e} -	-	x

Of the nouns considered in this Matrix, optional fusion occurs only when the final vowel of the first noun is a front vowel. This occurs, as is seen in the upper section of the matrix, in the fused forms, which can be expanded.

Obligatory fusion occurs when the final vowel of the first noun is a central or back vowel (notice the one exception, which is front vowel plus low, back vowel; it is shown between the two main sections of the matrix). Also notice that these forms are the ones which can not be expanded.

(D) Obligatory fusion₂. Finally, the tightest degree of fusion in the Igede noun + noun relationship is considered, where:

- (i) there is no separate occurrence of the morphemes, and
- (ii) the semantics of some morphemes cannot be determined by most informants.

(1) ihwômû 'last year'
year-?

(2) ihwényì 'this year'
year-?

The informant tried to attach a meaning to ényì and ômû but he was inconsistent; particularly with ômû; and since we have not gotten any meanings from previous informants, my conclusion is that no one is really sure of the meanings any more. This could also be an indication that change is taking place in Igede towards not only a dominance of fusion but also there is movement towards obligatory fusion. In the first three types (obligatory absence of fusion, optional fusion, and obligatory fusion₁), the morphemes are still recognizable and defineable—but in the last type this becomes extremely difficult.

IV. CONCLUSION

My conclusion and solution to the problem, therefore, is:-

- (1) Types A & B are a phrase and should be written as separate words.
- (2) Types C & D are compounds and should be written as one word.