EDITORIAL NOTE

The Ethiope Journal of English, Literary, and Cultural Studies (ISSN: 0795-5413) is an interdisciplinary journal that explores topical and generative issues in English linguistics and literary and cultural studies. We recognise that African humanities research is both problem-based and knowledge oriented, and we aim to provide a platform for scholars to analyse and theorise Africa in a way that is generative, conversational, and decolonial. Specifically, the journal focuses on both the analytical and theoretical approaches to knowledge production in the context of Africa and the Global South. We want to curate papers that are hinged on African indigenous paradigms and approaches or that seek to extend, reimagine, or contextualise current theoretical or analytical approaches in English language studies and literary and cultural studies.

We invite papers that dwell on all aspects of English language studies, including phonetics/phonology, semantics, syntax, discourse analysis, pragmatics, stylistics, ESL, ESP, etc. We also welcome papers that theorise literary and cultural texts, including film, still and moving images, music and dance, photographs, cultural objects, spaces and places, society and social formations, and other relevant corpora. While we accept purely analytical essays, we encourage authors to focus on theorising the texts or data they engage with. In particular, we welcome theoretical conversations that implicate postcolonial subjecthood, ecocritical approaches (especially postcolonial ecocriticism), feminism and gender studies, new trends in linguistics, object-oriented criticism and approaches, and other generative approaches to knowledge production. Authors are encouraged to do original theorisation rather than adopt extant theoretical frameworks. They may also extend the scope of extant theories and approaches based on the material they present and discuss.

Furthermore, papers with interdisciplinary approaches are also welcomed. We recognise that knowledge production is an elastic phenomenon, and that bright ideas might implicate various fields. Interesting multi-modal, eclectic, or collaborative research is encouraged in this journal.

JOURNAL   POLICY

The Ethiope Journal of English, Literary and Cultural Studies is published biennially by the Department of English and Literary Studies, Delta State University Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria. All papers submitted to this journal will undergo double-blind peer review before publication. Published papers are well-researched, original, and data-driven.

Contributors are to submit an e-copy of their manuscript for assessment and publication to ethiopejournal@delsu.edu.ng or ethiopejournal@gmail.com. Such manuscripts should be original and not under consideration for publication elsewhere and should not have been published in any other journal.

The submitted manuscript which should not exceed 7000 words should be typeset in MS Word Times New Roman Font 12, with double line spacing. The first page should include the title of the manuscript, name(s), and institutional affiliation/address, abstract (not more than 250 words and with not more than six keywords). Manuscripts should conform to the current APA or MLA style sheet. Author(s) of published papers will derive the benefits from peer-review of contributions by seasoned scholars, global visibility, and receipt of hard copies as well as soft copies of their papers.

The papers in this edition of the journal cut across disciplines in cultural, and media studies and sub-disciplines in English and literary studies. The contributors include seasoned and renowned scholars of international repute and young astute scholars with a burning desire to excel in academics. It is pertinent to note that the journal accepts contributions from scholars and researchers across the globe. We believe that articles in this volume will be of immense interest to researchers and students.

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CONTENTS

SYNTACTIC MAPPING OF THE SUBLAYERS OF THE CP DOMAIN IN ENGLISH AND IZỌN

Odingowei M. Kwokwo & Doutimiye Agunza

Abstract

The C-domain is significant in accounting for the convergence and grammaticality of sentence derivation in languages. In line with the central focus of the Universal Grammar (UG), linguistic research more recently has been on discovering the homogenous properties and those that differentiate natural languages. This recent trend in syntactic studies notwithstanding, few studies have been carried out on the split CP Projections in Izon, a language with unmarked SOV constituent order. This paper provides a data-motivated, step-by-step comparison of the cardinal assumptions of the split CP projections within the framework of Rizzi and Gulielmo's Cartographic program to substantiate UG principles and parameters. The decomposed projections were x-rayed with data from English, a standard bearer of UG and Bassan-Izon. The study finds remarkable differences in the functional structures of the two languages, one of which is that English preposes the overtly lexicalized Force marker *if,* in Bassan-Izon, the overtly lexicalized Force marker *yaa* occurs at the clause-final position. Another intriguing difference observed is that in Bassan-Izon, every moved wh-item necessarily attracts the Foc marker *ki* to the CP domain for the structure to converge and be grammatical, a situation not synonymous with English.

Keywords: Syntactic cartography, Complementizer phrase, Topicalisation, Focalisation, Force Phrase, English, Izon

Introduction

From the 1980s, the model of clause structures changed from S NP INFL VP to CP + TP + VP (Radford, 2004). The TP can also be labeled as IP, that is, Inflectional Phrase (in Government and

Binding), or AgrsP, that is Agreement Phrase (in the minimalist program). Advancement in the linguistic field in the last few decades has culminated in the suggestion of splitting the three different basic components of the clausal structure aforementioned. These have been collectively referred to as the split projections in the literature: the split CP, the split TP, and the split VP or VP shell analyses. The main motivation for suggesting the decomposition of the different syntactic domains is the need for derivational simplification and convenience. Certain syntactic categories and syntactic functions require cross-linguistic descriptions between languages. By this we mean, that one category may serve more than one function and one function may be served by more than one category in the morphological realization of different languages.

Rizzi (1997) proposed the unbundling of CP into four different projections at first, namely Force Phrase (ForceP), Topic Phrase (TopP), Focus Phrase (FocP) and Finite Phrase (FinP). Later developments led to the CP zone entertaining extensions from the initial four proposed by Rizzi. In this essay, the projections in the C-space, constitute the focus of exploration and analyses. However, the languages compared in the light of the study are English (Indo-European language) and Izon, an Ijoid Niger-Congo language respectively. Specifically, the study adopts the Bassan dialect of Izon spoken by the Bassan community on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean in Bayelsa spoken by about seven thousand adults as reported by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the 2023 voters' registration document. Beyond that, Williamson and Blench (2000) affirm the mutual intelligibility of the various Izon dialects.

English and Izon are structurally different. Whereas English has an SVO unmarked order of constituents, Izon has an SOV unmarked order (Ndimele, 2004). Additionally, Kwokwo (2012) and others affirm in the literature that Izon is a head-final language while English is a head-initial language.

Statement of Problem

Since the advent of UG advanced by Noam Chomsky in the 1960s,

linguists have made concerted efforts to characterize and properly account for the entirety of human languages. In the literature, therefore, several rules, principles, conditions, hypotheses, and constraints are proposed to account for the infinite number of syntactic structures produced by competent speakers of the different languages the world over.

The above scenario notwithstanding, there have always remained a lot more structural issues to be resolved. It is in light of this fact that linguists such as Pollock (1989), Chomsky (1995), and Rizzi (1997) propose the split projections: split TP, split VP, and split CP respectively. These have in no small way helped linguists of theoretical syntax in accounting for the shared and peripheral features in the structural configurations of many languages. However, there is a scarcity of scholarly investigation of split CP in Izon. It is hypothesized in this work that the parametric variation between English - a standard bearer for UG and Bassan-Izon could have some shared and some peripheral structural features concerning the possible syntactic residents of the various CP layers. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate and do a data-based description and analysis of the split CP projections in English and Izon languages.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to comparatively explore the split CP projections with data from the English and Izon Languages. The specific objectives are to:

i. ascertain the level or extent of applicability of the split CP projections to the Izon syntax,

ii. ascertain the points of divergence and congruity in the English and Izon languages; and

iii. provide explanations for the identified differences.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for this study is the cartographic project within the framework of the Principles and Parameters model of Transformational Generative Theory. The motivation for the cartographic approach over other theories is the fact that it can more

easily account for all the complexities in the syntax of the left periphery in languages. Beyond that, it can also account for the uniformity observed in natural languages as well as the cross-linguistic variation.

Certain issues in the syntactic structures of languages are adequately accounted for at the lower level of magnification such as C-T-v-V systems upheld in the Minimalist framework, whereas, other issues are observable following a keen look at the fine details of syntactic structures (myriads of functional sequences) hence can only be captured at the higher level of magnification. It is currently widely argued that every morphosyntactic feature, whether realized overtly, or covertly, belongs to a functional element and should be assigned a head with a fixed order in the hierarchy. The cartographic approach is useful as a tool for structural analysis as it adopts an optimal level of magnification of a given structural argument (Rizzi, 2020).

Its task in research is to discover in languages the inventory of functional elements (heads or *specifiers* of functional projections). The cartographic approach also clearly identifies the structure and behavior of the functional elements (*cf* Shlonsky, 2010) to identify and account for the shared properties as well as the parametric variations. This is corroborated by Belleti (2004). Putting it in the words of Rizzi and Cinque (2008), cartography aims to "draw maps as precise and detailed as possible of syntactic configurations" and its primary goal according to Biloa (2013, p. 3) is "to study the richly articulated internal structure of phrases and clauses". The split CP projections are diagrammed in (1) as follows:

1.

```
                        Force
                   ____/    \____
              Force            TopP
                           ___/    \___
                        Spec          Top¹
                                  ___/   \___
                               Top          FocP
                                         ___/   \___
                                      Spec          Foc¹
                                                ___/   \___
                                             Foc          TopP
                                                      ___/   \___
                                                   Spec          Top¹
                                                             ___/   \___
                                                          Top          FinP
                                                                   ___/   \___
                                                                Fin          IP
                                                                         ___/  \___
                                                                      Spec         I¹
                                                                               ___/  \___
                                                                              I          VP
```
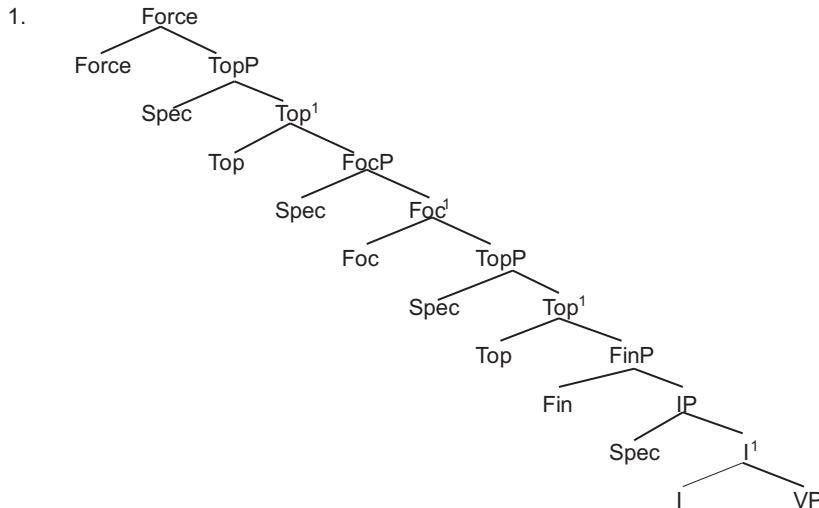
Force: Specifies Clause type
Top: Hosts topicalized constituents
Foc: Hosts focalized constituents and-wh operator
Top: Hosts more topicalized constituents
Fin: marks finiteness

Adapted from (Rizzi, 1997, p. 297)

Method/Methodology

The data for this work was derived from textbooks and recorded spontaneous speeches from native speakers of the languages. At other times, structures previously used by linguists to explain relevant points in English were extracted with such sources adequately referenced both in-text and in the reference section of the work. In this wise, only well-formed grammatical structures were selected for use. The language in these sources is relevant and apt for this study as it is competence-based. Nevertheless, for purposes of clarity in comparison, there are a few ill-formed grammatical structures marked with an asterisk by the convention for syntactic structure analysis.

The data for this study is presented and analyzed simultaneously in a manner that accentuates the research questions as

the work progresses. The phrase marker, labelled bracketing, and tree diagrams, which have been identified as useful and reliable tools in the analyses of syntactic data are employed in accounting for configurations in this work. Data are analyzed using the minimalist computational system evidenced in the works employing the cartographic program.

The Split CP

The CP, one of the functional categories, classified as such by its essentially grammatical function in clausal structures, is very significant in linguistic studies for its contribution to the convergence and grammaticality of syntactic structures (Ndimele, 2015). Until Rizzi's split CP, the CP phrase marker was used to analyze structures such as questions (wh- and polar questions), inversions, and subordinate clauses (Adegoje, 2011). Verb complement wh-question constituents are moved into a position above the TP into the Spec-CP position while the auxiliary, in the case of aux-inversion (T to C movement), occupies the head C position immediately before the TP (a subject in most cases).

The CP also dictates the force of the clause as well as its finiteness or non-finiteness. All main and embedded clauses, finite and infinitival (including control infinitival) structures have complementizers as their structural head. The head complementizer of the $_{COMP}$phrase carries a force feature that gives Force to every clause type. Radford (2004) and Tanaka (2016) say all clauses, whether main or embedded, have either a null or overt C constituent. The covert Force may be declarative, [Dec-Force], exclamatory [Excl-Force], or imperative [Imp-Force]. The interrogative in most languages however has overt lexicalization, marking them as [Int-Force] (Radford, 2004).

The Finiteness phrase is one with a Fin° that undertakes the role of marking a phrase as having finite or non-finite features in T(ense) and is denoted as FinP (Doherty, 2016; Alazzawie, 2018). It delimits the occurrence of constituents into the clause's internal positions. Basically, the Fin° node in infinitival structures is occupied by preposition particles such as *of* in some languages. Aside from

marking the force of a clause and its finiteness or non-finiteness, as noted in the previous section, other constituents can also be dislocated to the left periphery of clauses in languages, such as topicalized and focalized constituents et cetera, and these may even co-occur in the same structure, between complementizers and the tense phrase (Radford, 2004). This observation informed the proposition of splitting the CP domain by Rizzi and others. Rizzi (1997) split the complementizer phrase into four: the Force phrase, Topic phrase, Focus phrase, and the Finiteness phrase. Developments in the area of study led to the further extension of the CP domain to accommodate more functional phrases such as Interrogative phrases, and Modifier phrases (Rizzi & Bocci, 2017). The supposition is that features and functional categories should always have a one-to-one correspondence between a position and interpretation.

The Topic phrase serves as the Topic of the clause and is designated as TopP. TopP expressions follow the ForceP and can be recursive notes Tanaka (2016). Topics are typically the complements of verbs structurally. For emphasis, speakers dislocate Topics from the canonical complement position following the verb they naturally occupy and prepose them at the front of the overall sentence (Radford, 2004). This is a movement operation that involves the repositioning of the emphasized constituent, a maximal projection to the clausal periphery, thereby topicalizing it.

Focalization is the movement of constituents into the clause complement's position to focus it. It conveys one of three imports: contrastive, corrective, and mirative. It has been established in the literature that different languages express focus or emphasis in varying ways. Kroeger (2004) explains that some languages mark focus by tonal prominence or focal stress, whereas, others use special particles or clitics. In such languages that mark focus by tonal prominence, the focused item bears a prominent nuclear pitch with the presupposition realized with a low and flat contour or special compressed pitch (Rizzi & Bocci, 2017). In languages that mark focus by special particles, the focus domain is triggered and the Foc^{o} is made overt with the morphological focus marker (FM) (Kroeger, 2004) which hosts the feature [+f] (Aboh, 2004). This is the main

indicator of the presence of a Foc°, the focus site, spec FocP hosts the focused item. It is necessary to mention that topicalized or focused constituents are found only in clauses containing topicalized and or focalized phrases. Rizzi argues that TopP and FocP must be sandwiched between ForceP and FinP. Nonetheless, the TopP precedes the FocP in a structure with both of them.

The Interrogative Phrase is another important phrase added to Rizzi's (1997) C-system as a result of findings from later works on complementizers. The Int(errogative) Phrase, as it is designated, is an independent extension proposed from the study of interrogative complementizers corresponding to English *if* in languages such as Latin. The equivalent of *if* in Latin *se* can both be preceded and followed by a topic as well as be consistent with a Focus position in a strictly preceding order (Rizzi & Bocci, 2017). The IntP hosts *se* in Int° and wh elements and other reason adverbials in the Spec IntP position in the matrix and embedded clauses (Rizzi, 2001).

Adverbials occur high in the structure and with parenthetical use (Bocci & Rizzi, 2017). However, some AdvPs can be preposed to the C-system. The adverbial phrase (AdvP) modifies the propositional content of the inflectional phrase below it, thus:

(2) *Kpakpaa a fiaimo   fii-siin.*
     Quickly, she food +pl+the eat finish
     "Quickly, she ate (all) the food."

Such a preposed AdvP is a sentential modifier phrase (ModP) (Biloa, 2013). Clause-initial preposed AdvPs may convey the same tonal contour with TopP phonologically, however, syntactically and semantically, they differ from Topicalization and also focalization (Rizzi & Bocci, 2017). Interpretively, whereas repositioned AdvPs require some kind of connection to the background, Topics do not. Rizzi and Bocci (2017) further assert following their studies on Latin and other Romance languages that the ModP can only assume a lower position in the C-system, at best just higher than the lowest TopP, probably situated below the FocP in a configuration.

The Relative phrase (RelP) is a further extension of the C-

system (Haegeman, 2013). A relativized element cannot be focused because relativization and focalization apply in domains that are hierarchically different (Aboh, 2004).

Data Analysis and Discussion

In this section, the data on the split CP projections are presented, analysed, and findings are discussed under the main and subordinate clauses in English and Izon languages using labelled bracketing for want of space.

The Force Phrase *in Main Clauses*

Main clauses conveying declarative, imperative, and exclamatory Force in Bassan-Izon seem to have null C items just as it is with English. As our data reveals, there is no lexical item designating the ForceP in them. However, the Force phrase is usually morphologically realised as the highest projection within the C-System in Bassan-Izon as the data shown in the interrogative structures (wh questions) evidence that fact.

i) **Declarative sentences:** The following are declarative structures demonstrating one, two, and three place predicates in (3a), (3b), and (3c) respectively below:

> 3a. $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP}$Ebi is coming]]]
> $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP}$Ebi bomene]]].
> 3b. $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP}$Ebi bought the fish]]]
> $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP}$Ebi indi bi fee-dei]]].

> 3c. $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP}$Ebi gave the mango to Tari]]]
> $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP}$Ebi ogboin ki Tari piri-dei]]].

ii) **Imperative Sentences:** Imperatives are orders, commands requests, and prayers. Imperative sentences do not morphologically or phonologically realise the subject in its structure. In order words, imperative subjects have null subjects as in example [4].

4a. $[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP} [\text{Close the door}]]]$
$[_{CP} [_{\emptyset C \ldots} [_{TP} [\text{Ogugah gbán}]]]$

4b.

```
              Force
           ┌────┴────┐
        Force       TopP
                ┌────┴────┐
              Top        FocP
                     ┌────┴────┐
                   Foc        FinP
                          ┌────┴────┐
                        Fin         IP
                                ┌────┴────┐
                             Spec        I¹
                                     ┌────┴────┐
                                    I          VP
                                         ┌─────┴─────┐
                                         V           DP
                                         │          ╱╲
                                       Close     the door
```

4c.

```
              Force
           ┌────┴────┐
        Force       TopP
                ┌────┴────┐
              Top        FocP
                     ┌────┴────┐
                   Foc        FinP
                          ┌────┴────┐
                        Fin         IP
                                ┌────┴────┐
                             Spec        I¹
                                     ┌────┴────┐
                                    I          VP
                                         ┌─────┴─────┐
                                        DP           V
                                         │           │
                                      Ogugah        gbán
```
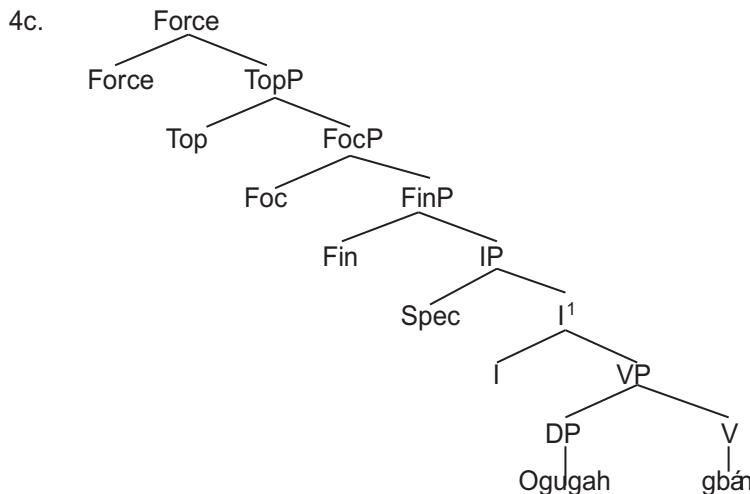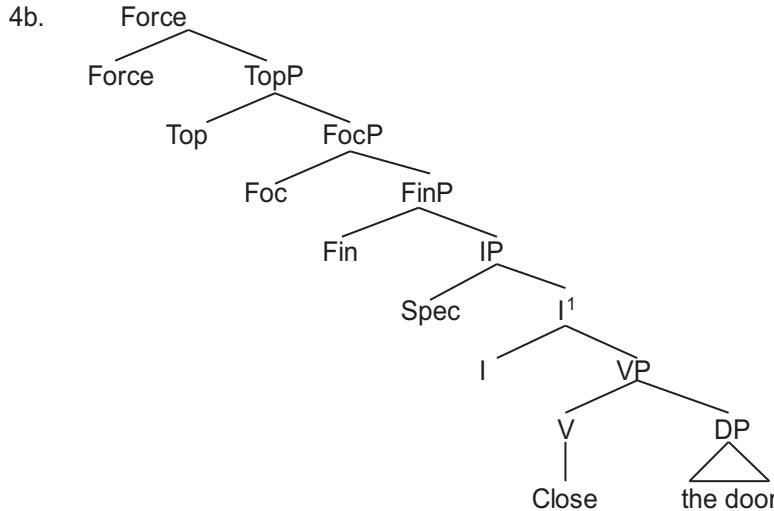
iii) **Interrogative Transformations:** The interrogative main clause (**polar question**) in English overtly lexicalises the interrogative force by process of auxiliary inversion with the subject, or supporting the main verb with a '*do*' support which is also inverted with the subject in auxiliary-less structures in the CP domain. Izon also provides morphological evidence for interrogative force but does not overtly lexicalize them in the CP domain or any other domain in the structure. Izon rather marks the interrogative force of the clause by intonational prominence. The auxiliary verb, which occupies the clause's final position due to the head-final nature of the language, bears a prominent nuclear pitch.

[5] a. [CP [øC Is[TP Jane coming]]]ọ
       [CP [øC... [TP Jane bo-mene]]]ọ

b. [CP [øC Do[TP they eating rice]]]ọ
     [CP [øC ...[TP Un orosi fii-mene]]]ọ

The interrogative main clause (**wh-question**) in Izon however overtly lexicalizes the force of the clause as it is with the English wh-interrogative main clause. See some examples below:

[6]   a. [CP What [C will [TP you do]]]ọ
            [CP Teye[C... [Foc ki ...[TP.Í womie-mene]]]]ọ

b. [CP Where [C are [TP you going]]]ọ
     [CP Teriyo[C... [Foc ki ...[TP.Í wo mu-mene]]]]?

c. [CP When [C do [TP they resume work]]]ọ
            [CP Terifiye[C... [Foc ki ...[TP I un firiwọnọ mọnọ]]]]ọ

Observe that in Izon, it is only the wh-item as in *teye*, *teriyo, terifiye* that moved from its original (base) verb complement position to the CP domain, unlike its English counterpart that had both the wh-item *where* and the auxiliary item *are* moved to the CP zone. Again, in Izon, every moved wh-item necessarily attracts the Foc marker *ki*to the CP domain for the structure to converge and be grammatical. In

other words, wh-ex-situ items are obligatorily focused on the language.

Topic Phrase

The topic phrase as Rizzi (1997) presents is recursive, hence it is denoted with an asterisk thus [Top*] on the sequential ordering of projections in the C-space. Rizzi and Bocci (2013, p.19) identify three parametric properties of the Topics thus:

a.   Overt or null marker for Topọ
b.   Single Top or Top recursionọ
c.   Top position(s) lower than Focọ

In English, Top accommodates topicalized constituent at Spec-Top thus:

[7]a.   Nigeria, I love (Excerpted from Adegoje, 2011)

[$_{\text{Ø Dec-ForceP}}$[$_{\text{TopP}}$ Nigeria [$_{\text{ØTopMarker}}$[$_{\text{TP}}$ I love]]]].

b. [$_{\text{Ø Dec-ForceP}}$[$_{\text{TopP}}$ Nigeria [$_{\text{TP}}$e[$_{\text{TopMarker}}$**wo** tari]]].

In Bassan-Izon, the proof of topicalization is seen in:

(i)   the dislocation of the subject and object DPs, *e* and ***Nigeria***
(ii)   the functional Top marking particle ***wo*** attached to the subject DP ***e***, and
(iii) in the prominence of the pitch level on the subject DP ***e***.

[8]   a. [$_{\text{Ø Dec-ForceP}}$ [$_{\text{TP}}$*Keme bei* [$_{\text{VP}}$*abaghánmo ofoli-dei*]]].

′[$_{\text{Ø Dec-ForceP}}$ [$_{\text{TP}}$ man the [$_{\text{VP}}$has peeled the plantain]].'

b. [$_{\text{Ø Dec-ForceP}}$ [$_{\text{TopP}}$*Abaghánmo* [$_{\text{TP}}$*Keme bei* [$_{\text{ØTopMarker}}$***wo** ofoli-dei.*

Keme bei Masc Top plantain Def. Top. [$_{\text{TP}}$~~Keme~~ [$_{\text{PV [N}}$*plantain* $_V$peel-Pst]]]

'THE MAN, THE PLANTAIN e peeled it.'

[8a] above conveys a neutral sentence that portrays an SOV word order devoid of topicalization while the sentence in [8b] demonstrates an example of a topicalized structure. It is also observed that the language permits Top recursion as evidenced in the two Topicalised constituents in a single structure. In other words, the language employs Top recursion; however, such Tops are marked by null items with the topicalised constituents showing up in the Spec-

TopP position.

Focus Phrase

Izon expresses left peripheral focus explicitly in syntactic structures. The special particle ___ki___ is used to mark focus in Izon (Kwokwo, 2012). **K*i*** is canonically placed at a position immediately following the piece of new information that is being emphasized such as the specifier (Subject)DP or complement (Object) DP, or even a fronted wh-expression in an interrogative (Kwokwo, 2012:173) and receives focal stress. See examples [10a & b] below for neutral structures, [10c] for a focalized subject DP, and [10d] for a focalized object DP:

[9]   a.   S*ele   wari   doumị.*
              Sele(3rd.SG) house   Pst-look-for
        'Sele looked for a house.'

 b.   Sele   wari-n   doumi.
       Sele 3[rd]SG house-DET   Pst-look for
       Sele looked for the house'

c.   Sele   **ki**   wari-n   doumi.
      Sele 3[rd]SG. Foc   house-DET Pst.Foc-look for
      'It was who Sele$_{FOC}$ looked for the house'

d.   *Wari-n   **ki** Sele **wo** doutimi.*
       house-DET. FOC Sele 3[rd]SG. PST-looking for
       'It was a house-$_{FOC}$Sele-$_{FOC}$ was looking for'

[9a] and [9b] show neutral structures with an abstract or null indefinite article specifying the object DP and the definite article/singular marking specifying the object DP. The focalized subject DP in [10c] precedes the Foc marker (FM), **ki** as proof of a new information contrastively focalized (it was Sele and not Ebi who looked for the house). [10d] however demonstrates a contrastively focalized object DP, overtly displaced from its original VP

complement position and precedes the focus marker *ki*. Additionally, as it was observed earlier on in section 3.2 above, the Focus phrase in Bassan-Izon also attracts the presence of the particle *wo* to the subject DP. This is insertion. The presence of the particle *wo* in the two phrasal constituents can be explained as occasioned by the displaced DPs. In this respect, this **wo** particle performs an agentive function. Focused constituents are not recursive in Izon. In other words, a structure with more than one preposed FocP would not converge, and be ungrammatical as in [10] below.

[10]   *_TARI mo_ **ki** _FULO-n_ **ki**_tuo-mene_.
         Tari and *foc* soup-the *foc* cooking
         *'It is Tari that it is soup that is cooking'.

As mentioned in an earlier paragraph, Izon does not necessarily displace foci leftwards into the structural periphery as it is in English (Radford, 2006), and most Niger-Congo languages (Aboh, 2004; Doherty, 2016). However, in some PRO drop structures in Izon, typically, the FM moves into a position between morphemes of a lexical item as shown in the following sentences.

[11]   _Baa-**ki**-baa-mene ki gbaị_
Kill-*foc*-kill-ing foc said
'It is said, they are killing …'

[12]   _Mi_ **ki** _diri ni I_ **ki** _e pirin gbayemi._
This *foc* book the you which-RelP me give said it
'This is the book (which) you promised to give me.'

Like English, Izon also permits the co-occurrence of TopP and FocP and imposes a strict Top-Focorder as seen in English. In other words, the language does not allow a Top position lower to Foc. This observation affirms the findings of Aboh (2004) and Hager-Mboua (2014) concerning African languages. They argue that African languages (using Gungbe and Abidji respectively) impose a strict Top-Foc order as we shall see in [13] below, and any occurrence of Top position(s) lower than Foc, according to Rizzi and Bocci (2017) becomes a parametric or peripheral property independent of the possible recursion of Topics.

(13)   *Dou ma **Top** a fulo-n **ki** tuo-meneyaai̤*
         Dou-Fem she soup-that Foc cook-Prog Q-prt
         'DOU, is it soup she is cooking̤'

Discussion of Findings

The unbundling of the CP into ForceP, TopP, FocP, IntP, RelP, ModP, and FinP is evidenced in syntactic constructions of Bassan-Izon as it is seen in the English language. Our structures in the data analysis section above demonstrate this fact. The Force phrase is not overtly lexicalized in the declarative, exclamatory, and imperative constructions in both languages. The force of the structures is however evidenced in the pitch of the voice. The interrogative Force in the main clause is however lexicalized in both languages (wh-words: ***what, when*** etc., and ***teye, teriyo, teribra,*** etc. occur at the spec-CP position. However, this research has shown that whereas English preposes the overtly lexicalized Force marker ***if,*** in Izon, the overtly lexicalized Force marker ***yaa*** occurs at the clause-final position).

The Izon language can mark TopP and FocP in a manner that is similar to some structures in English but there are also parametric variations. FocP in English, for instance, always occurs after TopP. The reverse structure would render the derivation non-convergent. However, this is not the case with Izon syntax. In Izon, the FocP constituent can precede the TopP just as it can come elsewhere other than the CP domain in the case of structures with object DP focalization. Another difference between the two languages is that TopP recursion is not seen in Izon as it is in English. Dislocations in Izon motivated by Topicalization and focalization attract a particle ***wo*** to occur immediately after the subject DP.

The preposed wh-phrase in Izon occurs always with a Focus Marker to the left of the clause. This is in line with Kayne's (1994) assumption that the s*pecifie*r-head-complement configuration is the universal underlying order for all languages. He argues that languages with SOV have had their V complements moved out of the VP order at Spellout. In a wh-movement involving the displacement of the accusative NP, such is moved past the verb unto a higher

position in the structure in a bid to obtain the surface OV order. Kayne calls this "the VP vacating movement".

Conclusion

This paper has been a study of the cartography of the split CP in English and Izọn, two languages that are diametrically unrelated by genealogy. This is the syntactic mapping of the sublayers of the CP domain. It sought to identify the various constituents that constitute the CP zone such as Top, Foc, Int, etc., and if the hierarchical sequence was the same in the two languages. The study revealed that the characterization of the split CP has remarkable variations in English and Izon. English, for instance, preposes the overtly lexicalized Force marker *if,* but in Bassan-Izon, the overtly lexicalized Force marker *yaa* occurs at the clause-final position. Another intriguing difference observed is that in Bassan-Izon, every moved wh-item necessarily attracts the Foc marker *ki* to the CP domain for the structure to converge and be grammatical, a situation not synonymous with English. However, these differences agree in some way with the propositions made in different previous studies. These differences are attributable to the parametric variations of the universal grammar. There are also similarities. Like English, Izon also permits the co-occurrence of TopP and FocP and imposes a strict Top-Foc order as seen in English. In other words, the language does not allow a Top position lower to Foc. This observation affirms the findings of Aboh (2004) and Hager-Mboua (2014) concerning African languages.

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