Review Article

Morphological Properties of Place Names in Runyambo

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Abstract: This paper examines the morphological properties of place names in Runyambo, a Bantu language spoken in the north western part of Tanzania in Karagwe and Kyerwa districts of Kagera region. The structure of place names is as important as their meaning as far as the language is concerned. The paper is qualitative with descriptions of place names. Data was collected through unstructured interviews and focus group discussions. This paper employs the toponymic typology developed by Jan Tent and David Blair. It was found that Runyambo place names have varied morphology with some place names found in the locative noun classes 16 and 17. Most place names differ from nouns in not possessing augment, possessing a unique agreement which do not reflect the prefix on the names to the other categories occurring with it. Place names in Runyambo are also formed through reduplication, compounding with some of them being sentential. The prepositions nya (cl.9), rwa (cl.11), ca (cl.7) 'of' seem to form most of the nouns in addition to cl. 17 o-mu- and class 16 a-ha-. Place names in Runyambo are also found by attaching the noun class prefix. Some of the names are sentential. It is concluded that place names in Runyambo differ from nouns hence they form a unique category.

Keywords: Place Names, Agreement, Morphology, Syntax, Noun Class

1. Introduction

Runyambo is classified by Maho in zone E group 20 (Haya-Jita), language 1, hence E21 [10]. It is classified in the same group with Ruhaya E22, Ruzinza E23, Kereβe E24 and Jita E25. There is a close relationship between the said languages and Runyambo as they are all said to originate from Uganda as suggested by Schoenbrun who states that Haya, Kerewe, Zinza, Nyambo, in Tanzania and Kiga, Nkore, and Nyoro (group 10) in Uganda belong to Proto Rutara Bantu [15]. Their relatedness results in the greater intercomprehension rate of up to 85% between some of the languages in group 10 and Runyambo which is greater than its intercomprehension rate with other languages like Zinza, Jita and Kerewe. The intercomprehension rate between Runyambo and Zinza, Jita and Kerewe is said to be 76% [13]. This is heightened by the history of Banyambo who are said to have entered Tanzania from Uganda where group 10 languages belong [5]. It is argued by Rugemalira that, in purely linguistic terms, Ruhaya, Runyambo, Runyankore, and Ruciga (Nurse's Rutara group) could be regarded as dialects of the same

language. This is due to the intercomprehension rate among these languages which ranges between 75% and 85% [13]. The suggestion above is also supported by Katushemererwe and Hanneforth who regard Ruhaya as a dialect of Runyakitara together with Rutuku in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [6].

Toponyms are not randomly selected but they are chosen and carefully created from the existing words in a language. The selection is done on the basis of people's feelings, circumstances and other issues surrounding the space and time of naming. A place can be given a new name when the circumstances that resulted into the present name change. Place names possess varied linguistic structures in different languages. This paper discusses the morphological structure of place names in Runyambo. It presents the morphological structure and word formation processes which are involved in forming toponyms. It presents the uniqueness of proper names specifically place names which differentiate them from other word categories hence forming a category that is different from others. It employs the toponymic typology which was developed by Jan Tent and David Blair in their attempt to

develop a toponymic typology for Australian place names. This is manipulated to apply into Runyambo where different word formation processes were involved in forming toponyms. Almost all proper names possess morphological features which need to be studied. Most of the studies are on personal names hence; this paper aims at studying the morphological properties of place names in Runyambo.

2. Proper Names and Proper Nouns

Schücker and Ackermann argue that proper names among which place names are found may be morpho-syntactically simple (made up of a single word) or complex (consisting phrases) [14]. To them, proper names are different from proper nouns as the latter form the lexical category of names. Proper nouns are nouns at word level and are specialized to the function of heading proper nouns. Proper names are definite noun phrases referring uniquely to specific individuals in the world. They may not necessarily be headed by proper nouns. Also, not all names must contain proper nouns either as a head or modifier. Some proper names do not have nouns at all. They may be made up of words from other word categories. To justify that, Kabaso (76-85) divides Ng'umbo (a dialect of Bemba, a Bantu language (M42a) spoken in Zambia) nicknames into:

1. Denominals: formed from nouns whether proper or common nouns like Masaka 'cl.6-soghum'
2. Deverbals: derived from verbs like Kapulamakumbi 'pass through the sky'
3. Deadjectivals: formed from adjectives like Karumekepi 'short man'
4. Compounds and phrases: Formed by combining more than one word 'chinwaswaswa 'open mouth'
5. Sentence: having a subject and a predicate as in Musonsombe 'provoke him/her

The distribution of Ng'umbo nicknames reflects the reality that names are not necessarily nouns. They may be words from other word categories and even phrases and sentences [4]. Discussing the morphological patterns of names in Arabic language, Tahat analyses personal names depending on the word categories from which they are derived [16]. This shows that proper names differ from nouns as a word category in various languages. The names can be verbal in nature formed from verbs by attaching the derivational morpheme *mu*-as in Mu-tawali 'person responsible for' from ja-tawala 'to take care of' and Mu-hawiʃ 'trouble maker' from ja-hwiʃ 'to make troubles'. Different from Jordanian Arabic, Lulogooli, a dialect of Luhya (Bantu) language group spoken in the Western Province of Kenya and Eastern Uganda does not involve suffixes [1].

The types of names namely, personal names, place names and names of things and tools have some forms of morphological pattern. In Both Lulogooli and Jordanian Arabic, proper names are also formed though derivation and inflection. In Jordanian Arabic, the derivational processes result into compound names, diminutives, reduplicants and verbal nouns. On the other hand, personal names [16] and toponyms [1] in these languages are formed through inflectional processes forming names by pluralisation (in Lulogooli and Jordanian Arabic) and names inflected for gender (in Jordanian Arabic). The structure of personal names in Jordanian Arabic suggests that the morphology of proper names (including place names) fit into the inherent morphological processes found in the language in question. To support this, Anindo argues that Lulogooli toponyms comprise one or more morphemes just as the other words in the language [1]. Mojapelo provides evidence that in the Bantu language Northern Sotho, many place names are derived from proper names or common nouns via affixation [12]. Thus, the word formation processes involved in forming place names may not differ from those involved in forming other words in the language.

The Morphology of Place Names in Various Languages

Toponyms in different languages possess various morphological features depending on the languages to which they belong. Just like other words, toponyms in Lulogoli are formed by free morphemes or a combination of free and bound morphemes as in Chavakali from cha-va-kali and Candumba from cha-n-dumba. The meanings of the names are always carried in the root as vakali 'wives' in Chavakali 'of wives'. To her, place names do not differ from other nouns in the language. They consist of a root, prefix and pre-prefix which is optional. They also belong to the noun class system which determine their inflection and the agreement on verbs and adjectives which occur with them [1].

Anindo presents 3 morphological processes involved in forming Lulogooli toponyms including derivation, inflection and compounding and blending [1]. On the other hand Helmbrecht and Handschuh argue that morphological processes that are exclusively reserved for proper noun formation seem to be very rare from a typological point of view [3]. As argued by most of the scholars in the discussion above, proper nouns seem to originate from common nouns and other non-onymic lexemes. This makes them to preserve regular morphological rules of word formation. Schlücker & Ackermann argue that special morphological markers may emerge in the course of forming proper names [14]. According to Bermudez-Otero, name morphemes always carry a syntactic feature [+proper], which differentiates them from morphemes building common nouns [2]. This paper discusses how place names are formed in Runyambo.

It is argued by Köhnlein that many (Dutch) place names are in fact synchronically complex, in spite of their semantic non-transparency. He proves this assertion by presenting the phonological behavior of place names in Dutch which are often the sole apparent exceptions to otherwise strong restrictions on stress assignment and phonotactics [8]. His argument contradicts the assertion by many linguists that from a synchronic perspective, place names are morphologically simple because constituents of complex place names often become opaque over time. To him, onomastics has significantly contributed to our understanding of the structural complexity that many names display etymologically, but has paid less attention to their synchronic morphological structure.

He gives examples of place names like Dutch Amsterdam which is claimed to be synchronically compositional because Amster- does not exist as an independent morpheme in Dutch. He argues that complex place names exist in many languages and they need to be studied. This paper sets out to see if there are complex place names in Runyambo.

Komaraa, Sobarnab, Gunardic and Syad argue that at the moment a name is given to an object, the language of the name-giver provides both the elements needed and the structures to join them together [9]. On a similar case, Vitas, Krstev and Maurel argue that proper names share the morphological properties of the languages in which they appear. Serbian proper names can be formed through inflection. For instance, Serbian plural and singular proper names can fall into seven classes; nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, vocative, instrumental and locative. They also argue that proper names in Serbia can be formed through

regular derivation which is a common word formation process in the language [18]. This paper discusses place names in Runyambo to see the patterns involved in the formation of such names and the morphological processes involved in forming the same.

To complement the fact that the processes of forming names in a language is shaped by the morphology of the language in which the names are found, Mojapelo presents that place names in Northern Sotho can be morphologically subcategorized into 4 groups including;

Those without a grammatical locative marker

Those marked by the prefix ga-

Those with suffix –ing

Those with the prefix bo-

Such patterns are found in different place names as exemplified in 1 [12].

1. Ø	Ga-	-ng	Bo
Moletlane	GaMamabolo	Mahwelereng	Bokgaga
Tshwane	GaNchabeleng	Gauteng	Bopedi
Modimolle	GaThaba	Dithabaneng	Boṱokwa
Phalaborwa	GaMasemola	Ditlhopaneng	Bolobedu
Moletji	GaMothapo	Serobaneng	Bokgatla
(Moletši)	GaDikgale	Hwelešaneng	Bokgalaka

The examples in 1) present the fact that place names possess systematic morphological patterns which also reflect the semantics of the names to which the morphemes are attached. For instance, the prefix bo- is prefixed to a proper name root of an ethnic group or sub ethnic group or clan while –ing is suffixed to common nouns and ga- to proper names. Similarly, Marjie-Okyere argues that a society uses an inflectional or derivational approach to describe the pattern of the names. In Kibukusu, for instance, the place prefix e- is attached to existing words to form place names. So, these names of places usually have e- plus the root word. Some examples are E-bungoma, E-kapchai, E-si-kusi, E-kolomani [10]. This shows that the constituents forming place names are meaningful and contribute to the general meaning of a place names.

Place names in Northen Sotho can also be formed through compounding, common noun re-categorization by word extension and reduplication. Some of the place names are derived from the names of the rulers of the place. Such names do not attach to any affix. They remain as they are as in Tshwane. Mojapelo claims that all the nouns used in forming place names are not specific to place names as they are used in forming common nouns which have the semantic feature (+loc) [12].

This necessitates the need for this paper which discusses the morphological patterns of place names in Runyambo to see whether they fall into the patterns in which other words in the language fall.

Köhlein argue that the etymological meaning of place names is irrelevant for the synchronic 'meaning' of the constituents. The irrelevance of overt meanings in name

morphemes seems more clearly in left hand constituents of place names in Dutch as these morphemes can be entirely meaningless [8]. This is because most of the classifiers forming place names in Dutch have seized to exist as recurring strings that could be identified as meaningful as in Maarschalk in which the morphemes maar- and -schalk do not exist. Despite that fact, he finds it important to study the morphological structure of such names. This paper sets out to find what is happening with the constituents of place names in Runyambo to see if they contribute to the meaning of the entire place name.

Köhlen believes that there can be recurring elements that serve to mark words as place names although they need not carry an attribute of the settlement itself [8]. This assertion instigates the need of a researcher to investigate on the relations between the elements forming place names in Runyambo to see if they contribute to the entire meaning of the place name and if they relate to the settlement to which the name refers.

3. Methodology

This paper is descriptive in nature, describing the structure of place names in Runyambo. It applies the qualitative approach in explaining the morpho-syntactic features of the names. Data were collected through interview and focus group discussion. Place names were collected and grouped into classes depending on their structure including noun classes. They were later analysed in relation to Tent and Blair's category nine and level one and two which concentrate on the form and linguistic substance of the toponyms. The model is

discussed hereunder

The Model of Toponym Typology

This model was established by Jan Tent and David Blair in their attempt to prepare a typology for Australian place names. Their curiosity was raised by the weaknesses of the then available toponymic typologies which could not fit into analyzing toponyms in Australia. Tent and Blair argue that almost all the toponymic typologies which have been developed show inconsistencies in their structure and include categories which are too wide or too narrow, which overlap with each other, or deal only with indigenous place names. They suggest that any effective typology needs to distinguish between;

1. Classification by specific and generic elements and
2. The linguistic substance which includes morphology, syntax and semantics of a toponym and the mechanisms that underlie the bestowal of the name.

A practical typology must be flexible enough to allow additions of categories without causing fundamental structural changes [17]. It should accommodate different languages, regions and eras as suggested by Klugah [7].

Tent and Blair's toponymic analysis base on 3 levels including

1. Form which deals with the generic elements of the toponym which are normally influenced by the geographic topographies as in River Kagera in which river is a generic element.
2. Naming process involves a linguistic substance in the toponym. It discusses the morphological, syntactic and semantic elements in the toponym.
3. Motivation for the toponyms concerns the specific elements identified in a toponym. It is looked at from the namer's point of view, speculating about the source and significance of such a name to the namer.

However, Tent and Blair are of the belief that one can design an effective typology only by distinguishing between specific and generic elements and identifying the linguistic substance of the toponyms though a combination of the 3 can yield a good analysis and effective classification of toponyms.

The model proposes nine categories to be considered when analyzing toponyms including:

1. Descriptive category which indicates an inherent characteristic of the feature. This category involves the description of four inherent characteristics comprising; topographic, relative, locational and Numerical/Measurement.
2. Associative category indicates something which is always or often associated with the feature or its physical context.
3. Occurrent category is involved when a toponym records an event, incident, occasion (or date), or action associated with the feature.
4. Evaluative which reflects the emotional reaction of the namer, or a strong connotation associated with the feature.
5. Shift involves use of a toponym, in whole or part from another location or feature.
6. Indigenous category involves importing an indigenous toponym or word into the introduced system.
7. Eponymous category involves commemorating or honoring a person or other named entity by using a proper name title or eponym substitute as a toponym.
8. Linguistic innovation involves introducing a new linguistic form, by manipulation of language such as blending of two toponyms, words or morphemes; anagram i.e. using the letters of another toponym to create a new anagrammatic form; and humor which involves using language play with humorous intent to create a new toponym
9. Erroneous category includes introducing a new form through garbled transmission, misspelling, and mistaken meaning.

All the nine categories are very important as far as analyzing place names is concerned. However, since this paper investigates on the linguistic substance (Morphology and semantics) of place names in Runyambo, it will concentrate much on the 8th category which looks at how toponyms are formed through different word formation processes. Though only three (blending, anagram and humor) inherent features are introduced in this theory, it can also include other word formation processes as far as the formation of place names in Runyambo is concerned. The other categories may be applied as we discuss the meanings of place names which this paper does not concentrate much on. As argued earlier, Tent and Bliar agree that two levels of form and naming process can be considered in the analysis of toponyms depending on the intention of the author [17]. This paper considers the two levels but mostly on the naming process.

Tent and Blair state the features of category 8 which are specific to the language they are discussing. Nonetheless, it is argued by Klugah that the manipulation of language encompasses various word formation processes with which a language forms the words it uses including clipping, compounding or agglutination and borrowing [7]. The category respects all languages for their ability to be productive. This suggests the structure (phonological, morphological, syntactic) of any language can influence the nature of its toponyms. Therefore, any analysis of toponyms should consider the internal linguistic structures of the language from which that place name evolved.

Hence, Tent and Blair's model can be generalized to languages of different families including Bantu languages in which Runyambo is found. The researcher employed this model to analyse the morphological structure of place names in Runyambo.

4. The Morphology of Place Names in Runyambo

Runyambo has unique place names which differ from other word categories in the language. Despite the motivation behind such naming which this paper will not concentrate on, Runyambo place names have meanings which reflect the

specific and generic elements of the named places. A total of 457 place names were collected including village names, names of the farms, streets, markets, streams, lakes and rivers from which wanyambo fetch water. This paper bases its discussion on the linguistic substance (Morphology and Semantics) of toponyms in Runyambo. Though it is a morphological study, the literal meanings which may reflect the motivation behind the naming are included since morphology cannot be separated from semantics.

Runyambo place names possess features including the purely morphological features of word formation including affixation and compounding and some names are made up of phrases in which the agreement features are discussed. Some of the place names are derived from other word categories like verbs and adjectives. Only the place names that are Runyambo in nature and the borrowed names which have been modified to fit into Runyambo are considered for discussion in this paper.

In Runyambo, place names are formed through various morphological processes including affixation, compounding, reduplication with some formed with phrases and sentences. The names are morphologically distributed into various groups including those belonging to noun classes, those derived from verbs and others with special spatial prefixes attached to them. Some of the patterns seem more productive than others. The nouns in Runyambo are formed through affixation of different affixes to nouns, verbs and adjectives or the combination of such.

4.1. Place Names in Noun Class System

Since some of the place names belong to noun class system, the researcher found it important to present Runyambo noun class system before presenting place names in Runyambo. This is also because in almost all cases place names function as nouns in Runyambo. The basic structure of the noun in this language is (AUGMENT) + PREFIX + ROOT + (SUFFIX) as in (o) + mu + gook + (e) 'the ashamed person'.

Table 1. Noun Class System in Runyambo.

Class	Augment	Prefix	Example	Gloss
1	o-	-mu-	Omuntu	Person
2	a-	-ba-	Abantu	People
1a		ø/wa	Táata	Father
2b		ba-	Batáata	Fathers
3	o-	-mu-	omupéera	guava tree
4	e-	-mi-	emipéera	guava trees
5	e-	i-/-ri	itáma/eríiso	cheek/eye
6	a-	-ma-	amatáma	Cheeks
7	e-	-ci-	eciríibwa	Cassava
8	e-	-bi-	ebiríibwa	Cassavas
9	e-	-(n)-	Ente	Cow
10	e-	-(n)-	Ente	Cows
11	o-	-ru-	Oruhu	skin
12	a-	-ka-	Akáana	small child
13	o-	bu-/tu	obwâna	small boys
14	o-	-bu-	Obúce	Thinness
15	o-	-ku-	Okúju	a kneel
15a	o-	-ku-	okujenda	to go
16	a-	-ha-	Ahamútwe	on the head
17	o-	ku-	Okuzímu	to hell
18	o-	mu-	Omunzu	in the house

It was found that most place names in Runyambo are formed by special spatial prefixes which differ from Runyambo noun class prefixes in what they designate. However, some place names were found to inherently belong to a category of nouns with all the structural properties of nouns including pre-prefix, noun class prefix and a root. These names were found to belong to the locative classes 16 and 18. The examples in 2 present the place names which are inherently nouns:

2.
Class 16	Class 18
Aharuchiri 'at a big dam'	Omubhitoma 'among the big fig trees'
Ahanchiro 'at a spring'	Omwitongo 'in the vacated homestead'
Ahamujajaro 'at the market'	Omuruchiri 'in a big dam'
Ahanasiri 'at the nursery'	Omurusaka 'in a big bush'

The names in 2 possess all the features of Runyambo locative nouns which are made up by an augment, the locative noun class prefix, the prefix of the noun class from which the noun is derived and the noun root. A place name aharuciri 'at a big dam' for instance is formed from an augment a-, noun class 16 prefix –ha-, noun class 11 prefix -ru- and the root –ciri as differentiated from omuruciri made up of an augment o- noun class 18 prefix -mu-, noun class 11 prefix –ru- and the root *ciri*. The other nouns are presented in 3:

3.

Class 16	class 18
a) ahanciro	omwitongo
a-ha-n-ciro	o-mu-i-tongo
AUG-cl.16-cl.9-spring	AUG-cl.18-cl.5-vacated homestead
'At the spring'	'In the vacated homestead'
b) ahamugoongo	omukayanza
a-ha-mu-gongo	o-mu-ka-yanza
AUG-cl.16-cl.3-highland	AUG-cl.18-cl.12-waterbody
'At the highland'	'In the water body'
c) Aharuciko	omucisarara
a-ha-ru-ciko	o-mu-ci-sarara
AUG-cl.16-cl11-palace	AUG-cl.18-cl.3-marshland
'At the palace'	'At the marshland'

The examples in 3 show that some place names in Runyambo possess the features of nouns hence belongs to the noun category. The place names belonging to the noun category in Runyambo are only found in noun class 16 and 18 locative classes.

Place names in Runyambo are formed by dependent roots and prefixes just as most of the words in the language. Some of them possess the features of Runyambo nouns except that they lack an augment. Such names are presented in 4.

4. Class 5
   Ihorezo 'a court'
   Iserero 'where misfortunes are signaled'
   Ihanda 'kind of tree with strips'

Class 6
   Matongo 'vacated homesteads'
   Marebhera 'where you can stand and see'

Masese 'big misese trees'

The nouns in 4 possess noun class 5 and 6 prefixes. However, they lack the augment and semantic features of the noun classes to which they belong. Also, most of the nouns in this category are derived from verbs as will be discussed. The word Ihanda is made up of noun class 5 prefix i- and the root -handa 'way/path/strip. The word matongo on the other hand is made up of noun class 6 prefix ma- and the root -tongo 'vacated homesteads while masese is made up of noun class 6 prefix ma- and the root -sese 'a kind of tree'. Normally, in Runyambo, terms referring to trees and paths belong to class 3 and 4 like in omusese> emisese, omuhanda > emihanda. This is different from the names which we can say receives special prefixes.

5. Class 7
   Cikoni 'a big stick'
   Cibhugu 'bark clothe (pejorative)'
   Cihanga 'a big low land'
   Cituntu 'a big hill'
Class 8
   Bhyoga 'animal washing places'
   Bhisese 'big misese trees'
   Bhiciri 'dams'

Some place names in Runyambo are made up of the prefix ci- and bhi- which in Runyambo introduce nouns in class 7 and 8 respectively. The name Cikoni is formed by the prefix ci- and the root –koni 'stick'. The other place names are presented in the examples in 6.

6.

a) Cibhugu	Bhyoga
ci-bhugu	bhi-yoga
cl.7-bark cloth	cl.8-take birth
'a big bark cloth'	'an animal washing places'
b) cihanga	bhisese
ci-hanga	bhi-sese
cl.7-low land	cl.8- kind of tree
'a big low land'	'big misese trees'
c) Cituntu	Bhiciri
ci-tuntu	bhi-ciri
cl.7-hill	cl.8-dam
'a big hill'	'a big dam'

The place names in the examples in 6 are formed by noun class 7 prefix ci- and noun class 8 prefix bhi- respectively. However, just like other place names, they don't possess an augment. This makes the place names different from nouns as they don't possess the inherent feature of nouns which is an augment. So, place names generally differ from nouns in many ways including lack of pre-prefixes and not presenting the semantic class of other nouns in the same class. It also includes nouns which are inherently found in other classes like orubugu 'bark cloth' and oruhanga 'low land' in class 11. The other names were found to take prefixes from noun class 9/10 as in 7.

7. Class 9/10
   Nyanga 'cave'
   Nkurungo 'crashing stone'
   Ngwero 'hunters' falling/resting place'
   Ngando 'thorn trees
   Mpaama 'bald lands'

The examples in 7 present the place names formed by prefixes in class 9/10. A place name *Nyanga,* for example is derived from class 9 noun enyanga 'a cave'. Just like other village names in the discussion above, the nouns in these groups do not possess the augments. Nkurungo is made up of a noun class 9 prefix N- and the root –kurungo 'crashing stone'. Mpaama and Ngando on the other hand are derived from the noun class 10 prefix N- (nasal) and the roots –haama 'bald land' and -gando 'thorny tree' respectively. Ngwero is derived from the verb -gwa as will be discussed. The other place names are formed by the prefix –ru as in 8.

8. Class 11
   Rugu 'kind of tree'
   Rukare 'drought/ water dried
   Ruhanga 'lowland/valley
   Ruraro 'cow shed (augmentative)'

The place names in 8 are formed by the prefix ru- which in Runyambo is found in noun class 11 mostly referring to augmentative and pejoratives. The village name Rugu is derived from a name of a tree known as omugu found in this area. It is formed by the prefix *ru-* and the root *-gu* 'a tree'. Rukare, Ruhanga and Ruraro possess the same features as Rugu as they are formed by the prefix ru- and the roots -kare 'dry land' –hanga 'low land' and -raro 'animal shed'. The other names were found to be formed by the prefix ka- and bhu- which are inherently found in noun class 12 and 13 respectively as presented in 9.

9.

Class 12	Class 13
Keina 'small hole'	Bugara 'swamp glass'
Kahanga 'small valley'	Bhuseri 'other side of the valley'
Kasese 'small msese tree'	Bhurama 'small mirama trees'

The place names in 9 include the names referring to small entities. The place name Keina for instance is derived from noun class 12 prefix ka- and the root -ina 'hole'. *Bugara* is derived from the noun class 13 prefix bhu- and the root –gara 'swamp grass'. The structure of the other names is presented in 10.

10.

Class 12	Class 13
a) Kahanga	Bhurama
ka-hanga	bhu-rama
cl.12-low land	cl.13-kind of a tree
a small low land'	'small trees'
b) Kasese	Bhusinde
ka-sese	bhu-sinde
cl.12-kind of a tree	cl.13-sinde
'a small msese tree'	'small clods of soil
c) Kabhare	Bhubhare
ka-rongo	bhu-bhare
cl.12-tree	cl.13-stone
'a small mrongo tree'	'small stones'

Runyambo place names in 10 are formed from nouns in noun class 12 and 13 respectively. Just like other place names in Runyambo, the place names in the group do not carry the augment. For instance, bhubhare is from class 13 noun obhubhare 'small stones' with an augment –o, a noun class prefix bhu- and a root –bhare 'stone'.

4.2. Place Names Derived from Verbs

Some place names in Runyambo were found to be derived from verbs. This group forms a variety of morphological features. Some affixes are attached on verbs to form place names as in 11.

11. a) Igurwa
    i-gur-w-a
    cl.5-buy-PASS-FV
    'which is bought'
  b) Itaho
    i-tah-o
    CL.5-enter-SFX
    Where people enter
  c) Ngwero
    n-gu-er-o
    cl.10-fall-APPL-SFX
    'where people fall/ where the hunters rest'

The village names in 11 are formed from the verbs. This is done through the attachment of noun class prefixes and nominalizing suffix as in 13 b) where suffix –o is attached to the verb roots gur- 'buy'. In 13 a) and b) noun class 5 prefix i- is attached to the verbs with the passive suffix –w- and nominalizing suffix -o to form place names Igurwa and itaho respectively. Different from these two, a place name Ngweero is formed by the noun class 10 prefix *n*-, verb root –gu- 'fall', the applicative verb extension –er and the nominalizing suffix –o. There are other place names formed by nominalizing verbs with the suffix –o as presented in 12.

12. a) Ihorezo
    i-hor-er-i-o cl.5-cool-APPL-CAUS-SFX
    'a court' (Where disputes are settled)
  b) Iserero
    i-ser-er-o
    cl.5-signal misfortune-APPL-SFX
    'where misfortunes are signaled'
  c) Kasensero
    Ka-senser-o
    cl.12-penetrate-SFX
    'A narrow path'
  d) Kakiro
    Ka-kir-o
    cl.12-be healed-SFX
    'Where healing take place'

The nouns in 12 are formed from verbs which are nominalized by the nominalizing suffix –o. The other place names in Runyambo are formed from verbs by noun class 11 prefix ru- and the verb as in 13.

13. a) Runyaga
      ru-nyag-a
      cl.11-rob-FV

Where the robbery takes place'
  b) Ruzinga
    ru-zing-a
    cl.11-obstruct-FV
    Obstruct occurrence by magic

The Place names in 13 are driven from verbs by prefixing the verbs with the prefix ru-. In the group of place names with a prefix ru-, only two are verbs. This makes Runyambo a language with a variety of place names as far as morphological structure is concerned. Place names from verbs take the same prefixes as other place names discussed under nouns.

Generally, many varieties of place names derived from verbs exist as discussed in this section. Runyambo has generally a rich morphology of place names. The unique thing about most of them is their uniqueness that differentiates them from nouns and verbs. They form a unique category which morphologically does not fit into nouns, verbs or any other category.

4.3. Place Names Formed by the Attachment of the Preposition -a

Runyambo place names can also be formed by attaching special prefixes nya, cha, and rwa 'of' to the already existing words in Runyambo. Looking at these prefixes, it was realized that, they are formed by the preposition –a 'of' which must agree with the nouns which it occurs with. The preposition –a in Runyambo is a possessive preposition which shows that one entity is owned by the other. Most of the place names in Runyambo fall into this category. One group of these place names are those formed by nya which is a possessive preposition in noun class 9 presented in 14.

14. Nyakasozi 'of small hill'
    Nyamiyaga 'of winds'
    Nyachigongo 'of a big highland'
    Nyakabhare 'of a small stone'
    Nyamabhare 'of stones'
    Nyakayanja 'of a small water body'
    Nyakahanga 'of small low land'
    Nyeisozi 'of a high land'
    Nyarwere 'of plain land'
    Nyabhikurungo'of big grinding stones'

The preposition nya is used to form most of the place names in Runyambo. It is formed from noun class 9 prefix N- and the bound preposition –a. The preposition Nya is attached to nouns to form place names. The formed nouns still indicate possession in the meanings of the place names. The evidence is reflected in the examples in 15.

15. a) Nyamihingo
    N-a-mi-hingo
    cl.9-of-cl.4-cattle fold wood
    'of cattle fold wood'
  b) Nyabhitaabha
    N-a-bhi-taabha
    cl.9-of-cl.8-dam'
    of big dams'
  c) Nyakaziba
    N-a-ka-zibha

cl.9-of-12-stream
'of a small stream'
d) Nyarugoye
N-a-ru-goye
cl.9-of-cl.11-potato leave
'of sweet potato leaves'
e) Nyacitaabha
N-a-ci-taabha
cl.9-of-cl.7-dam
'of a big dam'
f) Nyabhuzibha
N-a-bhu-zibha
cl.9-of-cl.13-stream
'of small steams'

As seen in the examples in 15 the preposition nya is attached as a prefix to fully formed nouns making a place name to have 3 prefixes (2 noun class prefixes, preposition – a and a root. The place name Nyamihingo for instance if formed by 4 morphemes including N-, a-, -mi- and -hingo. Also, Nyarugoye is a place name formed by 3 prefixes including N-, a-, -ru, and the root -goye. Some of the place names in Runyambo are also formed by the noun class 11 possessive preposition rwa 'of' from noun class prefix ru-, and the preposition -a which just as nya is attached to fully formed words as in 16.

16. a) Rwabhitembe
ru-a-bhi-tembe
of-cl.8-wild banana
'of a cobra'
b) Rwandaaro
Ru-a-n-raaro
of-cl.10-small hurts for religious ritual
'of small hurts for religious ritual'
c) Rwenjuju
ru-a-e-n-juju
cl.11-of-AUG-cl.9-cobra
'of wild bananas'
d) Rwentuhe
ru-a-e-n-tuhe
cl.11-of-AUG-cl.9-type of birds'
'of a type of birds'
e) Rwamitima
ru-a-mi-tima
cl.11-of-cl.4-heart
'of hearts'
f) Rwentundu
Ru-a-e-n-tundu
cl.11-of-AUG-cl.9-type of banana
'of a kind of banana'

The examples in 16 present another unique feature of place names in Runyambo. Different from other place names, the names in this group are divided into two structures. On one hand, the preposition rwa is attached to a fully formed noun without an augment as in a), d) and e). Prefixes in b), c) and f) are formed with nouns in group 9 in which different from other formations, a fully formed noun with an augment is combined with rwa to form a place name. Then a

morphophonological process happens in which the vowel on the preposition rwa- is merged with an augment on the nouns to form the place names like Rwentuhe, Rwenjuju and Rwentundu.

Other place names in Runyambo are formed by noun class 7 preposition ca- 'of' which like rwa- attaches to the nouns differently. In the nouns in class 8, 9 and 5, it includes the augment making the preposition to be realised as ca, ce- and ci-. The vowels on the prefix assimilate to the augment in class 9 and to the noun class prefix in class 5 and 8. The place names in this group are presented in 17.

17. Ciitukuza 'of whitening'
Cengabhi 'of gazelle'
Camaguru 'of legs'
Ceibhumba 'of clay soil'
Ciitumbi 'of mid night'
Cakajura 'of a rainfall'
Cabhahaya 'of Haya people'
Cabhayanda 'of Yanda people'
Censwera 'of flies'
Cencwera 'of black mamba'

The place names in 17 are formed by attaching the noun class 7 preposition ca- 'of' to the nouns, some of which are fully formed and others lack an augment as in the already discussed place names. This reveals the evidence that place names in Runyambo possess various morphological structures which are unique to place names. The morphology of such names is presented in 18.

18. a) Ciitukuza
Ca-i-tukur-i-a
of-cl.5-be white/red-CAUS-FV
'of whitening/ reddening'
b) Ciitumbi
Ci-a i-tumbi
cl.7-of-cl.5-mid night
'of mid night'
c) Cengabhi
ci-a-e-n-gabhi
cl.7-of-AUG-cl.9-gazelle
'of gazelle'
d) Cibhicucu
ci-a-e-bhi-cucu
cl.7-of-AUG-cl.8-dust
'of dust'
e) Censwera
ci-a-e-n-swera
cl.7-of-AUG-cl.9-fly
'of flies'
f) Cencwera
ci-a e-n-cwera
cl.7-of-AUG-cl.9-spite
'of black mamba'

The place names in 18 possess varied structures depending on the vowel of the noun to which they are attached. In a), the preposition ca- is attached to the nominalized verb itukuza 'which whitens'. The noun itukuza is nominalized by a noun class 5 prefix i- which changes the vowel on the

preposition ca- into i- resulting into ciitukuza. Similarly, the place name ciitumbi is formed by a combination of a prefix ca- and a class 5 noun itummbi 'midnight' the vowel of which changes the prefix into ci-. The Place name Cibhicucu on the other hand is formed by the prefix ca- attached to a class eight noun ebhicucu merging the vowels /a/ in a prefix and an augment e- in ebhicucu into i- to form a place name Cibhicucu. In the place names in b), d) and f) the vowel a- on ca- and the Augment e- on nouns merge into e- to form the place nouns.

4.4. Compound Place Names

Other place names in Runyambo are formed by the combination of more than one word from which we get compound place names. These names are formed by words from different word categories including verbs, nouns, prepositions and phrases. The place names in this group are presented in 19.

19. Chibonwanimi 'which is seen by a bull
    Ibanganyuma 'behind the mountain'
    Kabureisoke 'which lacks hair'
    kachwankwanzi 'which harvests beads'
    Bweranyange 'where white birds are many'

The place names in 19 are formed by a combination of two or more words which possess various morphological structures. There is no specific pattern of forming compound place names in Runyambo. Each of the names has its structure which though following the rules are different from each other. Some of the place names in this group are pursed in 20.

20. a) Cibonwanimi
    ci-bon-w-a n-nimi
    cl.7-see-PASS-FVcl.9-bull
    'which is seen by a bull
   b) Kabureisoke
    Ka-bur-a e-i-soke
    cl.12-lack-FV AUG-cl.5-hair
    'which lacks hair'
   c) Bweranyange
    bu-er-a n-yange
    cl.14-be white-FV cl.9-white birds
    'where white birds are many'

The formation of compound place names in Runyambo is not uniform. Each of the names possesses a unique structure as presented in 20. The place name ibanganyuma for example is made up of a noun ibhanga 'mountain' and a preposition nyuma 'behind' while Kabureisoke is made up of a verb and a noun. A few place names are formed by 3 words including an associative -a. However, only one of them exists presently. Two of the three nouns have been given new names including Katwe A and Katwe B. The 3 are presented in 21.

21. a) Citwecenkura
    ci-twe ci-a e-n-kura
    cl.7-head cl.7-of AUG-cl.9-rhinoceros
    'rhinoceros' big head'
   b) Katwekeifo
    Ka-twe k-a ifo
    Cl.12-head cl.12-of downward'

'a small head of the lowland'
   c) Katwekuruguru
    ka-twe k-a o-ru-guru
    cl.12-head cl.12-of AUG-cl.11-upland
    'a small head of the highland'

The place names in 21 are formed from a combination of three words including an associative –a 'of' which agrees with the nouns. The place name Citwecenkura for instance is formed from the class 7 noun (without augment) citwe 'big head', class 7 associative ca 'of' which agrees with the noun, and a class 9 noun enkura 'rhinoceros'. Just like in other place names prefixed to ci -a-, the vowels /i/, /a/ and /e/ merge into [e]. Katwekeifo is formed through the same process in which ka- 'of' agrees with the noun katwe 'small head'. The vowel in ka- merges with the vowel in ifo to form keifo hence Katwekeifo. In Katwekuruguru, the vowel in ka- merges with augment o- to become u.

4.5. Place Names Formed Through Reduplication

Place names in Runyambo can be formed through reduplication. The place name Owadadadada is formed by the reduplication of a noun dada 'sister' and the attachment of the preposition owa- 'at'. This place name means 'at my sister's place'. The other reduplicated place name is Kasakasaka in which the root -saka 'bush' is reduplicated and attached to noun class 12 prefix ka- to form a place name Kasakasaka.

4.6. Sentential Place Names

Some place names in Runyambo were found to be made up of sentences. They possess all the features of the sentences lacking only the overt subjects which are always optional in Bantu languages. They possess the subject marker referring to the subject, the verb and some possess the objects. The examples in 22 justify this argument.

22. a) Cetobhokeire
    ci-e-tobhok-er-ir-e
    cl.7SM-REF-be holed-CAUS-PERF-FV
    It has holed itself
   b) Echizanibharebha
    e-ci-z-a ni-ba-rebh-a
    AUG-cl.7-come-FV PROG-cl.2-be awake-FV
    'Which comes when they are awake
   c) Sigawayara
    Sig-a wa-yar-a
    leave-FV 2ndSG-make bed-FV
    'Make bed before you leave.'
   d) Mtafirumwana
    mu-ta-f-ir-a o-mu-ana
    2nd-NEG-die-APPL-FV AUG-cl.1-child
    'Do not die for a child.'

Cetobhokeire is named after a spring from which people fetch water. This place is said to have holed itself. Ecizanibharebha on the other hand is sentential in this case a complex sentence with 2 clauses eciza 'which comes' and nibharbha 'they are awake'. The sentence sigawayara is imperative directing on what should be done. It contains a

covert subject iwe 'you'. In d) Mutafirumwana is made up of a subject marker –mu- functioning as a subject imwe 'you' a negation -ta- and the verb -fira 'die for' and the object omwana. This is a complete sentence used as a single word when naming a place.

In Runyambo as in other Bantu languages, a verb can represent a sentence. Some place names which seem as one verb semantically represent the sentence. Their meanings are sentential, and they possess all the syntactic features of sentences as in 23.

23. a) Nkwenda
   n-ku-end-a
   1st SGSM-2nd SGOM-love-FV
   I love you
   b) Ndeenga
   n-reeng-a
   '1st SGSM-climb-FV'
   'I climb to the top of the hill'

The names Nkwenda 'I love you' and Ndeenga 'I climb' are formed by the first person prefix *n*- (a subject) attached to the second person prefix ku- (an object) and the verb root end- 'love'(a transitive verb) with the final vowel that is always attached to all verbs in Bantu languages including Runyambo. The name Ndeenga on the other hand is formed by the first person prefix n- (a subject), the verb root reeng- and the final vowel –a.

Generally, Runyambo place names possess various linguistic features ranging from words, phrases, simple sentences to complex sentence. Such place names however differ from words in other word categories in many aspects. This can also be presented through the difference in syntactic behavior of place names.

5. Conclusion

Place name in Bantu languages, specifically Runyambo have a rich morphology that is worth to be preserved. The names are formed with a range of structures including morphological, phonological and syntactic. They can be made up of one to three words. Place names have unique features compared to nouns. The name givers decide on the structure of a name they are giving depending on the context. Names in Runyambo possess features which differentiate them from nouns. They can be made up of verbs which are however attached to prefixes. Some place names have all the features of nouns while most of them carry the noun class prefixes without an augment making them less nouns. Place names have agreement features which differentiate them from nouns. Their overt noun class is not reflected on the words with which they appear. They agree with the common noun to which a place name is referring to. A place name can refer to a place in noun class 16, to land/country in noun class 9 and people in noun class 2.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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