JALINGO JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS AND LITERARY STUDIES
(JAJOLLS)

A Publication of the

Department of Languages and Linguistics

Faculty of Arts

Taraba State University, Jalingo

EDITORIAL

Every academic environment is sustained by learning through rigorous methods. Research is one and the focal point for assessment. A serious member of the academic community is measured by the quality and number of academic articles.

In spite of the desire to acquire many research reports, this edition has insisted on standards and quality. It is important to note that many articles have been rejected for not meeting our requirements.

The first and most obvious task of our journal is to provide a level playing field for researchers all over the globe in language-related disciplines, which is the vehicle for conveying knowledge. In this edition, thirty-one (31) articles have undergone academic scrutiny from our blind reviewers.

To our esteemed contributors and readers, thought-provoking articles are expected and we are ready to publish them in the next volume.

PROFESSOR ALI AMADI ALKALI,
Editor-in-Chief,
JAJOLLS: Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies,
Department of Languages and Linguistics,
Taraba State University, Jalingo.

FOR READERS

This volume of JAJOLLS (Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Volume 8, Issue 1) adheres to the guidelines of the current edition of the American Psychological Association and Modern Language Association (APA & MLA) Publication Manual for editing and formatting the featured papers. Renowned for its clear and user-friendly citation system, the APA/MLA manual also provides valuable guidance on selecting appropriate headings, tables, figures, language, tone, and reference styles, resulting in compelling, concise, and refined scholarly presentations. Furthermore, it serves as a comprehensive resource for the Editorial Board, navigating the entire scholarly writing process, from authorship ethics to research reporting and publication best practices.

EDITORIAL BOARD

NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

The "Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies" (JAJOLLS) is a publication of the Department of Language and Linguistics, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Nigeria. This journal publishes reports in relation to all aspects of linguistics, literary and cultural studies.

Manuscripts Submission
Three hard copies of the article with text, charts, tables, figures, plates or any other original illustration should be sent to the editor-in-chief JAJOLLS, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Taraba State Nigeria. Submission should either be in English, French, Hausa, or Arabic languages. Articles should be typed in double line spacing with a wide margin on each side only on A4 sized paper not exceeding 15 pages including abstract with not more than 6-7 keywords. Articles are to be submitted with Five Thousand Naira (N5,000) assessment and handling charges. By submitting an article to JAJJOLS, the author(s) agree that the exclusive rights to produce and distribute the articles to the publisher.

Method of Presentation
The article should have a cover page, author(s) bio-data and abstract with the keywords. The body of the article should have an introduction, methodology/materials and methods, findings, discussion, conclusion and recommendations.
The references should either be the latest APA or MLA styles. No part of the journal may be reproduced by any process without written permission of the Department of Language and Linguistics, Taraba State University, Jalingo.
All correspondences on editorial matters should be sent to:

Sumayyat Ibrahim Gambo (Ph.D.)
Department of Languages & Linguistics
Taraba State University
P.M.B. 1167, Jalingo, Taraba State
Email: jajolls022@gmail.com
Phone: +234803132245, +2348182312149 & +2349045724091

TABLE OF CONTENT

¹Mustapha Ibrahim Garba & ²Abubakar Isa Abubakar

¹ Department of English and Linguistics Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State.

² Ministry for Higher Education Science and Technology Dutse, Jigawa State.

Method of Noun Plural Formation in Sirzakwai Language

Abstract

This paper explores plural strategies in Sirzakwai (Warji), which is a minor language of West Chadic Family in Afro-asiatic phylum. Sirzakwai is spoken in Bauchi and parts of Jigawa state in northern Nigeria. It is a language with very few linguistic studies. The language now is in the verge of extinction. The analysis adopts Beard (1995) Lexeme-Morpheme Base Morphology theory and Merriam's (1998) a qualitative approach of morphological analysis. It uses simple random sampling technique and selects very few nouns for analysis through interview, observations and grounded wordlist. The paper reveals plural strategies exist through Affixation, Reduplication and Modification. In prefixation; **ci- m- n- pu**- and **te-** bound morphemes attached at beginning of the singular base, **-wi-** uses in the middle of the singular bases, -**se -tse -she-** and **shi** attached at end of singular base. The study reveals Partial modification is more productive as it comprises of vowel substitution, segmental subtraction and initial vowel lengthening and complete modification consists of suppletive and zero plurals. The study recognizes partial reduplication is more productive as it comprises of internal semi-vowel alteration, internal vowel lengthening, reduplicative prefixes and reduplicative Suffixes. Complete reduplication consists of cardinal numbers and quality adjectives derive through adjective- noun process.

1.1 Background to the Study

A noun number is defined as a process of inflecting or deriving a singular noun to make an identity of two or more persons, things, ideas, concept and entities. Pluralization works to indicate the number of items (Crystal, 2008). Pluralization is a linguistic universal presented variously among the languages as a separate word, an affix or by other morphological signifier such as stress or implicit marker.

Sirzakwai (Warji) language belongs to the Group 'F' West Chadic language family of the Afro-asiatic phylum. It is a minor and endangered language spoken in some localities such as Warji, Diri, Miya, Kariya, Katanga, Pa'a and other areas in Birnin Kudu and Gwaram of Jigawa State in North Eastern Nigeria. Warji people refer to themselves as Sirna and their language as Sirzakwai. The term Warji is used by Hausa and western scholars to refer to Sirna or Sirzakwai and the area where they are found today (Blench, 1998).Warji, Hausa, Karekare, Goemai and Bade, are in the West Chadic group, they have systems with two level tones. Although some languages typically have sets of words distinguished only by tone, such as the following Bole from (West) and Margi (Central) have three tone Systems (Blench, 2006).

 Warji, like many other Chadic languages, is a tonal language comprising of three dialects known as Kikyadai, Rumbuna (rumba) and Zari (Schuh 1998). Zari dialect is spoken in Baima, Dagu, Wando and Zurgwai towns. Rumbuna dialect is spoken in Rumba, Aru, Kankare and Muɗa while Kikyadai dialect is spoken by Ranga, Katanga, Gaɓanga and Tudun Wada towns respectively.

Blench (2001) suggests 'According to National Population Commission of Nigeria, the village (Warji) has an area size of 625 square km and a population of 105, 770 Nigerian Census (2006).' The language is categorized as one of the potentially endangered language communities in northern Nigeria (Haruna 2014).Jungraithmayr (1987) identifies the Warji language with very short vocabularies. He also examines Warji might be described as having forty sounds among which six phonemic vowels and thirty four consonants Luka (2006).

3.1 Methodology

 This paper employs a descriptive approach in an attempt to make a concise description of the morphological analysis involves between singular and plural nouns of the Warji language. The study uses some words during   interview, observations of some utterances, Wordlist of the Warji language (Blench 2006). The paper adopts oral instructed interview as a method of data collection. The Primary sources are Warji native speakers. The secondary source comprises of previous and present researches relevant to the area of focus such as books, journals, conferences, projects, Libraries and Departments of Linguistics.

This work employs Merriam's (1998) a qualitative approach of morphological analysis. She opines three ways of being particularistic, descriptive as well as being heuristic for in-depth analyses for information rich of findings. By being particularistic, it implies that

the researcher has clear definition of the specific phenomenon being focused on as case to study.

Merriam (1998) views "*description*" as the end product of a case study's phenomenon in focused which in parallel coincide with the objective in this study 'to provide a concise morphological description of noun plural formation process in Warji language'. 'Heuristic' according to Merriam (1998), a researcher could make a given phenomenon clearer. In fact through the qualitative approach we were able to provide rich and comprehensive description of the secondary data used with clarity of purpose.

Concerning the population and sample size, the researcher selects Warji native speakers who were able to speak both the Hausa and the Warji languages serve as respondents. The sample size, according to Crjcie and Morgan (1990), in a list of a hundred variables, the researchers can take 75-80% as the sample size.

4.0 Data Presentation and Analysis

The paper shows that low tones are marked differently from that of high tone ones. Inflectional affixation is the most common plural strategies in Warji. The paper observes that most of the inflectional properties in this language comprise of prefixes, infixes and suffixes.

4.1 Affixations

Inflectional prefixes, infixes and suffixes are common features that the Warji language speakers employ for the production of their plurals. The paper identifies five bound morphemes used as the prefix plural marker, there is one bound morpheme used for infixation and four bound morpheme used for suffixations. Below are some examples:

Prefixation

	Singular Form	Plural Form	Inflectional Form
1a	*lái* 'tail'	*ci* + *lái* 'tails'	*cilái* 'tails'
b	*bərí* 'grass'	*m* + *bərí* 'grasses'	*mbərí* 'grasses'
c	*dáalà* 'room'	*n* + *dáalà* 'rooms'	*ndáalà* 'rooms'
d	*lín* 'stone'	*pu* + *línà* 'stones'	*pulínà* 'stones'
e	*ghái* 'body'	*te* + *ghái* 'bodies'	*teghái* 'bodies'

In example (1a), the singular noun *lái* 'tail' has meaning on its own. The attachment of bound morpheme *ci*- serves as a prefix plural marker that inflects the plural noun *ci*+ *lái* = *cilái* 'tails'.

Infixation

Morpheme-*wi*-serves as an infix plural marker inserted within the middle of the singular noun and produce the plural noun. Here are some examples:

	Singular Form	Plural Form	Infixation Form
2a	*búungúumà* 'lizard'	*búungúu + wi + mà* 'lizards'	*búungúuwimà* 'lizards'
B	*baatuunà* 'monkey'	*báatúu + wi + nà* 'monkeys'	*baatuuwinà* 'monkeys'
C	*círáanà* 'moon'	*círáa + wi+ nà* 'moons'	*círáawinà* 'moons'

The morpheme *-wi-* is a plural marker in the process of pluralization through infixation. This process is formed when a prenomina *-wi-* is placed in the middle of the singular form. For instance, *báatúu + wi +na = báatúuwinà*.

Suffixation

The study observes that inflectional suffixes are common features of forming plural nouns in the Warji language. The study identifies four suffix morphemes used as plural markers, namely: *-se,-tse,-she and -shi*.

	Singular Form	Plural Form	Inflectional Form
3a	*kwáad* 'vulture'	*kwáad + se* 'vultures'	*kwáadse* 'vultures'
C	*maar* 'chain'	*máar + tse* 'chains'	*maartse* 'chains'
E	*báadúun* 'tongue'	*báadúun + she* 'tongue'	*baaduunshe* 'tongues'
G	*geerì* 'fowl'	*geer + shi* 'fowls'	*geershi* 'fowls'

The plural nouns are formed when morpheme *se*-appears at the end of the singular form as a plural marker. For instance, in example (3a), the singular form *káad 'vulture'* has meaning on its own. The attachment of bound morpheme-*se* serves as a plural marker that inflects the plural noun *kwáad + se = kwáadse* 'vultures'. The pluralization process in this class is the same as for all examples.

4.2 Reduplication

There is a situation where verbs are derived to show plural through the reduplicating the base partially or totally. Consider the examples below:

	Singular Base Form	Plural Reduplicated Form	Derived Reduplicated Form
4a	*fái* 'to blow'	*fái + fá* 'keep blowing'	*fáifá* 'keep blowing'
b-	*kám* 'to collect'	*kám + ká* 'keep collecting'	*kámká* 'keep collecting'

c-	*káw* 'to fry'	*káw + ká* 'keep frying'	*káwká* 'keep frying'
d-	*khin* 'to manag'	*khin +khí* 'keep managing'	*khinkhí* 'keep managing'
e-	*kúw* 'cut'	*kúw + kú* 'keep cutting'	*kúwkú* 'keep cutting'

Adjective Plurals

Adjectives are derived to show emphasis on plural act. Cardinal numbers, qualitative adjective and colour adjectives are counting as noun numbers (plural). This can be done through reduplicating the base fully, considers the examples below:

	Singular Form	**Plural Form**	**Inflectional Form**
5a	*dáala* 'hundred'	*dáala-dáala* 'hundred each'	*dáala-dáala* 'hundred each'
B	*júb* 'ten'	*júb-júb* 'ten each'	*júb-júb* 'ten each'
C	*khir* 'small'	*khir-khir* 'small'	*khir-khir* 'small'
D	*kwáayáa* 'beauty'	*kwáaya-kwáaya* 'beauty'	*kwáaya-kwáaya* 'beauty'
E	*fyaal* 'white'	*fyaláansh* 'white'	*fyaláansh* 'white'
F	*jiin* 'black'	*jinanshi* 'black'	*jinanshi* 'black'

In examples (5a-b) adjectives are reduplicated fully, the base form shows less emphasis, but when duplicated the derivatives show more emphasis. In addition to this, the final vowels in the base forms are lengthened but when reduplicated the derivatives change to short final vowel. In examples (5c-d), qualitative adjectives are reduplicated fully the final vowels in the base forms are lengthened but when reduplicated the derivatives change to short final vowel. For instance, in (5d-e), *fyaal* 'white' ', the whole singular base is repeated and plural is formed as in *kwáaya-kwáaya* 'beauty'.

Vowel and Semi Vowel

Nominal verbs form through the reduplicating the base partially, considers the examples below:

	Singular Form	**Plural Form**	**Reduplicated Form**
6a	*bim* 'spread'	*biim* 'keep spreading'	*biim* 'keep spreading'
B	*kub* learn	*kuub* 'keep learning'	*kuub* 'keep learning'
C	*dor* 'sweep'	*dwor* 'keep sweeping'	*dwor* 'keep sweeping'
d	*cu* 'finish'	*cwu* 'keep finishing'	*cwu* 'keep finishing'

In (6b), verbs are reduplicated fully, the base form shows short vowel for a singular noun, but when duplicated the derivatives show vowel lengthening. This means the vowels in the

base forms are shortened but when reduplicated the derivatives change through vowel lengthening. For instance, in example, *kub* 'learn', the whole base is repeated and plurals are formed as in *kuub* 'keep learning'. In examples (6c) the final vowels in the base forms change using allomorphs *'-w-'* and *'-y-'*. For instance, a singular, *dor* 'sweep' becomes plural *dwor* 'keep sweeping'.

4.3 Modification

In Warji, there are four types of modifications namely; vowel change, segmental subtraction, zero plural and suppletive plurals:

Vowel substitution

	Singular Form	Plural Form	Substitution Form
7a	*eree* 'border'	*iree* 'borders'	*iree* 'borders'
b	*esnaa* 'time'	*isnaa* 'times'	*isnaa* 'times'
c	*daaviinà* 'charcoal'	*daavuunà* 'charcoals'	*daavuunà* 'charcoals'
d	*caaciinà* 'basket'	*caacuunà* 'baskets'	*caacuunà* 'baskets'
e	*baakaari* 'cockroach'	*báakáara* 'cockroaches'	*báakáara* 'cockroaches'
f	*baazaani* 'girl'	*baazaana* 'girls'	*baazaana* 'girls'

In examples (7a-b), the analysis identifies a vowel morpheme in the singular base alternated with a plural form initially, see, *i*-replaced with *e*- as in *esnaa* 'time' becomes *isnaa* 'times' In (7c-d) vowel change in the middle, see *caaciinà* 'basket' *caacuunà* 'baskets'. And in (7e-f) vowel change finally. see *i*- alternated with *a*- at end of the singular bases, *báazáaní* 'girl' becomes *baazaana* 'girls'.

Segmental Subtraction

Subtraction is a common feature of pluralization in this language. It is part of the partial modification where an element of the base is missing as it has shown below:

	Singular Form	Plural Form	Subtraction Form
8a	*taalaanà* 'animal skin'	*taalaan* 'animal skins'	*taalaan* 'animal skins'
b	*raakiinà* 'rag'	*raakiin* 'rags'	*raakiin* 'rags'
c	*'sunnaa'* 'egg'	*'sunaa'* 'eggs'	*'sunaa'* 'eggs'
d	*tsaanbai* 'rice'	*tsaabai* 'rice'	*tsaabai* 'rice'
e	*maaruna* 'ant'	*maaru* 'ants'	*maaru* 'ants'
f	*máamwáanci* 'man'	*máamwáan* 'men'	*máamwáan* 'men'

In example (8a and b) a singular noun '*taalaanà* 'animal skin' is modified as '*taalaan*' 'animal skins'. In examples (8c-d), the analysis shows the singular noun bases started with CVC pattern and the plural started with CV pattern. This means the plural nouns formed through missing *-n-* morpheme in the bases. In example (8c),'***sun****naa'* 'egg', '***suu****naa'* 'eggs'. Deleting the ***n-*** morpheme of the base is considered as a plural marker. In examples (8e-f), For instance, '*maaruunà*' 'ant' inflicted for '*maaruu*' 'ants'. Deleting the final syllable is a sign of pluralization.

Supplative Plurals

Suppletive plural is part of total modification where a base form does not show similarity with the inflicted form. The concept of suppletion is applicable to pairs of minimal segmental signs such as number (singular and plural) and gender (masculine and feminine). This means signifiers are not identical upon the inflectional meanings of language.

	Singular Base	**Plural Base**	**Modification Form**
9a	*náa* 'child'	*meeruu* 'children'	*meeruu* 'children'
b	*gáaluu* 'slave'	*Zeeliinà* 'slaves'	*Zeeliinà* 'slaves'
c	*gaambuunà* 'gourd'	*baataali* 'gourds'	*baataali* 'gourds'
d	*waarjii* 'human'	*Záarsé* 'human'	*Záarsé* 'human'
e	*zái* 'bow'	*maam* 'bows'	*maam* 'bows'

In examples (9–e), the study shows no morphological relationship exist between the singular and plural nouns. They have no alternations with which to relate the signifiers of the two classes. In examples (9a), the singular noun *'naa'* 'child', **'***meeru'* **'**children'.

Zero Plurals

The zero plural method is common in the Warji language. It is part of the total modification process where the difference between the singular and plural noun is upon the same words. See examples below:

Singular Base (X)	**Plural Base (Y)**
10a *daavà* 'friend'	*daavà* 'friend'
b *guwaara* 'beanstalk'	*guwaara* 'beanstalk'
c *iyaanà* 'dog'	*iyaanà* 'dog'
d *púu* 'stone'	*púu* 'stone'
e *wúhái* 'sand'	*wúhái* 'sand'

The Study observes in examples (10a-e), Zero modification is an operation which does not affect the structure of a lexeme nor its phonology. In example (10a), the singular noun stem '*davà*' 'friend 'stands as a free morpheme that poses no any plural marker. The plural noun in this class is formed by total modification where the

5.1 Findings

 The finding reveals the productivity of pluralization in the Warji language through the use of plural affixation, modification and reduplication. The paper was able to find out three inflectional affixes namely; prefixes infixes and suffixes used as the plural the markers in this language. The paper recognizes five inflectional prefixes, namely c*i-, m-, n-,pu-* and *te-* morphemes attached at beginning of the singular noun and inflect the plural of their kinds. The study identifies morpheme *-wi-* as an inflectional infix used for Plural formation.

The study reveals four inflectional suffixes among which three of them (*-se, -tse,* and*-she)* form their plural without altering the base form while morpheme *shi-* forms its plural by altering the base form that is through deletion of final vowel.

In addition to this, the study exhibits under plural modifications, Warji uses partial and total Modification for the production of their plurals. The study recognizes under partial modification, the plurals are in the vowel quality, through which vowel change initially, medially or finally. This means vowel alternation is a plural marker.

5.2 Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusively, the study explores method of noun number linguistically in the Warji language through the use of three morphological processes of noun. The paper covers some, not all the aspects, patterns, strategies and act of pluralization in warji. This is due to limited time and data used available during this work. Although the research reveals only three aspects of pluralization namely; plural affixes, plural reduplications and plural modifications, but the study fatherly suggests that more aspects of study in linguistics are available for this language. But in the area of morphology, there are more areas such as plural compounding, gender and a study of pluractional verbs can be addition to the present investigation or bridging gap of the next studies. More again, this work is an open door for other studies in the area of linguistics particularly in the field of morphology in the Warji language.

References

Abdu, A.A. (2012). *SamuwarJam'in Kalmomi Ta Hanyar Amfani da Xafa Qeya*.Unpublished Post Graduate Diploma.Department of Nigerian Languages, Bayero University, Kano.

Abdulhamid, A. (2001) *An Introductory Hausa Morphology*. Maiduguri-Nigeria: Faculty of art University of Maiduguri. *Journal of Research and Production Volume 16 No 1*

Abubakar, A. (1991). *A Further Work at Hausa Plurals*: Unpublished Paper presented at Seminar, at Frankfurt Germany, Johann Greeter University

Abubakar, A. (2001). *An introductory Hausa Morphology* Department of Languages and Linguistics.Faculty of Arts, University of Maiduguri Desktop Publishing.

Alhaji, I.G. (2012). *A Morphological Process of Noun plural in Nupe Language*: Unpublished MA Theses Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

Al-Hassan, B.S.Y. (1998). *Reduplication in the Chadic Languages:* A Study of form and function Frankfurt Main: European University.

Aliero, M.A. (2014). Morphological Process of Noun plural in C'lela Language: *Ghana Journal of Linguistics Vol 1 Pp1-14.*

Aliyu, S.D. (2015). *Morphological Process of Gbari plurals*:

Beard, R. (1995) *Lexeme-Morpheme Base Morphology*. Suny Press, Albany.

Blench, R. (1998). The Status of the Languages of Central Nigeria: In Brenzinger, M. (ed.) *Endangered Languages in Africa.*187-206. Koln.

Blench, R. (2001). Endangered Languages In West Africa. *Language Diversity Endangered: 181, 140.*

Blench, R. (2006). *Archaeology, Language, and the African Past*. Oxford: Alta Mira.

Blench, R. M. (2018) Nominal affixing in the Ki'inji languages of northern, western and central Nigeria. In John, O. M. (ed) *East Benue-Congo nouns, pronouns and verbs (Niger- congo comparative studies),* Berlin: Language and science press.

Crystal, D. (2008). *Dictionary of Linguistic and Phonetics*. Oxford:Edition 6th

Frajzyngier, Z. (2012). Chadic In *The Afro-asiatic Languages,* ed. by Zygmunt Frayzyngier and Erin Shay, Chapter 5, pp. 236–341. (Cambridge Language Surveys) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Haruna, A. (2014). The Endangered Languages Issues in Northern Nigeria: A Chadic Perspective: *in Journal of The Borno Medium Society* vol 2, 7-3,

Jungraithmayr, H. (1987). *Language Endangerment.* An appraisal of non- major languages in northern Nigeria: language endangerment and language empowerment in Nigeria; National Institute for Nigerian Languages 37-57.

Jungraithmayr, H. (1991). Centre and periphery: Chadic linguistic evidence and its possible historical significance. *Orientalia Varsoviensia* 2: *Unwritten Testimonies of the African Past. Proceedings of the International Symposium* (Warsaw, Nov 1989), ed. by S. Piłaszewicz, E. Rzewuski. Warsaw: 61-82.

Krjcie, R. V. and Morgan, D. W. (1990). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities*. Educational and psychological measurement 30*(1)

Luka, P. (2006) Project on: *Reading and Writing Sirzakwai (Warji). A Proposal for Writing the Warji Language.* Electronic Warji Luke Partnership: Bauchi State.

Merriam, M. (1998).*'Using a Qualitative Approach'* Descriptive Approach in Morphological Analysis. Ibadan: University press.

National Population Commission of Nigeria, Census (2006).Retrieved from www.tradingeconomic.com/ /pdf.Population 2016.