MORPHOLOGY SYNTAX INTERACTION IN THE DERIVATION OF NOMINAL COMPOUNDS IN YORÙBÁ
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1. Introduction

Compound words have been defined as words which consist of two words. Selkirk (1982: 13) says ‘compounds in English are a type of word structure made up of two constituents, each belonging to one of the categories noun, adjective, verb or preposition. The compound itself may belong to the category noun, verb or adjective’. Fabb (2001:66) defines a compound as ‘a word which consists of two or more words’. The words in (1) are derived from the combination of two or more words in the Yorùbá language.

1  a. [N Adéọlá] ← [NAdé] + [N ọlá]
   ‘personal name’       crown       wealth

b. [NÌsọrí-ọrọ-orúkọ] ← [NÌsọrí] + [N ọrọ] +[N orúkọ]
   ‘the nominal group’    group        word        name

c. [p nihin in] ← [p ni] + [N ihín]
   ‘here’                  at           here
The nominal compounds in (1a-b) consist of two and three words respectively. The prepositional compound in (1c) is made up of two words. However, many Yorùbá compounds are derived from the clause as is evident from the examples in (2).

2 a. sòrò  \(\rightarrow\) sọ + ọrọ

‘to speak’ say word

b kíyèsára  \(\rightarrow\) kó iyè sí ara

‘to be observant’ put mind to body

c Babaláwo  \(\rightarrow\) Baba\(^1\) ní awo

‘herbalist’ old man/father has cult

‘The old man has a cult’.

d Adéwálé  \(\rightarrow\) Adé wá sí ilé

personal name Ade come prep. house

‘Ade came to the house’/ ‘Ade came home’.

The compound words, sòrò ‘to speak’, kíyèsára ‘to be observant’ babaláwo ‘herbalist’ and Adéwálé (personal name), are derived from full clauses. In their derivations, some phonological processes such as vowel elision, deletion, contraction, tonal displacement and/or replacement, etc., are employed. For example, in the derivation of sòrò ‘to speak’, the

\(^1\) The word Baba ‘old man/father’ which bears two mid tones has the variant Bàbá with low and high tones.
vowel of *ọ* ‘to throw’ is elided with its mid tone and in *kiyèsára*, ‘to be observant’, the vowels of *kọ* ‘to put’ and that of *sí* (prep) are elided, but their high tone remains, and this high tone displaces the adjacent mid tone of *iyè* ‘mind’ and *ara* ‘body’. Apart from the elision of the nasal vowel of *ní* in (2c), the alveolar nasal [n] that remains is replaced by the lateral approximant [l]. The high tone of the elided nasal vowel displaces the mid tone of the first syllable of *awo* ‘cult’, the adjacent word in the derivation of *babaláwo* ‘herbalist’. While the first two are verbal compounds, the remaining two are nominal compounds. We shall examine the structures of these nominal compounds; determine the levels of their derivations as well as the types of the derived nouns. The paper is organized in this way: Section 1 discusses the theoretical background of the work. Here we adopt the Pulleyblank & Akinlabi (1988) version of the weak lexicalist hypothesis (WLH) for the derivation of these compound nouns and Chomsky (1995) bare phrase structure for their diagrammatic sketch. In Section 2, we give a detailed analysis of the various compound nouns in the language. This includes the PS rules that could account for them, their typology; the levels of their derivation and the interaction between syntax and morphology in the formation of the nominal compounds. Section 3 is the conclusion.
1.1 Theoretical background

The weak lexicalist hypothesis (WLH) accepts that some words are syntactically derived while others are not (Adeniyi 2007:36). The morphology and syntax constitute semi-independent components, where principles of the morphology govern categories of level X°. No ordering is imposed between the components hence, apart from the standard situation whereby the morphology provides inputs for the syntax. It is also possible for the syntax to derive a word-level category. We adopt the model in (3) following Pulleyblank & Akinlabi (1988).

3                                  Morphology 1&2

                                 ↑
                                 ↓

Syntax

(Pulleyblank & Akinlabi 1988:158)

In considering the possible interactions between morphology and syntax, (3) posits two morphological components – Morphology 1 and Morphology 2. This is illustrated thus. The word *adé* personal name/‘crown’ is derived by the combination of an agentive nominal prefix and *dé* ‘cover’.
4 a- + dé \(\rightarrow\) adé
agentive prefix cover personal name/ ‘crown’

Morphology 1

This word, *adé*, is the subject of the basic clause (the sentence) in (5).

5 Adé     wá     sí     ilé
Ade     come     prep     house
‘Ade came to the house’/ ‘Ade came home’.

In (5), Morphology 1 is the input to syntax,

6 Morphology 1 \(\rightarrow\) Syntax

where words are strung together to form a basic clause. It is possible to derive a word from the words in the clause in (5).

7 Adé     wá     sí     ilé     \(\rightarrow\) Adéwálé (personal name)
Ade     come     prep     house
‘Ade came to the house’/ ‘Ade came home’.
In the derivation of *Adéwálé*, (personal name) in (7) above, where a clause is the input to the word, the preposition *sí* is deleted while the V₁ of *ilé* ‘house’ is elided before contraction takes place.

The examples in (5) and (7) establish the fact that a non-lexical category can derive a lexical one. The model in (3) is one where all morphological processes-derivation (including phrasal derivation) and inflection-are located within a single grammatical component (Pulleyblank & Akinlabi 1988:158-160). With a single morphological component in which the syntactic input is needed in the formation of some words, the model is possibly modified to allow recursion from syntax into the morphology. They conclude that ‘the syntactic component determines the wellformedness of syntactic representations, while the morphology does the same for morphological representations. Where the morphology and syntax interact,… each component governs the appropriate aspects of the relevant construction’ (Pulleyblank & Akinlabi 1988:160).

In the analysis of these compounds, we employ the bare phrase structure of generative syntax. In this model, ‘a category that does not project any further is a maximal projection XP, and one that is not a projection at all is a minimal projection X<sub>min</sub>; any other is an X<sup>i</sup>…’ (Chomsky1995:242). This model is employed in the diagrammatic sketch of the structures of
the compounds. This is because many of the compound words in Yorùbá can be termed ‘postsyntactic compounds’ (Fabb 2001:68). They are derived from phrases. For example, the verbs in (2a&b), repeated below, are derived from phrases.

2a. sòrò ← sọ + ọrọ
   ‘to speak’      say      word

   b kíyèsára ← kó iyè si ara
   ‘to be observant’ put mind to body

The syntactic component of the model in (3) will determine the well-formedness of syntactic representations before such postsyntactic compound is derived.

1.2 Types of compounds
In the literature, three types of compounds have been identified. These are:
endocentric compounds: those with a head
exocentric compounds: those without a head
co-ordinate compounds: those where both words equally share head–like characteristics
(Selkirk 1982:13; Fabb 2001: 66-67)
The nominal compound in (1a) is an example of co-ordinate compounds in which both words equally share head–like characteristics; the compound verb in (2a) has the verb *sọ* ‘to speak’ as its head, hence it is an endocentric compound, while *Adéwálé* (personal name), in (2d) is an exocentric compound without a head. The structures of these three compounds are given in (9) below.

9a

```
  N
 / \     
 N   N   VP
 /     |
 nom.pre dé olá
     a- Adéọlá (personal name)
```

b.

```
  V
 /   
 V   NP
 /   |
 sọ  sórò ̣ 'to speak'
```


Yorùbá nominal compounds exhibit two of these types. These are endocentric and exocentric compounds. We shall discuss them in this paper.

2.0 Nominal compounds in the Yorùbá language

Various nominal compounds can be derived through the combinations of various words or phrases in the Yorùbá language (Taiwo 2006:77-96). The following combinations are noticed in the derivation of compound nouns in the language.
noun + adjective
noun + noun (+ noun)
noun + verb
nominal prefix + verb phrase
desententialization of clauses and sentences

Compound nouns formed from the combinations above, except the last one (desententialization), are endocentric compounds. They are derived from phrases. Desententialization is a word-formation process in the Yorùbá language by which a whole clause or sentence is reduced to a noun. Various sentence-types could take part in this nominalization. Examples are focus constructions, dislocated sentences, relative clauses, multiple verb sentences and underived sentences. Compound nouns derived through this process are exocentric compounds.

We propose the following PS (Phrase Structure) rules for the derivation of compound nouns formed from phrases in Yorùbá.

10a  \[ N \rightarrow N + AP \]
10b  \[ N \rightarrow N + NP \]
10c  \[ N \rightarrow N + VP (+VP) \]
The rules in (10) could be collapsed to that in (11) in which a nominal compound can be formed through the combination of a noun and any phrase.

11 \( N \rightarrow +XP (+XP) \)

However, nominal compounds derived through desententialization will have the PS rule in (12).

12 \( N \rightarrow CP \)

In the discussions that follow, we shall examine the levels of the derivations of these compound nouns in line with our model in (3) and categorize them typologically as either endocentric or exocentric compounds. We shall discuss nominal compounds formed from phrases in the Sections 2.1 and 2.2, while those derived through desententialization will be discussed in Section 2.3.

2.1 The structures of nominal compounds derived from phrases

All the compounds derived with the rule (11) (or its expanded form in (10)) are endocentric in that they have heads which are their left-hand members.
N + AP compound nouns

In (10a), a noun and an adjective could be combined to derive a compound noun. Some examples of this type of nominal compound are given below.

\[
\text{N} \rightarrow \text{N + AP}
\]

Ọlówógbọgbọrọ ọlówọ + gbọgbọrọ
‘the one with very handowner very long long hands’

ọmọnlá ọmọ + nlá
‘a big child’ child big

‘an exceptional child’

The compound words in (13) have similar structures. One of them is given in (14).
The structure in (14) above reveals that the head of the compound word is the nominal prefix \{o-\} which combines with the VP \textit{ní} ‘to owe/possess’ to derive \textit{oní}², ‘the one who owes or possesses’, this in turn combines with the NP \textit{ọwọ́} ‘hand’ to form \textit{ọlọ́wọ́}³ ‘hand owner’. The derived noun \textit{ọlọ́wọ́} has the AP \textit{gbọgbọrọ} ‘very long’ as its sister.

**N + NP compound nouns**

In (10b), a nominal compound can be derived from two or more nouns. For two nouns that are combined to form a compound, such nouns occur in genitive constructions in the noun phrase⁴. Consider the following examples.

\[
15 \quad \begin{array}{ccc}
\text{N}_1 & \text{N}_2 & \text{N} \\
\text{òkè} & \text{àgbè} & \text{Òkèàgbè} \\
\end{array}
\quad \text{name of a town}
\]

² See Taiwo (2009) where the nominal item \{oní\} is analyzed as consisting of a nominal prefix \{o-\} and the verb \textit{ní} ‘to owe/possess’ following Awobuluyi (1967, 2008).

³ In the derivation of \textit{ọlọ́wọ́} ‘hand owner’ from \textit{oní} +\textit{ọwọ́}, the nasal vowel \textit{ũ} of \textit{oní} is elided while the high tone borne by it displaces the adjacent mid tone of \textit{ọwọ́} to become \textit{*onọ́wọ́}. The nasal sound [\textit{n}] becomes [\textit{l}] because it does not occur before oral vowels. In the derived word \textit{*ọlọ́wọ́}, \textit{v}_2 regresses assimilates \textit{v}_1 to derive the acceptable word \textit{ọlọ́wọ́} ‘hand owner’.

⁴ See Owolabi (1976) for a detailed discussion of noun-noun constructions in Yorùbá. The work divides these constructions into genitive and appositive constructions.
Ilé + ejó ilé-øjó ‘Court’

òunjé + alè Ounjé alé⁵ ‘Supper’

For the derived words in (15), the N₁ is the head in each construction while N₂ is the modifier. The tree diagram in (16) below shows the structure of one of these compounds.

Compounds derived from three nouns have the first noun as its head, while the two remaining noun are modifiers. The examples below are instance of these compounds.

⁵ Compounds derived form two or more words like these ones can be orthographically represented in three ways. They can be written together with no space between them, they can be hyphenated, and they can be written with a space between them (Katamba 1993:304-320).
Though N₂ and N₃ are modifiers in the examples in (17), they modify separate nouns. The different levels of these modifiers are shown in the tree diagram below.

Both the morphological and syntactic components in (3) interact in the derivation of the nouns in (13), (15) and (17). Morphology 1 derived the

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6 Words such as arọ́pọ́ and ìsò́rì are themselves derived from other words. We shall discuss their derivations shortly.
noun ọlọwọ̀ ‘handowner’ from oní {o- + ní} and ọwó ‘hand’. The noun selects and merges with the adjective gbọgbọ̀rọ̀ ‘very long’ to form a noun phrase at the syntactic level of (3). The noun phrase is lexicalized in Morphology 2 in the process of deriving the compound noun ọlọwọ́gbọgbọrọ̀ ‘the one with long hands’. The analysis also applies to the derived nouns in (15) and (17). The only difference is that two nouns are merged in (15) while three are merged in (17).

2.2. N + VP (+VP) compound nouns

The rule in (10c) would derive nominal compounds from the verb phrase. Such compound words can be divided into the following categories:

Nouns derived from the combination of a noun and a verb
Nouns derived from a verb and its object
Nouns derived from two verb phrases
Nouns derived from serial verbs
Nouns derived from splitting verbs
Nouns derived from a noun and a verb, have the rule in (19).

\[
19 \quad N \rightarrow N + V
\]

ọjó́rọ́ ọjó rò
evening (time) day soft
The structures of the compound words in (19) reveal that the verb loses its verbal category when it is incorporated into the noun to derive these words. One example is given below.

\[
\text{òjò́ò́}
\]

\text{evening (time)}

\text{Compounds forming from a verb and its object}

The rule in (10c) could also derive a nominal compound from a verb phrase. In this situation, the verb and its object could be nominalized if a nominal affix is prefixed to it. This is the case with the following nominal compounds.
21 verb phrase | nominal prefix | derived nominal compounds
---|---|---
a. pa ẹja 'catch fish' | a- i- ài- | apeja ‘a fisherman’
ipeja ‘act of fishing’
àipeja ‘act of not fishing’
b. mu ọtí ‘drink wine’ | ô- | ọmùtì8 ‘a drunkard’
c. ọṣẹrè ‘act a play’ | ô-, i- | ọṣẹrè ‘an actor’
iṣerè/iṣerè9 ‘acting a play’

Note that the nominal prefixes are the heads in these structures. This is the case because they change the class of the base from VP to N, hence these compounds are endocentric. The structure of one of the derived compounds in (21a) is shown in the tree diagram in (22).

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7 There are two schools of thought as regard the structure of the item {ài-} in standard Yorùbá. The first is the school that takes {ài-} as a morpheme, the second school of thought takes it as two separate morphemes. Táiwò (2007) argues for the indivisibility of {ài-}. We take {ài-} as a morpheme in this work following Táiwò (2007).

8 There is a tonal change in the derivation of ọmùtì ‘drunkard’ where the mid tone of the verb mu ‘drink’ is lowered to a low tone after the low tone of the nominal prefix ô-.

9 The tone lowering noticed in note 6 above also occurs in ọṣẹrè ‘an actor’ and iṣerè ‘acting a play’. However, the lowering is optional in iṣerè as it has a variant in iṣerè.
Compound nouns derived from two verb phrases

Nominal compounds are also derived from the combination of two verb phrases, and a nominal prefix. Such compounds are of two types. The first type is where an overt nominal prefix is attached to the two verb phrases as in the examples in (23) below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Phrases</th>
<th>nominal prefix</th>
<th>Derived Nominal Compounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. dá ẹrù, pa ọkọ make load kill vehicle “overloading the vehicle”</td>
<td>a-, i-</td>
<td>adérụọkọ “someone who overloads the vehicle” idêrụọkọ “the act of overloading the vehicle”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the examples above, the nominal prefix is attached to the two VPs to derive a compound noun. The structure of one of them is given below.
The other type of compound nouns derived from two verb phrases are those nouns derived by the combination of two verb phrases with no overt nominal prefix attached to the derived nominal. In other words, the class-changing nominal affix attached to the merged verb phrase is not morphologically realized. Some of the nominal compounds derived in this way are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Phrases</th>
<th>Derived nominal compounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. bá mi, di lié</td>
<td>Bámídélé (name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accompany me, reach house</td>
<td>“accompany me home”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. bá mi, gbe ọlá,</td>
<td>Bámigbólá/Bámgbólá (name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help me carry wealth,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“help me to carry wealth”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the examples in (25), the derived nouns have the same structures as the two verb phrases from where they are derived. No overt nominal prefix occurs in any of the derived nouns. This is known as conversion; a morphological process where a constituent changes from one category to another one with no overt morpheme responsible for the change.

However, we observe that these nouns have similar structures like those in (23). A nominal prefix is what is responsible for the change of the two
VPs to nouns in (23). That is why this prefix is the head of these structures as we have in (24). It is quite clear that the same nominal prefix is at work in the examples in (25). The fact that it is not morphologically realized does not debar its existence. We therefore, treat the nominal compounds in (25) exactly like those in (23), the only different being that those in (23) have overt nominal heads while those in (25) have non-overt nominal heads. The structure of a nominal compound derived from two verb phrases with a non-overt nominal head is given in (26).

\[\text{(26)}\]

In (26), the nominal prefix is null (Ø) because it is not morphologically realized. Following the structure in (26), the tree diagram in (27) is the structure of one of the compound nouns in (25).

\[\text{(27)}\]
The tree diagram in (27) clearly shows that nouns derived from two verb phrases have class-changing nominal prefixes as heads.

Compound nouns can be derived a verb that selects an object and a prepositional phrase that function as an adverbial in the language. Some examples are given in (28).
28 Verb Phrase | Derived nominal compounds
---|---
a. Ta mí ní ọrẹ
give me prep. gift ‘give me a gift’
Tamílọrẹ (personal name)
b. bá ọlá ní ilé
meet wealth prep house
‘meet wealth at home’
Bólánlé\(^{10}\) (personal name)

The structure of the word in (28a) is given in (29).

\[\text{Ø} \quad \text{ta} \quad \text{mí} \quad \text{ní} \quad \text{ọrẹ} \]
\[Ø\text{tamílọrẹ} = \text{Tamílọrẹ}\]

\(^{10}\) It could be argued that Bólánlé is derived through the attachment of the nominal prefix \{a-\} as in the examples in (23) above which is later deleted.
In the tree diagram in (29), the verb *ta* ‘gives’ selects NP and PP complements. Note that the head nominal prefix is also non-overt as in the case with the derived nouns in (27).

**Compound nouns derived from serial verbs**

We can also derive a nominal compound by combining a nominal prefix to a string of verbs known as serial verbs. Nouns derived in this way are many in Yorùbá. Some examples are given in (30).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial Verbs</th>
<th>Nominal Prefix</th>
<th>Derived Compound Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>a. bù, mu</strong></td>
<td>à-, í-</td>
<td>àbùmu ‘object use for drinking’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fetch drink</td>
<td></td>
<td>ibùmu ‘act of fetching to drink’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>b. rí wi sí</strong></td>
<td>à-, í-, ài-</td>
<td>àríwísí ‘comment’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>see speak against</td>
<td></td>
<td>àiríwísí ‘nothing to comment’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the examples in (30), we observe that to derive a compound noun from serial verbs, these verbs are merged together, thereafter; a nominal prefix is attached to them. The derived compounds in (30) have similar structures. We give the structures of some of them in (31).
Compound nouns derived from splitting verbs

In the examples below, a nominal prefix is attached to splitting verbs to derive nominal compounds. There is no object inserted in-between the splitting verb; therefore, the two parts are merged together as a polysyllabic verb, thereafter a nominal prefix is attached to it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Splitting verb</th>
<th>Nominal</th>
<th>Derived compounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>bá …wí ‘to rebuke’</td>
<td>í-</td>
<td>ibáwí ‘rebuke’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>ré….jé ‘to cheat’</td>
<td>í-</td>
<td>iréjé ‘cheating’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>yí….po ‘to surround’</td>
<td>í-, à-</td>
<td>iyipo/ áyipo ‘act of surrounding’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The derived nouns in (32) have the similar structures like the ones derived from serial verbs.

**2.2.1. Levels of derivation of N + VP (+VP) compound nouns.**

The derived nouns discussed in the preceding section are derived through the interaction of the morphological and syntactic components of the model in (3) repeated below for convenience.

```
3                            Morphology 1&2
                                 ↑
                                 ↓
                           Syntax

Pulleyblank & Akinlabi (1988:158)
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In deriving N+V compound nouns, Morphology 1 selects the noun and merges it with the verb. This verb is incorporated into the noun at the Syntax level of (3), this incorporation makes the verb to lose its categorical status as a compound noun is formed in Morphology 2. For example, Morphology 1 selects the noun ọjọ́ ‘day’, merges it with the verb rọ́ ‘to be soft’; rọ́ is thereafter incorporated into ọjọ́ at the Syntax level to derive ọjórọ́ ‘evening (time)’ in Morphology 2.
The levels of derivation of nouns formed from a verb and its object, two verb phrases, serial verbs and splitting verbs could be explained thus: Morphology 1 selects a transitive verb in (21) and merges it with an NP object to form a verb phrase at the Syntax level of (3), Morphology 2 merges this VP with a nominal prefix to derive a compound noun. For instance, in (21a), the verb *pa* ‘to catch’ selects the NP object *ẹja* ‘fish’ in Morphology 1, the merging of the two words forms the VP, *pa ẹja* ‘to catch fish’. Morphology 2 merges this VP with a nominal prefix {a-} to derive the word *apeja* ‘a fisherman’. In the formation of a compound noun from two verb phrases, the process is as explained above except that two transitive verbs participate in the derivation as illustrated with the derived nouns in (23) above. The derivation of nominal compounds in (25) also involves two verb phrases. However, unlike the situation in (23), here, Morphology 2 selects a null (i.e. non-overt) nominal prefix and merges it with the two VPs. In the derived nouns in (28), the said null nominal prefix is merged with a verb that selects two complements- an NP and a PP.

Both morphology and syntax in our model (3) take part in the derivation of compound nouns from serial verbs and splitting verbs. For instance, to derive the noun *àrìwísì* ‘comment’ in (30b), the verbs *rí* ‘to see’, *wi* ‘to speak’ and *sí* ‘to be against’ are selected by Morphology 1; they are merged at the syntactic level to derive the VP *ríwísì* ‘to speak against’.
Morphology 2 merges this VP the nominal prefix \{à-\} to form àríwísí ‘comment’. The process as explained above also applies in the derivation of compound nouns from splitting verbs in (32).

**Summary**

In this section, we analyzed and discussed the various ways of deriving nominal compounds from the combinations of words from three major syntactic categories in the Yorùbá language. These are the adjective, the noun and the verb. The most productive of them is the verb. The possible combinations in the derivation of nominal compounds discussed in this section are the following: noun + adjective, noun + noun (+ noun), nominal prefix + a verb phrase, nominal prefix (overt and non-overt) + two verb phrases

nominal prefix + serial verbs, and nominal prefix + splitting verbs. All the compounds derived from the above combinations are endocentric compounds because they have nouns or nominal prefixes as heads. In the next section, we shall focus on nominal compounds derived from various sentences in the language.

### 2.3 Nominal compounds derived from clauses

**Yorùbá sentence-types**

Our rule (12) \(N \rightarrow CP\) is the rule for the derivation of compound nouns from various sentences in the Yorùbá language. The CP in the rule is the
basic clause (the sentence), while the N is the derived word. It is pertinent to note that only nominal compounds are derived from sentences in Yorùbá, hence the restrictive nature of the rule.

Scholars in Yorùbá linguistics have identified various sentence-types in the language. They include derived and underived sentences, single and multiple-verb sentences. Others are interrogative, imperative and declarative sentences (see Awobuluyi (1978a &b) Bamgboṣe (1990), Yusuf (1999), Taiwo (2005) among others). Many of these sentence-types are said to be derived from other sentences. For example, in the sentences in (33) below, (33b) is derived from (33a).

33 a  Olú  jẹ  iṣu
       Olu  eat  yam
       ‘Olu ate yam’

b  Iṣuₐ ni  Olú  jẹ  tᵢ
       yam  foc. Olu  eat
       ‘It was yam that Olu ate’.

In (33b), iṣu ‘yam’, the object of the verb jẹ ‘eat’, was moved to the spec-CP position, leaving behind a trace tᵢ at its extraction site. The sentence in (33a) is the D-structure of that of (33b). In the Yorùbá language, (33a) is
not derived from any sentence. The sentence in (33a) and similar ones are known as underived or basic sentences while that in (33b) and others like it are called derived sentences (Bamgbose 1990, Taiwo 2005:141-143).

In the language, it is possible for a sentence to have more than one main or lexical verb without any evidence of coordination. This is why another distinction is made between single-verb sentences and multiple-verb sentences. A single-verb sentence is so called because it has only one main verb. Such a sentence may be a derived sentence or an underived one. The sentences in (33) above are examples of this type of sentence. A multiple-verb sentence, on the other hand, has a minimum of two main verbs in its structure. An example of this type of sentence is the popular serial verbal construction that is common to West African languages.

Compound nouns could be derived from these various sentence-types. Other sentence-types from which nominal compounds could be derived in Yoruba include the focus sentence and the dislocated sentence. It is also possible to derive nominal compounds from relative clauses. We shall discuss nouns formed from these various sentences. The nouns so derived are exocentric compounds because the nominal constituents of the sentence cannot claim the headship of the derived compounds.
Nominals derived from underived sentences

Many of the nouns derived from underived or basic sentences are personal names, but some other nouns are so derived. Consider the examples in (34).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>34</th>
<th>Basic/underived sentence</th>
<th>Derived nominal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Ọlọrun fún mi</td>
<td>Ọlọrunfúnmi (personal name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>God give me ‘God gave it to me’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Ayé dún</td>
<td>Ayédún (personal name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>world sweet ‘The world is sweet’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Ìwà bí Ọlọrun.</td>
<td>ÌwábìỌlọrun ‘Godliness’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>character like God ‘Godlike character’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>ọkan là wón</td>
<td>ọkándawón (personal name)/‘exceptional’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>one surpass/exceed them ‘One (person) surpasses others’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To derive the nominals in (34), the basic sentences from which they are derived are desententialized (Oyebade 2007:253). Apart from desententialization, some segments are also deleted. These compounds are exocentric compounds because none of its parts can claim to be the
head. In the tree diagram below, we give the structure of one of the compound nouns in (34).

35

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{N} \\
\text{IP} \\
\text{NP} \\
\text{I} \\
\text{VP} \\
\text{TASP} \\
\text{V} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array}
\]

Ọlórun ō fún mi
Ọlórufúnmi (personal name)

**Compound nouns derived from multiple-verb sentences**

Compound nouns can be derived from multiple verb sentences in two ways. Apart from desententialization, the phonological processes of deletion and tonal transfer are applied to the sentence as in the examples below.
In the above derived nouns, the sentence in (36a) is desententialized to derive the compound nouns. In (36b-c), apart from desententialization, vowel segments are deleted in some parts of the sentences. In some cases, the tone of the deleted segment is transferred to the adjacent syllable. We give the structure\textsuperscript{11} of one of the examples in (36) below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>36</th>
<th>Multiple-verb sentence</th>
<th>Derived Compound Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| a. | Adé wè mí mó  
Ade bath me clean ‘Ade bathed me thoroughly’. | Adéwèmímó (personal name) |
| b. | Olú bá ́ orò dé  
Olu follow riches come ‘Olu came with riches’. | Olúbóròdé (personal name) |
| c. | Ògún kó ́ eyé  
Ogún gather honour ‘Ogún brought wealth’. | Ògúnkéyé (personal name) |

\textsuperscript{11} In the tree diagrams in (35, 37 & 39) similar ones, we have the projection of the whole clause which is the IP. The IP has I as its head. In the Yorùbá language, tense and aspect head the IP. Yorùbá scholars have noted that the two are interwoven and that it may be difficult to draw a line between them (see Bamgboṣe (1966, 1967 & 1990), Awobuluyi (1978b), Ajòngòlo (2005), among others). We use the symbol TASP for these two functors following Ajòngòlo (2005). T is Tense while ASP is aspect.
A compound noun could be derived from a multiple-verb sentence that lacks a subject. Here, a nominal prefix serves as the subject and the entire sentence is desententialized. Some of the nominal compounds so derived are in (38).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjectless multiple-verb sentence</th>
<th>Nominal Prefix</th>
<th>Derived Compound Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. ro inú pa iwà dá stir stomach change character ‘To think and change behaviour’</td>
<td>i-</td>
<td>ironúpàwàdà ‘repentance’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example (38a) is an imperative sentence; the one in (38b) is an instance of serial verbal construction (SVC), while the example in (38c) is that of splitting verb construction. Nominal prefixes are attached to the sentences to derive the nouns.
Compound nouns derived from focus constructions

Compound nouns could be derived from the focus sentence where the subject of the sentence, the object of the verb or the object of the preposition is focused. Some examples are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40</th>
<th>Underlying Sentence</th>
<th>Focus Sentence</th>
<th>Derived Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>Ọpé yẹ ẹrú     thank suit slave     ‘The slave should be thankful’.</td>
<td>Ọpé ni ó yẹ ẹrú thank foc. it suit slave ‘It is thanksgiving that the slave should make’.</td>
<td>Opéyẹrú (Name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>À rí òní we see today ‘We know today’.</td>
<td>Òní ni a rí today foc. we see ‘It is today that we know’.</td>
<td>Ònílāri (personal name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Ayé mọ ọlówọ world know money owner ‘The world knows the rich’.</td>
<td>Olówọ ni ayé mọ money-owner foc world know ‘It is the rich that the world knows’.</td>
<td>Olówọlayémọ (name)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The nouns in (40) are derived through the following syntactic and phonological processes: movement, insertion, deletion and contraction. We explicate these processes with the derived noun in (40a) given below.
As we have in the derivations in (41), the deletion rule deletes the vowel of the focus marker *ni*, as the contraction rule is applied, the remaining segment of the focus marker *[n]* becomes *[l]* before the oral vowel *ó*.\(^{12}\)

**Nominal compounds derived from dislocated sentences.**

A dislocated sentence is a sentence where an NP is moved from its ordinary position in the sentence, set off by a comma, and replaced with a pronoun (Ajọngọlọ 1997:78). Compound nouns are derived from dislocated sentences in Yorùbá. Some of these nouns are in (42) below.

\(^{12}\) In standard Yorùbá, *[n]* and *[l]* are allophones of the same phoneme /l/. *[n]* occurs before nasal vowels while occurs elsewhere. When the nasal vowel after *[n]* is deleted, *[n]* becomes *[l]*. See also note 3 above.
### 42

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Underlying Sentence</th>
<th>Dislocated Sentence</th>
<th>Derived Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **A** | *Oyè kàn mí*  
Title reach me  
‘The title is my turn’. | Oyè, ó kàn mí  
Title it reach me  
‘The title, it is my turn’. | Oyèékànmí  
(personal name) |
| **B** | *Ọmọ pé*  
Child late | Ọmọ, ó pé  
Child it late  
‘The child, it is late’. | Ọmọpé  
(personal name) |

In addition to the syntactic and phonological processes employed in the derived of words from the focus sentences in (40) above, assimilation also takes place as illustrated below.

#### 43. Underlying sentence:  
*Oyè kàn mí*

**Movement & Insertion Rules:**  
Oyè, ó kàn mí

**Assimilation Rule:**  
Oyè é kàn mí

**Contraction Rule:**  
Oyèékànmí

**Desententialization/Derived Noun**  
Oyèékànmí
Compound nominal derived from relative clauses

The nouns derived from dislocated sentences in (42) above could also be derived from relative clauses; examine the examples in (44) below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Underlying Sentence</th>
<th>Relative Clause</th>
<th>Derived nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>*Oyè kàn mí</td>
<td>Oyè, tí ó kàn mí</td>
<td>Oyèékànmí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Title reach me</td>
<td>Title rel it reach me</td>
<td>(personal name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘The title is my turn’.</td>
<td>‘The title that is my turn…’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>*Ọmọ pé</td>
<td>Ọmọ, tí ó pé</td>
<td>Ọmọpé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child late</td>
<td>Child rel it late</td>
<td>(personal name)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘The child that is late…’</td>
<td>‘The child that is late…’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We give below, the derivation of the noun in (44a); we show both the syntactic and the phonological processes involved in their derivations.

45. Underlying sentence: * Oyè kàn mí

Movement & Insertion Rules: Oyè, tí ó kàn mí
Deletion Rule: Oyè, ó kàn mí
Assimilation Rule: Oyè é kàn mí
Contraction Rule: Oyèékànmí
Desententialization/Derived Noun Oyèékànmí
As illustrated in (45), a sentence is relativized with the insertion of the relative marker ‘ti’ after the head of the noun phrase in the relative clause. The deletion rule deletes the relative marker while the resumptive pronoun is regressively assimilated, thereafter, and the whole clause is desententialized to become a word (a nominal compound).

2.3.1 Levels of derivation of desententialized compound nouns

The derivations of compound nouns from sentences and clauses evidently involve both the morphological and syntactic components in (3). For instance, for the nominals derived from basic/underived sentences in (34), multiple-verb sentences in (36) and subjectless multiple-verb sentences in (38), Morphology 1 selects the lexical items; these items are merged into phrases and into clauses (sentences) at the syntactic level. Morphology 2 desententialized these sentences. Some other phonological processes such as elision, deletion, tonal displacement, etc. are also involved. In addition to these, in (38), Morphology 2 merges the subjectless sentences with nominal prefixes to derive compound nouns.

Nominal compounds derived from focus constructions, dislocated sentences and relative clauses also involve the interaction of morphology and syntax as explained in the preceding paragraph. However, some additional syntactic processes are employed in their derivation. For instance, to form the focus constructions in (40), the subject NP of the
sentence is moved to the Specifier of the CP in (40a), the objects are the constituents moved in (40b &c); the focus marker is base generated and inserted after the moved constituents before the focus constructions are desententialized. These movement and insertion processes are the additional syntactic processes employed in the derivation of compound nouns from dislocated sentences and relative clauses.

3. Conclusion
The Yorùbá language has various ways of deriving compound nouns. In this paper, we divided these ways into two broad categories. These are nominal compounds derived from phrases and those formed from clauses (and sentences). We identified the noun phrase and the verb phrase from where compound nouns could be derived in the language. The noun phrases which could derive compound nouns are N+AP and N+NP (+NP) noun phrases. However, various verb phrases would take part in the formation of compound nouns. Those identified in this work are: noun + verb, a verb and its object, two verbs and their object, serial verbs and splitting verbs. The compound nouns derived from these phrases are endocentric compounds. The second category of compound nouns in the Yorùbá language are those derived from clauses (sentences). The sentence-types from where these nouns could be derived from, as discussed in this work, are the basic/underived sentences, multiple-verb sentences (including those without subjects), focus constructions,
dislocated sentences and relative clauses. These compounds are derived through desententialization, hence they are exocentric compounds. Finally, we pointed out that compound nouns in the Yorùbá language, as discussed in this paper, are postsyntactic compounds, their derivations involve the interaction of both morphological and syntactic components of Grammar, therefore, we examined how these two components interact in the derivation of these compounds.

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