

## **Interjection as an Expression of Emotional State in Siswati Language**

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**Abstract:** The objectives of this study are to define and explain interjection as an expression of sudden thought or emotion of the mind. The word interjection is from the Latin word, *interjectio* a throwing in. It is an independent part of speech that can be used in juxtaposition with others or other parts of speech be converted into interjections. It is a linguistic sign that expresses the speaker's current mental state or act. It includes the onomatopoeic words. They are, however, divided into primary and secondary interjections. The primary interjections are little words or non-words which do not normally enter into construction with other word class, for example, *Oh!* *Oops!* They can be used as co-utterances with other units and tend to be phonologically and morphologically anomalous. The secondary interjections are those words which have an independent semantic value to express a mental attitude. Structuralism theory is adopted for this study to explicate the aspects from the units to the words.

**Keywords:** Juxtaposition, Mental attitude, Primary interjection, Secondary interjection, Semantic value.

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### **I. Introduction**

The rationale of this study is to provide a broader understanding of interjections in a systematic way within the language system.

To consider interjection as one of the significant parts of speech like nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adverbs.

Language as tool of communication is considered to be perfect if it uses phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases, sentences and parts of speech in an orderly manner.

Language is viewed in various ways for example: the traditional, historical, structural and transformational grammar. The detail of the nature, impact, applications and perspectives need to be highlighted. Language is defined by Bruce and Pearson (1987:4) as follows:

*A system of human communication based on speech sounds used as arbitrary symbols.*

Interjective is one of the major parts of speech in a language that needs analysis from various linguistic perspectives to applications. It is evident that for structural and grammatical approaches, the interjective is looked at as an isolated word, in a sentence, in various contexts and in a paragraph.

### **Statement of the problem**

Interjection is a part of speech that is marginal and largely neglected in linguistics. (Nordgren 2015:106)

It is classified as a part of speech in Siswati without dividing it into primary interjection: word or non-word, which do not enter into construction with other word class and secondary interjection, a word with dependent semantic value.

There is no demonstration of different parts of speech that are used as interjection to show the syntactic, semantic or phonological processes.

### **II. Research methodologies and theoretical underpinnings Research approaches**

Behaviouristic approach- it focuses on the perceptible aspects of linguistic behaviour-responses, relationships or associations as an expression of emotion of the mind and verbal behaviour. Skinner (1975) and Chomsky (1965)

Functional approach - it focuses on the use of interjection at various situations to express emotions.

Bloom (1971) and Slobin (1971) express two major pacesetters of language development of function and form. The functional level is on conceptual and communicative capabilities. The formal level is on perceptual and information - processing capabilities.

### **Research objectives**

The objectives of this study are the following:

- To define interjection as one of the parts of speech.
- To outline the functions of the interjection.
- To elaborate on the link of interjection with the other parts of speech.

### **Research questions**

The research questions that are essential in unpacking the statement of the problem are the following:

- Why is the interjection defined?
- How are the functions of the interjection outlined?
- What are the significances of elaborating on the link between the interjection and other parts of the speech?

### **Syntactic category**

The classification that is prevalently used in Siswati language is that of Doke (1943). It reflects six parts of speech, which are substantives, predicatives qualificatives, descriptives, interjectives and connectives. They are illustrated as follows:

Substantives	Predicatives	Qualificatives	Descriptives	Interjectives	Connectives
Noun Pronoun	Verbs Copulatives	Relatives Adjectives Enumeratives Possessive	Ideophones Adverbs		

### **III. Literature review**

There are few scholars that are cited to define and describe the interjectives. The scholars are the following:

Burns (1984: 89) observes that:

*Interjections are words used to express sudden emotion, or strong excitement of the mind. Pure interjections are nothing more than mere instinctive sounds of the voice produced.*

Jucker and Taavitsainon (2010) put it as follows:

*A lexical form, which constitutes an utterance on its own. It does not enter into construction with other word classes and is usually monomorphemic (Primary interjections).*

Turban (2011: 29) explains as follows:

*Interjection is the word that shows a strong feeling or emotions. It is usually a short word that comes at the beginning of a sentence. An interjection is followed by an exclamation point.*

Miner (1990: 177) suggests that:

*It is the movement of the mind, that is, an affection of the soul uttered by an inarticulate voice, signifying something. An interjection signifies an emotion of the mind in the person uttering the interjection, nevertheless, in the hearer it signifies the mental concepts, for the hearer conceives what the soul of the one uttering the interjection exclaims, whether it be from sorrow, joy, fear, or admiration.*

Talkington (2009: 223) states his view as follows:

*An interjection is a word or group of words interjected in a sentence to denote strong feeling or sudden emotion. The interjection, strictly speaking, is not a true part of speech. It does not enter into the construction of sentence, nor is it grammatically related to other words in sentence. It must always be constructed as an independent element.*

Stenge (2009: 224) in his argument he states as follows:

*An interjection can be defined as a linguistic sign expressing the speaker's current mental state (1) which can be used on its own, (2) Which express a specifiable meaning (3) which does not homophonous with any other lexical item whose meaning would include in its own meaning (that is in the meaning of the private interjection), and (4) which refers to the speaker's current mental state.*

Nordgren (2015: 106) asserts that:

*Interjections are relatively conventionalised vocal gestures which express a speaker's mental state, action or attitude or reaction to a situation. It must be emphasised that the broad description of interjectives as form to express a speaker mental state is meant to avoid the common claim the interjection are only emotive.*

#### **IV. Discussions**

Interjections are functional words which can be defined as linguistic signs expressing the speaker's current mental state. They are vital in communication, which is a combination of acts and a series of elements with purpose and intent. The instrumental function of interjectives reflects the manipulation of the communicative acts. The representational function conveys facts and knowledge to represent realities during communication (Douglas Brown 1987)

##### **Expressing permission, agreement:**

- (a) *yebo*: "yes".
- (b) *ehhe* "yes".

##### **Expressing denial, negation, and refusal:**

- (a) *cha*: "no", "not at all", "never".
- (b) *hhayi*: "no", "stop", "don't".
- (c) *yeka*: "stop", "leave".

These forms may even acquire a stronger meaning when -bo is suffixed to them:  
*chabo!* *Hhayibo!*

##### **Expressing surprise, joy, and disappointment:**

- (a) *hhawu*, *hawu*: used to express strong disapproval or angry surprise.
- (b) *Halala! Hholohholo! ncinci! hhule*: "hurrah". (expressing joy).
- (c) *make*: Used mostly by woman to express anger, surprise.
- (d) *maye*: Used to express surprise, sympathy, fright.
- (e) *Oh!* Express surprise.
- (f) Expressing a pain *ekhuwi!* (feeling pain)

##### **Imperative interjections:**

Imperative may also be considered to be interjective:

- Mbambe!* (Catch him/her!)
- Suka!* (Go away! /you're lying!)
- Musa!* (Don't!)

##### **The suffix *-ndzini*:**

This suffix may be used not only to express derogation, but also to express familiarity and admiration:

- Silimandzini!* (You stupid!)
- Ntombindzini!* (You beautiful girl!)
- Ndivodzandzini!* (You good man!)

##### **Expressing disagreement and negation**

- Cha akakafiki*, (he/she has not arrived)
- Cha asikatitsengi*. (we did not buy them)
- Cha-ke*, *alikani kaNgwane*. (it did not rain in kaNgwane)
- Phindze*, *akeva lowo*. (never, that one does not listen)

##### **Interjections of pleading**

*Ncesi! Phephisa!*

##### **Interjections of warning**

*Bona! Caphela!* (Be careful!)

##### **Interjections using personal names**

- Sabelo*, *wota lapha!* (**Sabelo**, come here!)
- Vusi*, *hlala phasi!* (**Vusi**, sit down!)

### **Interjection with other parts of speech**

A word can be interjectively used in any context or discourse to portray its actual words category. The example of such words are the following:

*Indlu!* (A house)

*Yindlu!* (It is a house)

*Endlini!* (In the house)

*Yasendlini!* (Belonging to the house)

It is noted that the first example denotes a noun, the second, the copulative, the third, the locative and the last one, the possessive.

Noun, *babe* (father)

Interjection, *babe!* (Same meaning as above, but exclamatory and expressing an emotional state.)

Verb, *hamba* (go)

Interjection, *hamba!* (Same meaning as above, but exclamatory and expressing an emotional state.)

Copulative, *yimfundvo* (it is education)

Interjection, *yimfundvo!* (Same meaning as above, but exclamatory and expressing an emotional state.)

Locative, *ekhaya* (at home)

Interjection, *ekhaya!* (Same meaning as above, but exclamatory and expressing an emotional state.)

Interjectives are parts of speech that are used in isolation or together with other parts of speech. Their interjectives functions are making them remarkable and easily noticeable. They are described through their usage in language discourse. The secondary interjections are dominating in Siswati language. There are few primary interjections that are noted in Siswati language, the examples are the following:

*Awuva!* The literal meaning is that you do not listen but here is an interjection that reiterates beating. *E!* is a salute to a specified clan. The focus of primary interjection is not on meaning, but it is on function.

### **V. Conclusion**

It is noted that most parts of speech can be changed into interjections in form and in their functions. Many authors in philology and linguistics suggest interjections might have been among the first utterances or words used by humans at the dawn of language. Interjections are the words or forms which are used to express some emotional state. Usually these exclamations are used independently without any agreement or link with other words in a sentence. Different parts of speech may, however be used as interjection.

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