LINGUISTIC TECHNIQUES FOR A STANDARD NORM IN ANAANG LANGUAGE

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Article history:		Abstract:
		The search for a standard norm in Anaang language has driven our curiosity to another research. It is true that the varieties found in Anaang language will invariably pose confusion and a blockade to strangers and perhaps future generation if a solution is not provided. Employing survey and library sources, random sampling, we administered interviews to 80 Anaang indigenes, twenty from each dialect community. Additionally, we used 20 Anaang wordlist, five functional sentences and a comparative analysis to find the phonemes with regular correspondences in all the dialects of Anaang language and contrasted the relationship between these forms. Thus, after the contrastive evaluation, we reconstructed the forms from where they developed. It was through these techniques that we discovered: the alveolar tap /ɾ/ and the voiceless labial velar plosive /kp/ as reconstructed forms in the initial and medial positions of Anaang words. It is therefore suggested that the method of internal reconstruction or protoforms be employed in finding a standard norm, a solution to the varieties and standardization of Anaang Language.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Language as well as life is a growing phenomenon. As such, as the language grows, there is every tendency for new development to come negatively or positively. The contact of these languages will bring about interference in all levels of the language. This method enta6+ils using cognates of the language to find the earlier forms so as to identify the original source of the language.

Internal reconstruction is a method of reconstructing an earlier state in a language's history using only language internal evidence of the language in question according to Wikipedia. The method involves the reconstruction of older pattern by the use of internal forms of the language. (Lehman, 1992:13). As an illustration, the following numerals from selected Indo-European languages were presented.

Table: 1

ENGLISH	GOTHIC	LATIN	GREEK	SLAVIC	SANSKIT	CHINESE	JAPANESE
One	Ains	ŭnus	heîs	jedinu	ekas	i	hitotsu
Two	Twai	odo	dúó	duva	dvá	erh[4]	futatsu
Three	Orija	trēs	trēs	trije	trayas	san[1]	mittsu
Four	Fidwor	quattuor	tettaes	ĉetype	catvāras	ssu[4]	yottsu
Five	Fimf	quinque	pēnte	peti	panca	wu[3]	Itsu tsu
six	Saihs	sex	héks	sesti	sat	liu[4]	muttsu

Deduced from the above table, it is noticed that even with languages from the same proto stock such as the Indo-European languages: English, Gothic, Latin, Greek, Slavic, Sanskrit, Chinese and Japanese, changes occur in the internal structure of the language. The method of internal reconstruction is concerned with the negotiation of multilevel structures of the language (Lehman, 1992:162). These changes may occur at any level, either phonological or morphological. The reconstructed form should be derived by cross checking the irregularities in contrast with the regular patterns

1.1 THE COMPARATIVE METHOD (CM) PROCEDURE FOR RECONSTRUCTING EARLIER FORMS

Comparative method refers to the procedure for determining earlier forms, generally of unattested languages. This method involves the use of two or more dialects or related languages to find out the exact relationship between these forms. According to Lehman (1992:142).
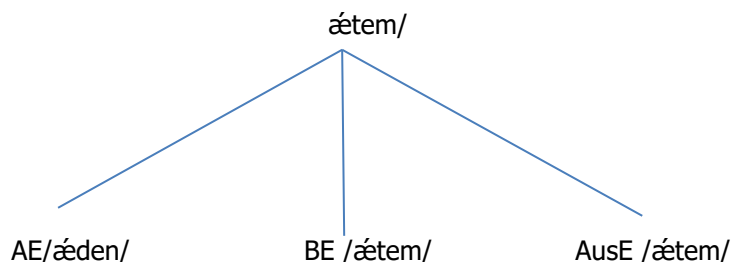
When linguists speak of the comparative method (CM), however, they refer to a procedure for determining earlier forms, generally of unattested languages. In using the method, we contrast forms of two or more related languages to determine the precise relationships between these forms. We indicate this relationship most simply by reconstructing the forms from which they developed.

Consequently, Lehman (1992:143) compares dialects of American English (AE) with that of British English (BE) by using the contrast between the medial consonants. He realized that in AE dialects the -t- in the following words are voiced, so that *atom* and *adam*, *bitter* and *bidder* are pronounced alike.

This is illustrated below:

AE /ǽdem/:   BE /ǽtem/ for atom
AE/bider/:   BE /bitə/ for better
AE /lidəl/   BE /litə/ for little

Moreover, these pronunciations, similar to those of British English according to him are found in Australia and other dialects of English. In arranging these forms side by side, they would posit earlier forms as shown in the triangular below:

ǽtem/

AE/ǽden/   BE /ǽtem/   AusE /ǽtem/

Furthermore, Lehman stressed that the etymon for these forms was like the British and Australian English reflexes. Therefore, the American reflex on the other hand underwent a change whereby the medial /t/ was voiced. This illustration shows a first step. Lehman later pointed out that one could assemble all words with medial /t/ in British and Australian English to examine the American Englishes counterpart.

As a further step, other words made from the same base were to be cross examined especially in American English. For instance, the word like hitter [hider] is an agent norm related to the verb /hit/. Subsequently, the unvoiced /t/ in the verb supports the assumption that /t/, rather than /d/ is the earlier sound and similarly that American English has undergone the change.

However, it was realized that the method for reconstructing the /t/ is not the most frequent reflex; rather that evidence is found in American English forms which did not change.

Nevertheless, the contrasting pair put forward by Lehman's work was the use of the simple form of adjectives, for example 'fat' and the comparative *fatter* was pronounced [fǽdr]. Invariably, this voicing did not occur in the comparism of similar adjective, for instance *quick: quicker, fast: faster*. Derived from these pairs, it was noted that after the accented vowel, the forms with [ər] should have the same consonant as those without it. In order to account for forms such as [fǽdr] as well as [hidə], it was summarized that in a restricted group of words especially those with medial /t/, a sound change had taken place regardless of the morphological status of the word.

According to the research, *hitter* is an agent norm noun base on /hit/ plus /ər/ and quicker belongs to a totally different group in being derived from the adjectives /kwik/ in addition to comparative suffix /ər/.

However, he further explains that in adopting these steps we have realized that some medial /t/ do not change as in 'faster'. Lehman examines /t/ in all environments. From his examination, he realized that in one of the intervocalic environments, the change did not take place when the following syllable is /en/ as in *button*, *kitten* and so on. It was further illustrated that in the AE variety, "button' is realized very much as BE *butto*. This similarity according to the research provided further evidence that it was American English in which the change of /t/ in *atom*, *bitter, little* took place. In examining the situation further, the research assessed the role of accent and looked for forms with medial /t/ but with different accentuation such as *atomic*. It was further accepted that if the agent fails on the second syllable, the /t/ is not voiced. The research found a similar look of voicing in words like AE *attire*. This was done in order to examine all environments in which medial /t/ occurs.

Having cited enough examples in the research, it was realized that the use of comparative method demands examination of all the instances of a sound under consideration. These are substantial evidence why the comparative method is very effective. According to Clarkson (2017:189), it is possible to uncover details historically about the languages through the comparison method (hereafter the CM). The CM operates through comparison of features of genetically related languages to give a picture of their parent language.

Therefore, through the examination using the comparative method, it was concluded in the research that in some American English dialects, medial /t/ has changed to /d/ when it follows a stressed vowel and stands before /e/

plus /l/ or /m/ or /r/, or before /i/ and other weakly stressed syllables. Finally, it was realized that sound changes are generally limited to certain dialects and to certain environments.

On the whole, according to Lehman (1992:144) 'the comparative method has been tested on so many examples that we are very confident of its effectiveness'.

This then is the method we are going to adopt in our research of finding the standard norm for Anaang language which is the major objective of this study.

We are proposing that the method of internal reconstruction be used in achieving the standard norm or the proto-form method suggested below

2.0 INTERNAL RECONSTRUCTION, A METHOD OF FINDING THE STANDARD NORM IN ANAANG LANGUAGE.

The method of internal reconstruction involves finding phonemes with regular correspondence in all the dialects of Anaang and contrasting two or more related relationship between these forms. Thus after this contrasting evaluation, we reconstruct the forms from where they developed, this is properly illustrated in tables 2 and 3 below:

Table 2

Varieties	Comparative sounds	Teeth	Rainfall	Twenty	Sword
ACD	-r-	ered	erim	erip	eruad
AND	-r-	ered	erim	erip	eruad
AWD	-d-	eded	edim	edip	eduad
ASD	-l-	eled	elim	elip	eluad

Reconstruction *r

Table 3

Varieties	Comparative Sounds	First born	Masquerade	Basket	bag
ACD	-kp-	àkpán	ékpɔ'	ákpàn	èkpàd
AND	-p-	àpán	épɔ'	ápàn	èpàd
AWD	-kp-	àkpán	ékpɔ'	ákpàn	èkpàd
ASD	-kp-	àkpán	ékpɔ'	ákpàn	èkpàd

Reconstruction *kp

ANALYSIS: Derived from table 2 above, we realized that the alveolar tap /r/ is the most regular phoneme in dialects and it is the one to be constructed as it constitutes the greatest correspondence in all the dialects. Whereas, voiceless alveolar plosive /d/ and alveolar lateral /l/ are irregular correspondences. In table 3, we have the voiceless labial velar plosive /kp/ as the prominent variant while voiceless bilabial plosive /p/ is irregular. The standard norms for reconstruction are the alveolar tab /r/ and the voiceless labial velar plosive /kp/. These reconstructed forms are suggested to be the standard norms in Anaang language. As earlier discussed in the conclusion of our theoretical framework, the method of internal reconstruction should be employed in finding a standard norm

3.0 THE PROTOFORM METHOD OF FINDING THE STANDARD NORM IN ANAANG LANGUAGE

Another method we have suggested in finding out the standard norm is the protoform method. This method involves the collection of similar majority phonemes in all the cognates (word of similar meaning among dialects or sister languages). This may be a better way of achieving a standard norm, because it is the most consensus method of deciding on a variety without conflict. Let us see examples among the Anaang cognates of dialects. Nyarks (2006:77)

Table 4

Data	Gloss		
ANNANG DIALECTAL VARIETIES	Incase	dwarf	rainfall
ACD	/àkpèré/	/itʃɔ˞/	/érìm/
AND	/àpèré/	/Isɔ˞/	/érìm/
AWD	/àkpèdé/	/isɔ˞/	/ édìm /
ASD	/àkpèlé/	/itʃɔ˞/	/élìm/
Proto-forms	/àkpèré/	/itʃɔ˞/	/érìm/

Analysis in the first data 'akpede' (incase) among the four varieties have four /a/'s, four /k/'s, four /e/'s, three /r/'s and five /e/'s therefore the similar majority morpheme is /akpere/ whereas we have one /I/ and one /d/'s which are minority as such they are eliminated. This system is applicable to other data. This medium is a common democratic and uncontroversial means of finding out the consensus variety, which may be the standard variety. Below are several other examples from Anaang varieties.

Table 5

Gloss	ACD	AND	AWD	ASD	Proto-forms
Orange	sokoɾo	sokoɾo	sokodo	sokolo	sokoɾo
Finger nail	mbaɾa	mbaɾa	mbada	mbala	mbaɾa
Tooth	Eɾed	ered	eded	eled	eɾed
Hair	Iɾed	iɾed	ided	iled	iɾed
Back	Eɾem	erem	edem	elem	eɾem
Maize	Akpakpa	apapa	awukpa	akpakpa	akpakpa
Root	Aɾuŋ	aɾuŋ	aduŋ	aluŋ	aɾuŋ
Mortar	èká ùɾùŋ	èká ùɾùŋ	èká ùdùŋ	èká ùlùŋ	èká ùɾùŋ
Market	uɾua	urua	udua	ukua	urua
Sheep	eɾɔŋ	eɾɔŋ	edɔŋ	elɔŋ	eɾɔŋ
Learn	kpeb	kpeb	kpeb	kpeb	kpeb
Bat	mkpekpem	mpepem	mkpekpem	mkpekpem	mkpekpem
All	akpaimɔ	apaimɔ	akpaimɔ	akpamɔ	akpaimɔ
Death	akpa	apa	akpa	akpa	akpa
Cut	kpeke	peke	kpeke	kpeke	kpeke
Melon	ikpan	ipan	ikpan	ikpan	ikpan
Tomorrow	mkpɔŋ	mpɔŋ	mkpɔŋ	mkpɔŋ	mkpɔŋ
european	mbakaɾa	mbaaɾa	mbakada	mbakala	mbakaɾa
In case	akpere	apede	akpede	akpede	akpede
Oil	Aɾan	aɾan	adan	alan	aɾan
Plantain	ndíyóŋ	nlíyóŋ	mbíyóŋ	ukom	ndíyóŋ
Tongue	édemé	édém	édeŋ	elok	édémé
Bow	útiáʁá	útiáʁá	útiáʁá	útiáʁá	útiáʁá
Needle	úbén	uwéén	áwéén	uwéén	úwén
Gown	áfɔŋ	mfɔɾɔ	mfɔdɔ	mfɔlɔ	mfɔɾɔ
Hat	ítám	ítám	itéŋ	ítám	ítám
Money	ɔkwɔk	ákwɔk	ákpɔʁɔ	ákwɔk	ákwɔk
Kernel	Itʃip	Isip	itʃip	itʃip	itʃib
Yam	edia	udia	edia	edia	edia
Pap	akamu	akamu	akamɔ	akamɔ	akamɔ
Crayfish	abu	awɔ	awɔ	awɔ	awɔ
Elbow	itude kwɔŋɔ	akwɔŋɔ	ekwɔŋɔ, itude kwɔŋɔ	itude kwɔŋɔ	ekwɔŋɔ
Sifter	uluʁɔmkpo	ululuʁɔ	ululoʁɔ	uluʁɔta	ululoʁɔ
Water	ńgwɔŋ	mmɔŋ	ńgwɔŋ	ńgwɔŋ	ńgwɔŋ
Vagina	itúd	itúd	itúd	itúd	itúd

CONCLUSION

With the implementation of the recommended methods of standardization, the internal reconstruction or protoforms method, a standard norm can be achieved. Moreover, when the standard variety is established, it can be used in developing the language and enriching its vocabulary through borrowings. Therefore, through the establishment of a standard variety, the confusion which would have arisen from the four varieties of Anaang language will be eradicated and the language will be developed for literary works. Also, it will be adopted as a language of instruction, and studies in schools, communication and other social contacts worldwide.

RECOMMENDATION

The above norms should be adopted in the language for standardization of Anang language. Moreover, the linguists should work towards developing the language to the status of a meta-language so that it might be used for literary works.

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