A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF TIV AND ENGLISH PLURALISATION PROCESSES

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research has been conducted and written solely by me. It has not been presented in any previous application for a higher degree. All sources of information and authorities used in this research are specifically acknowledged by means of a bibliography.

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Sign……

Date…….

CERTIFICATION

This research titled **"**A Contrastive Analysis of Tiv and English Pluralisation Patterns" by Ishowua David T. meets the regulations and requirements governing the award of the degree of Master of Arts (M.A) in English Language of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and is approved for its contribution to knowledge and literary presentation.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is principally dedicated to God the Almighty for making it possible for me to go through the research successfully. To my lovely wife, Mrs. Agatha N. Ishowua and my dear children for their patience and understanding during this research work. To the late Head of Tongovde Ajio Family, Ajio Tongovde Ajio, who whole heartedly supported me during my undergraduate days and my Francis Ubaya Ishowua who also assisted during my undergraduate studies.

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ABSTRACT

This research work entitled: "A Contrastive Analysis of Tiv and English Pluralisation Processes" discusses the fact that Tiv Language is still yearning for development as much is needed to study on Tiv Language. This is to help develop and standardize the language through orthograghy, morphology and phonology as at the present there is no central orthography for Tiv Language. This is more so that most of Tiv young generation does not know how to speak or write the Tiv Language. In doing this, the work has attempted to identifying the various morphological pluralisation processes and realizations that exist in Tiv and English Languages. The study also looked at different morphological rules that govern the use of pluralisation in the two languages and how these morphological realizations affect the syntactic structure of Tiv and English. Both the primary and secondary sources like interviews, books and journals were used in the collection of data for the work and the researcher has used the primary or the Direct Method and sampled ten subjects from the native speakers of Tiv language by way of interview. And it is the sample obtained from the interview that the researcher adapted in the analysis of the Tiv data and used the secondary source in analyzing the English data. The researcher used the Realisational Optimality Theory for the analysis of the work. In the main, this work contrasts the Tiv and English pluralisation processes identifying the similarities and differences between the two. The work also hinged on the regular and irregular plurals in Tiv Language which has been taken for granted by speakers and researchers of the language. The work recommends that the Benue State Government should re-introduce the study of Tiv Language in all nursery, primary and secondary schools in Tiv-speaking areas of the state. It is also the recommendation of the work that future researchers on Tiv Language should study more on the area of Tiv pluralisation and that the study of Tiv Language should be introduced fully at the degree level in Benue State University, Makurdi where Tiv Language is now only studied as a course unit in Linguistics.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Language, in the words of Murthy (2007:1) "is the medium of communication through which we express our emotions, ideas, feelings and thoughts to our fellow people". It is an attribute that is only possessed by human. This explains why Encyclopedia Americana (1983:727) defines language as "the faculty and ability possessed by normal human beings and by no other species, using spoken or written utterances to represent mental phenomena or events". Sapir (1921: 8) defines language as a "Purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols." Arising from the above one can conveniently say that language is an essential and a vital vehicle in communication.

The basic role of all languages is to communicate mainly among humans. This communicative role enhances development. This points to the reason why all languages need to be studied to facilitate the know-how of speakers. This is the more reason why the study of pluralisation in Tiv and English languages, with emphasis on Tiv in this case is necessary. The purpose for the contrastive analysis of Tiv and English pluralisation in this research is to help bring out their similarities and dissimilarities. This research also takes care of the various ways of achieving pluralisation in the two languages under study.

The word "pluralisation" can be defined as the inflection of a singular noun to make it acquire a status of two or more persons, places or things, ideas, concepts and entities. Pluralisation works to indicate the status of a number of items. This is affirmed by Quirk and Greenbaum (2000:80) in the following words: "The English number system

comprises SINGULAR, which denotes 'one', and PLURAL, which denotes 'more than one'. The singular category includes common non-count nouns and proper nouns. Count nouns are VARIABLE, occurring with either singular or plural number (boy~boys), or have INVARIABLE plural (cattle)." In the same vein, Alobo (2008:35) concurs as follows:

> The pluralisation of nouns cannot be discussed in isolation of number. This is because the inflection of nouns to indicate their plurality is essentially a business of number. The English number system comprises the singular which denotes 'one' and the plural, which denotes more than one

The thrust of this chapter is to examine the works of other writers and researchers on pluralisation process especially in Tiv and English Languages. It is noted that apart from nouns, pluralisation could be obtained from the use of pronouns, determiners and verbs in the structure of Tiv and English. The researcher delves into the morphological and morphophonemic processes which are very important aspects as far as the formation of pluralisation is concerned in the languages under study.

Alobo (2008:35) explains the diversities of ways in plural formation in English borrowing: "Generally speaking, English nouns have different ways of forming their plurals. This happens because of the numerous foreign words that exist in the language". This may not necessarily be the case with Tiv language. The fact is that even the borrowed words in Tiv must conform to the Tiv plural formation principles. The principles of forming plurals using plural morphemes like "u", "a", "i", "m", "mba" is apparently evident in Tiv. This is however, not the case with English Language where most words adopt the borrowed words'original language plural principles: medium-media.

It must be stated at this point that both English and Tiv are Languages of the world but with different statuses. While English is an international language, Tiv is a dominant language spoken in Benue but local in some neighbouring states of Nasarawa, Taraba and in states like Plateau and Cross River, Nigeria and even in the Republic of Cameroon where it is spoken in patches. Despite the above identified differences in status, all languages play almost the same role. This is the position of Halliday (1976:23) who states that: "Linguistic research had demonstrated that there was no such thing as a primitive (inferior) language".

Morphology, according to Crystal (2008)is the branch of grammar which studies the structure or forms of words, primarily through the use of the morpheme constructs. It is traditionally distinguished from syntax, which deals with the rules governing the combination of words in sentences. It is generally divided into two fields: the study of inflections (inflectional morphology) and of word-formation (lexical or derivational morphology) – a distinction which is sometimes accorded theoretical status (split morphology). When emphasis is on the technique of analysing words into morphemes, particularly as practised by American structuralist linguists in the 1940s and 1950s, the term morphemicsis used. Morphemic analysisin this sense is part of a synchronic linguistic study; morphological analysis is the more general term, being applied to diachronic studies as well.Morphological analysis may take various forms. One approach is to make a distributional study of the morphemes and morphemic variants occurring in words (the analysis of morpho-syntactic arrangements), as in item-and arrangement models of description. Another approach sets up morphological processes or operations, which see the relationships between word forms as one of replacement (e.g. replace the /e/ of *take* with the /ä/ of *took*), as in item-and process models.

In early generative linguistics, morphology and syntax were not seen as two separate levels; the syntactic rules of grammar apply to the structure of words, as they do to phrases and sentences. Morphological notions emerge only at the point where the output of the syntactic component has to be given a phonological representation (via the morph phonological rules). Natural morphology (NM) is an approach which aims to describe and explain universal tendencies in word-formation (such as the preference for deriving morpheme-based morphology nouns from verbs, rather than the reverse). Prosodic morphology is a theory of how morphological and phonological determinants of linguistic form interact (Crystal, 2008).

Booij (2005) points out that there are two basic functions of morphological operations: (i) the creation of new words (i.e. new lexemes), and (ii) spelling out the appropriate form of a lexeme in a particular syntactic context. Morphology thus provides means for extending the set of words of a language in a systematic way. The coinage of *bottle factory* is a case of compounding, in which two lexemes are combined into a new one. In the other type of word-formation, derivation, exemplified by the word *swimmer*, use is made of morphological operations on lexemes, whereas in compounding, two or more lexemes are combined into a new word.

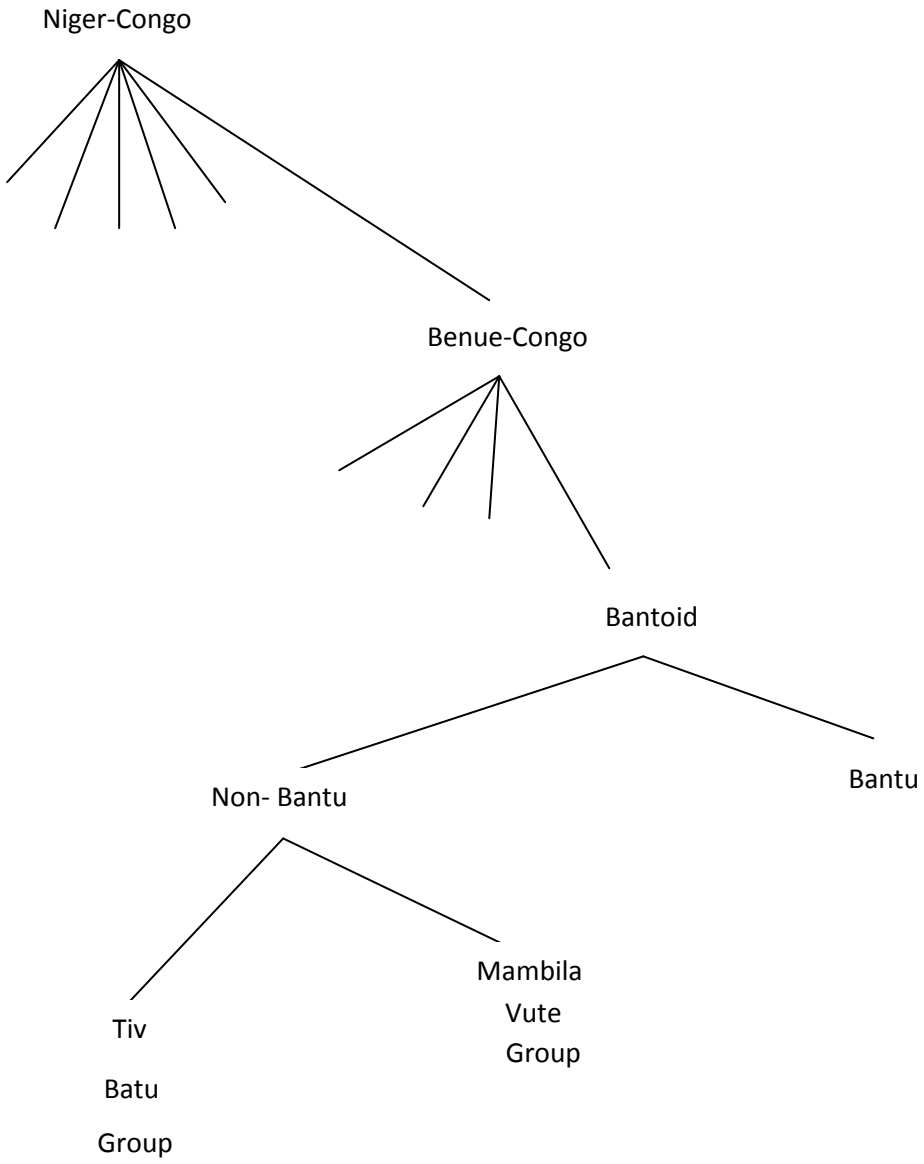
1.2 The Tiv Land, People and Language

Benue has a total population of four million, two hundred and nineteen thousand, two hundred and forty four (4,219,244). Of this number, Tiv people have a total population of about three million. The Tiv people occupy fourteen local government areas out of the twenty three local government areas in Benue State representing 61% (percent). The local government areas occupied by the Tiv people in Benue include-: Buruku, Gboko, Guma, Gwer, Gwer-West, Katsina-Ala, Konshisha, Kwande, Logo, Makurdi, Tarka, Vandeikya, Ukum, and Ushongo. These local government areas are gotten from

the two sons of Tiv: Ichongo and Ipusu who are also divided into the following old clans and districts: Kparev, Shitile, Ukum, Tongov, Masev, Iharev, Nongov, Ikurav, Ugondo and Turan. The Tiv people are also found in large numbers in Nasarawa and Taraba states. They are equally found in good number in Plateau and Cross river States. So, going by this spread, we can conveniently state that the Tiv people are over four million in population. Anshi (2004:1) puts it this way: "The Tiv people are the largest ethnic tribal group that is found in Benue State". Bur (1993:12) notes that: "The Tiv numbering over four million, the sixth largest ethnic group in Nigeria.". Tiv people are mainly farmers and Christians by religion.

Tiv Language belongs to the Benue-Congo language family which is an offshoot of the Niger-Congo language family (Udu 2009:1). This is confirmed by Orjime (2004: 2) in quotation of Armstrong (1964) who states that "Tiv is Benue-Congo Language of the Niger-Congo family." The diagram below shows this family. Tiv Language is the language spoken by the Tiv people of mainly Benue State origin and other states like Nasarawa, Taraba, Plateau and Cross River. The speakers of the language in Benue state alone are over three million representing over sixty percent of the state population. An internet source, www.scribd.com asserts that Tiv language is spoken by about six million people in Nigeria with few speakers in Cameroon. This view is supported by Udu (2009:1) but Udu notes the number of Tiv in Cameroon to be signific,ant. On the whole, Tiv language is indeed a majority language among the minority groups in Nigeria. Here is the map of Tiv language family:

Benue-Congo Language Family Showing the Position of Tiv



Source: Gundu, G.A. and Jockers, H. (1985:xvii) Tiv Bibliography. Makurdi: The Government`Printer.

1.3 Statement of Research Problem

The Tiv Language of Nigeria is a language that is still yearning for development as its orthography, sound system and other aspects still need further study hence it cannot claim to be as developed as the other languages spoken within the shores of Nigeria like Hausa and Yoruba, though it has come a long way. Researches have been done on many key areas of Tiv Language like morphology, phonology and syntax but theseresearches are not conclusive and extensive enough to stand the test of time. This is why further study is needed in these areas including pluralisation which is an area of inflectional morphology. The main motivation for this research is to bring out many features about Tiv pluralisation which needs serious analysis as most of the earlier works on Tiv pluralisation are either too scanty or not analytical enough.This, the researcher considers a problem which needs solution, hence this study. To achieve the focus of this research an investigation into the morphological similarities and differences between the Tiv and English pluralisation processes is explored with a view to testing the universality or otherwise of language and further narrow the yawning gap that is brought about as a result of the inadequate materials on Tiv pluralisation.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the statement of problem, this research is set to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent do morphological realizations exist in Tiv language as they do in English?

2. What morphological rules govern pluralisation processes in Tiv and English?

3. How do these morphological realizations affect the syntactic structures of Tiv and English languages?

1.5 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to comparatively analyse the pluralisation process in Tiv and English languages. The analysis intends to look at the morpho-syntactic plural processes such as tonality, mutation, voicing, additives, replacive and inflectional patterns etc. This is both a comparative and descriptive work of the two languages aimed at discovering their levels of morpho-syntactic relativity.

The research, however, hopes to achieve the following objectives:

1. To ascertain if morphological realization exist in Tiv as in English
2. To highlight the areas of similarities or dissimilarities in the morpho-syntactic pluralisation process in the two languages.
3. To analyse how the morphological processes in Tiv language affect its syntactic structure.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research is more relevant judging from the fact that it is an addition to the already written works on morphology and syntax particularly with the discussion on pluralisation. This highlights the significance of this study. Again, this research is of benefit to other researchers on this particular area of study especially researches on Tiv Language morphology. It will also serve as a reference point for school administrators, students, and teachers as well as media practitioners.

The work attempts a comparative analysis of the morpho-syntactic processes which assists in bringing out the similarities and differences that exist between Tiv and English Languages as it relates to pluralisation. This study proves that the Tiv Language like any other language can be developed and standardized through documentation and be relied upon as a means of communication, especially as it affects pluralisation in the language.

1.7 Scope and Delimitations of the Study

The basic concern here is to look at the two forms of pluralisation, regular and irregular, particularly as it affects Tiv Language and English Language generally. The emphasis here is on the morphological, inflectional and phonological aspects as put forward by Crew (1987:403). He argues that, to make a noun plural add –s or –es.

This study does not claim to have covered all areas of pluralisation in Tiv and English languages. Though the ones covered in this work will serve as representative of pluralisation in Tiv particularly as whatever might be left out.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Preamble

This chapter basically discusses the efforts of other scholars on pluralisation with a view to looking at both the topical and authorial aspects of pluralisation. The chapter also handles the theoretical framework of the research which hinges on the Optimality Theory. It is this theory that is used in the analysis of the research.

Morphology, according to Matthews (1991:9) is the "the branch of grammar that deals with the internal structure of words." This is to say that while morphology deals with the structure of words, syntax deals with the structure of sentences. This conforms to the position of Syal and Jindal (2008:77) who state that "the traditional linguistic theories, grammatical description largely operates on two important units: the word and the sentence." They go ahead to look at morpheme as a short segment of language that meets three criteria as follows:It is a word or part of a word that has meaning, it cannot be divided smaller meaningful parts without violation of its meaning or without meaningless remainders and it recurs in differing verbal environments with a relatively stable meaning. The concern in this research is to look at morphology as it affects pluralisation and not any other class of words. Specifically, this work belongs to the inflectional morphology in order to investigate plural formation in the two languages of Tiv and English but with more focus on Tiv.

Several writers over the years such as Yina (2009), Torkor (2009), Waya (2012), Jija (2012) and others have discussed pluralisation in Tiv language as well as the processes. Yina (2009) in an article entitled "Radical Particles and Inflectional Processes in Tiv Morphology" notes that Tiv language is inflectionary. However, like

English the inflectional affixes defy any descriptive pattern of regularity or consistency. He notes that the plural exponent in Tiv is realized by series of prefixations, vocalic transformations, additives, replacements and tonal inflections. This process, according to Yina, involves arbitrary fusion of morphemic segments with each other and with the lexical stem. The morphemes, he stresses, are added to the lexical stems but these added elements are fused with stems and have neither independence nor meanings on their own. This process according to him is quite complex and vexatious. He cites examples of nouns which he notes inflect by prefixing additive elements to the stem. These additive affixes include: i, u, a, m, mba, or tonal inflections, which are both singular and plural markers. Yina employs the combinatorial principle which includes all significant particles that contrast in shapes, functions and meanings recognized by the language user. This principle embraces the entire gamut of affixations; replacives, reduplications, vowel modifications and tonality.

In a related discussion, Torkor (2009) writes on Forms and Functions of Tiv Pronouns. He stresses that Tiv language pronouns do not only change their forms, but also perform distinct lexical functions, which are at variance with those of the English language. He notes that pronouns in Tiv language appear to be the same with those of the English language on the basis of type and form, but differ in terms of function. He adopted the foundation theory which considers word formation processes in Tiv language as essentially intuitive endeavour where morphemes acting as pronouns can also function as lexical words.

Waya (2012) studied the morphology of the Tiv language, focusing on inflectional morphemes with much emphasis on the plural/possessive and past-tense markers in Tiv language. He contrasted Tiv with English language and established

their differences and similarities. He notes that the major types of formation are phonological and morphological conditions, while English is represented by suffix environment of word ending in voiceless segments, voiced and vibilant/affricate/vocalic respectively, where morphological conditions are irregular in pattern.

The difference between Waya's work and this research is in the area of focus. While Waya (2012) handles inflectional morphology with emphasis on plural/possessive,and past tense markers this work looks at the plural formation as a morphological concept.

In Tiv, the phonological condition are realised by variation of tone of voice and are not regularly patterned. He points out that medial tone depicts the present form while the rising tone signifies the past form. The morphological aspect of the plural marker in Tiv is traditionally realised at the prefix levels: (mba-), (u-), (m-), (i-) (a-) to form the plural. In the same direction, English past tense is naturally marked by (-ed). It is also phonologically and morphologically conditioned. The phonological aspect has three different phonological realizations' /t/, /d/, /id/depending on the word. The word ending in the voiceless is realized as /t/, while words ending in voiced are pronounced /d/. The morphological condition is of irregular pattern. All past tense morphemes in English are inflectional with the use of suffixes. The phonological condition of the past tense in Tiv is realised by the variation of tone. It is neither regular nor has it any class of words for its formation. The morphological condition is also irregular. However, it has three ways of formation as observed. According to Waya, there are types that replace other units as well as change the final sound while some past tense markers in Tiv whether phonologically or morphologically conditioned are realized in a rising tone. Waya employs the "frame of reference" model within which an analyst approaches the grammatical description of word and paradigm "item and arrangement

and item and process". This model constitutes the morpho-syntactic categories of the language.

Jija (2012) in a paper entitled Aspects of Tiv Pluralisation looks at the morpho-syntactic and morphophonological structures of the Tiv language, with focus on noun pluralisation. He investigates the techniques for plural formation in Tiv language essentially, exploring the grammatical category of the Tiv plural system which comprises mostly prefixation, suffixation, replacives, morpheme additives, tonation and consonant mutation. Jija not only avails an understanding of the linguistic and cultural habits of the Tiv people, but also provides a framework for the standardisation and development of the Tiv language. He employs Sapir's cultural determinism and the Chomskyan theory of intuition for the analysis of his work, which demonstrates that, pluralisation in the Tiv language, has a sociolinguistic background fundamentally anchored on the Tiv linguistic habit and idiosyncrasies. He establishes some rules of pluralisation in Tiv, noting that the Tiv grammar, especially regarding aspects of pluralisation, is characterized by a peculiar plural system which defies a straightjacket or general rule.

Based on the fore going therefore, this research which also investigates the morpho-syntactic processes of pluralisation in Tiv adopted a theoretical framework different from the ones discussed above. This work proposes realization optimality theory model for its analysis

2.2 Pluralisation processes in Tiv

It is actually not an underestimation to state that little or virtually not much has been written about pluralisation in Tiv Language. However, some attempts have been made especially in the area of listing words (nouns) in Tiv and their plurals. This is extensively done by Orkar (2004:18-22, 2005 etc) in his Primary School project for

Tiv learners from Primary 1-6. The books are titled "Zwa Tiv zanzan sha ci u peramari (1-6). Here, he lists the nouns and their plurals in alphabetical order as can be seen in part below:

Mom (singular)	**Generator**	**Hembamom (plural)**	**Gloss**
Abeda	mba	mbaabeda	wrappers
Bua	a/i	abua/Ibua	cows
Dagi	u	udagi	spears
Gambe	u	ugambe	beds

Yina (2009:59) looks at Tiv as "an inflectional language par excellence". He states that Tiv nouns, for instance "inflects" by adding prefixes to the stems or root. He lists these prefixes to include the following: 'i', 'u', 'a', 'm', 'mba'. He gives examples, some of which are outlined below based on the prefixes given above:

Singular	**Generator**	**Plural**	**English**
Iyo	tonal	iyo′	snakes
Igyo	tonal	igyo′	pigs/swine
Dagi	u	udagi	spears
Gambe	u	ugambe	beds
Ivom	a	avom	heaps
Ishe	a	ashe	eyes
Ishan	a	asan	stars

Gbande	a	agbande	drums
Ityough	irregular	mtom	heads
Ikyonough	irregular	mkonum	chairs
Mhen	mba	mbamhen	thoughts
Mpin	mba	mbampin	questions

The first literature ever produced in Tiv language was a small reader published in 1914 called "Zua Tiv" (The Tiv Language) which was followed in 1916 by the gospel of Mark (Orjime, 2004:3). Almost all the writings in Tiv language were either motivated by the Dutch Reformed Missionaries or those trained by them.

Apart from the two readers mentioned above, we have other early efforts most of which used English language to explain the Tiv Language like Abraham's The Tiv People (1933), The Grammar of Tiv With Vocabulary (1933), Dzande U Orkristu (1933), The Tiv Tribe (1933), Hornby's Notes on the Munshi (1909), Phillips' Some Tiv Songs (1936), Ikarem (1920). These and many more are chronicled by Gundu and Jockers (1985): Tiv Bibliography which contains over eight hundred titles. This shows that thousands of books have been written about and in Tiv language. Attention is now shifted to the books written in Tiv language which show elements of pluralisation in their contents.

The first on the list here is the effort by Yina (2009:58-63) who in discussing Tiv morphology offers some of the plurals in Tiv as follows:

Singular	**Generator**	**plural**	**Gloss**
Ivom	a	avom	heaps

Ivungu	a	avungu	owls
Ishan	a	asan	stars
Iwen	a	awen	stones

Torkor (2009:115-120) analyses how pluralisation applies in Tiv pronouns. He gives examples like “ve mba heen ga”(They are not here). “ve mba hanna? (Where are they?) Here we must note that “ve” and “mba” can be used separately as plural pronouns. E.g “mba hana?” (Where are they?) “ve za zende” (they travelled).

Another effort is made by Akasi (2011) who writes the biography of Botwev, one of the funniest Tiv man that ever lived. In the book (p. 22) he draws three knives and identifies them in plural: Aho atar (three knives) one knife is “iho mom” . Akasi, uses “kasev” which is the plural of women. The singular is “kwase”. This book is an inter-text of an earlier one by Humbe (1961) with the title: Tar Homon u Botwev

In another book, Akasi (2010:48) makes use of plural both in nouns and pronouns: “mbamhen” (the ideas) in singular form should be “mhen” He uses “amunan”, mosquitoes “ve unde” (they climb). “Ve” refers to they. Gbor (2006) captures the elements of pluralisation in Tiv as: “mbayev” (children), “u ter asev” (our fathers) “ati”(names).

Tion (2008) captures some of the plurals in Tiv. The first chapter of the book is titled “Tiv man onov Nav” (Tiv and his sons). The singular form of “onov’ (sons) is “wan” (son). Note that onov is the common noun for both sons and daughters but contextually used in this book refers to sons. “Ato” (ears), “ajiir” (places), “igbinda” (ways); “anyinya” (horses), angbianev (brothers or sisters) etc

Another writer of Tiv language Kyegh (2003) makes use of nouns, especially plurals. One example is where he uses “ayange” which means, days. Day is “iyange”. He cites other examples such as “ior” which refers to men or people. The singular form of “ior” is “or”.

A renowned Tiv novelist, Chia (1993), has fully made use of pluralisation in Tiv Language through his book: Adan wade Kohol Ga. Chapter six is titled in plural: “Anterev pine “Adudu” u wade” which translated means, the kinsmen of wade asked for his “adudu”. Adudu is a traditional container for keeping of secret items of witchcraft among the Tivs. “Anterev” as used above refers to kinsmen and it singular is “anter”. There is also the use of “avungu” in Chapter Seven. “Avungu” refer to owls and their singular form “ivungu”. The first reader in Tiv, Uhiihii makes use of plural pronoun, “yase”, “se” refer to as “our”. There is also the use of plural noun, “onov” which translated means children. In the second Tiv reader, Usha Uhar,there is the use of “akange” which means guinea fowls as well as “aji” which refers to eggs. Singular is ‘iji’.

The Third Tiv Reader, Usha Utar, makes copious use of the pronoun, “ve” in Chapter One and “ve” refers to they. There is also the use of “ibagu”, monkeys. Udu (2010) also makes copious use of plural nouns in his book. There is the use of “mbayev”, children, “uter”, fathers or lords and “angbyanev”, brothers or sisters.

Again Udu (2009) dedicates the whole of Chapter Three on “The morphology of Tiv language”, where he discusses information on nouns and plurals. There is a Christian book by Cullen which is translated by Irtwange (1992) into Tiv. This also makes use of pluralisation in Tiv in so many areas.

There are many other books written in Tiv which touch on pluralisation in Tiv Language, either directly or indirectly. However, main works on Tiv pluralisation are still very scanty. Generally speaking, there are thousands of books written about or in Tiv Language but the figure cannot be compared with English Language in any way. It is good and in order, to state here that, the translation of the English Bible into Tiv Language was done in 1951 but published in the year 1964. It should be noted that the question of pluralisation is fully handled in the Tiv Bible through the issue of nouns, pronouns, determiners and their plurals.

Another renowned author in Tiv is Orkar, who has written many books in Tiv for use in primary schools. He writes readers for Primary one- six. In most of these books he handles the issue of pluralisation in Tiv by way of listing nouns and their plurals without detailed analysis. Ikpa is also another popular writer of Tiv Language, especially for study in primary schools in his Language project, Hen Tiv Dedoo, (Study Tiv well). He briefly touches on the basic plural forms without analysis. Let us now look more closely at these examples of pluralisation in Tiv.

2.3 The Plural Nouns that Begin with /i/ in Tiv

The /i/ can be used to begin a singular or plural noun. However, the emphasis here is only on the plural form. Here are some examples from Yina (2009:59-62):

Singular	**Generator**	**Plural**	**Gloss**
Gbenda	i	igbenda	roads
Tar	irregular	ityar	nations
Kuhe	irregular	ikyuhe	bones

Nombor	irregular	inyombor	tongues
Tsa	irregular	icha	tails

2.4 The Plural Nouns that Begin with /u/ in Tiv

Singular	**Generator plural**		**Gloss**
Tebul	u	utebul	tables
Redio	u	uredio	radios
Bam	u	ubam	banks
Mato	u	umato	motors
Tica	u/a	utica/atica	teachers
Tasa	u/a	utasa/atasa	plates
Gbande	u/a	ugbande/agbande	bows

The problem with this last group of words is that over 95% of them are borrowed except the last one, ‘gbande’. In this case and on this item (sound) Orkar (2005:24) gives better examples. The following tables show some of Orkar’s examples of those plural nouns in Tiv that begin with /u/ sound:

Singular	**Generator**	**Plural**	**Gloss**
Gambe	u	ugambe	beds
Uma	u	uuma	lives
Yese	u/a	uyese/ayese	scorpions
Zamber	u	uzamber `	pleas

Zaiyol	u	uzaiyol	worries

2.5 Forming Plurals by Replacing / i / with /a/ in Tiv

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Ivom	a	avom	heaps
Ishe	a	ashe	eyes
Ivungu	a	avungu	owls
Ishima	irregular	asema	hearts
Ishan	irregularasan		stars
Idyer	irregular	ader	hats
Ikpa	a	akpa	bags
Iwen	a	awen	stones
Igbughul	a	agbughul	lumps

It can be seen that the singular nouns above start with /i/ sound but we cannot form a rule that all singular nouns that start with / i / sound form their plurals by replacing the / a / sound at the initial position as there are a lot of exceptions:

2.6 The Plural Nouns that Begin with /m/ in Tiv

Singular	Generator	plural	Gloss
Ityough	irregular	mtom	heads
Igbindegh	irregular	mgbindem	traps
Ikyungugh	irregular	mkungum	doves
Ikyonough	irregular	mkonum	chairs

2.7 The Plural Nouns that Begin with /mba/ in Tiv

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Akpa	mba	mbaakpa	whips
Adeda	mba	mbaadeda	bungalows
Aondo	mba	mbaaondo	gods
Ugen	mba	mbagen	others
Alum	mba	mbaalum	oranges

2.8 The Plural Nouns with Tonal Inflection in Tiv

When we talk about tonal inflection, the formulation of plural is done by way of pronunciation or the sound of the concerned morpheme(s) serving as inflection. That is to say that the plural is determined by way of pronunciation as the spelling is always same but phonological realisation changes. Some of these words are provided by Yina (2009:60):

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Ihyev	rising tone	ihyev	rats (sic mice) {semantic selection}
Igyo	rising tone	igyo	swine
Iyo	rising tone	iyo	snakes
Inyam	rising tone	inyam	animals
Ivo	risint tone	ivo	goats
Iwa	risint tone	iwa	dogs

2.9 The Non-Regular Pluralisation in Tiv

The Tiv language also makes use of the irregular pluralisation process though it is not as popular as that of the English language but must be noted here. This explains why most authors are silent on the issue. Even in this work much care is not taken to differentiate between regular and non-regular plurals. Emphasis is rather on sounds or inflections that determine pluralisation the following are some of the few examples that can be said to be irregular in Tiv language:

Singular	**Generator Plural**	**Gloss**
Wan	irregular onov	children
Won	irregular wonov	in-laws
Ngokem	irregular ngombakemev/ungombakemev	mothers-in-law
Wankwase	irregular onkasev	ladies
Ishan	irregular asan	stars
Ihima	irregular asema	hearts
Yologh	irregular ayol	scars

So far, we have been looking at the formulation of plurals from the singular nouns. At this juncture, attention will be focused on formulation of plurals from pronouns. On this, Torkor (2009:114) states:

> In the case of forms of pronouns, there exist various ways in which Tiv pronouns appear. The analysis in this paper is therefore modeled after the foundation theory which postulates that pronouns in Tiv language make up an open system of words, giving room for a complex morphological structure. They accept affixation and admit lexical words as pronoun.

Such pronouns as discussed above are:

a) “un” – He or him/She or her
b) “wen” – He/she
c) “a” – He/she
d) “ve” –They
e) “m” – I
f) “me” – I
g) “Se” – we
h) “mba” – they
i) “Ngu” – He/she
j) “We” – You (singular)
k) ‘U’ – You (Singular)
l) “Ne” –You (plural)

It must be noted that, the list above left two important grammatical objects which are “mo”, the English equivalent of “me” and “yough” which is the English equivalent of “your”. There is also an omission of “ne” which is “you” (plural). The verbs in Tiv do not show the difference between the first, second and third person singular and plural in grammar:

a) Wen numbu hanma yange (He/she plays every day)
b) Mba numbu hanma yange (They play every day)
c) U numbu hanma yange (You play every day)
d) M numbu hanma yange (I play every day)

Note how “numbu” the English equivalent of “play” applies to all the above sentences without the structural inflection to show grammatical person as is the case in English in sentence (a) above.

2.10 Pluralisation in English

Pluralisation is a morphological issue. It is a grammatical aspect that deals with numbers. In the words of Quirk (1985:297):

> The English number system constitutes a two- term contrast. SINGULAR denotes ‘one’ and PLURAL, denotes ‘more than one’. Each noun phrase is either singular or plural, and its number is determined in general by its head, which is typically a noun.

The English pluralisation is one of the most complex in the world. This is because; there are several instances where the formulation of plural from singular has no or little clue. In other words, the system is very fluid or agglutinating – the rules thereof are full of exceptions.

Apart from noun which indicates plurality, there are also some elements that show plurality: these are pronoun and verbs. They complement noun a lot in pluralisation determination. This fact is expressed by Hornby (1995:889) who states that “plural is a form of a noun or verb which refers to more than one person or thing”. Siedd (1959:70) on his part states that “the distinction between singular and plural number marks the difference between one and more than one” in an utterance or sentence.

Tomori (1979:27) states that “plural is a mark of ‘more than one’ number”. Aliyu (1996:153) looks at pluralisation thus: “… the traditional method of identifying plural forms is to assume that a noun is the singular when it means one of the items and plural when it stands for more than one”.

It is noted that pluralisation is a system that is manifested in the nominal group which can be either a subject or object and even verbal group grammatically. The following examples attest to this fact:

1. (a) Singular: The boy has one book.

   (b) Plural: The boys have four books.

2. (a) Singular: A donkey has one head.

   (b) Plurals: Donkeys have heads.

To indicate pluralisation in a structure, there must be concord or agreement between the subject and the verb. A plural subject (noun) goes with plural object (noun):

3. There are over one hundred universities in Nigeria.

This is contrary with the case in Tiv, where the pluralisation is normally marked by the main noun and pronoun:

Tiv Singular: Ngu yan iyough

English Singular: She/he is eating yam.

Tiv Plural: Mba yan iyough

English Plural: They are eating yam.

It can be noticed that there is no difference between singular verb and plural verb in Tiv Language as can be seen in the above examples, where the plural is shown only in the noun as underlined.

At this juncture, attention will turn to the various ways through which plural formulation can be realised in English Language. These ways are morphologically or

inflectionally done to bring the individual noun especially its new status as a plural noun.

2.11 Regular Nouns that take –s to form plural

Singular	**Plural**
Boy	boys
Girl	girls
Stick	sticks
Book	books
Table	tables
Map	maps
Ruler	rulers

2.12 Regular Nouns that take –es to form plural

Singular	**Plural**
Bench	benches
Box	boxes
Watch	watches
Match	matches
Class	classes
Cargo	cargoes
Echo	echoes
Hero	heroes
Volcano	volcanoes

Mosquito mosquitoes

It must be noted that out of these two sets of plural formulation identified above, the first group belongs to the regular group while the second set belongs to what some authors refer to as non-regular or irregular plurals with a mild alteration. Some still regard the –es as the regular plural with several exceptions. Quirk et al (1985:504-5) note the exceptions as follows:

I. Unless the noun is written with silent –e, the plural suffix is spelled –es after nouns ending in sibilants which are spelled –s (gas - gases) –z (buzz- buzzes), -x (box - boxes), -ch (church - churches), -sh (bush - bushes).

II. Noun ending in –o have plurals in –os or –oes

(i) –os: when –o is preceded by a vowel (letter or sound), the spelling is –os: bamboos, embryos, studios, zoos. When –o is preceded by a consonant, the spelling is also usually –os: dynamos, pianos, quartos, solos. Abbreviations are included in those nouns with –os: kilos (=kilograms); memos (=memoranda), photos (=photographs); and ethnic nouns: Eskimos, Filipinos (but also zero) eg Chinese, Japanese, Swiss etc.

(ii) –oes: The following are among those nouns which have plurals only in –oes: domino (plural dominoes); also: echo, embargo, hero, potato, tomato, torpedo.

(iii) –os or oes: In some cases there is variation between –os and oes plurals, eg: archipelago (plural: archipelagos or archipelagoes): also banjo, buffalo (cf:87),cargo, grotto, halo, innuendo, manifesto, motto, mulatto, tornado, volcano.

III. Nouns ending in –y preceded by a consonant change –y to –i and add –es: sky ~ skies, -y is kept after vowel: day ~ days, except for nouns ending in – Quy /kwi:/ (where u is only a spelling vowel required after q), which have the plural –quies (soliloquy ~ soliloquies). Proper nouns ending in –y have the plurals in –ys: the two Germanys, the little Marys.

IV. The final consonant is doubled in a few words, eg: fez ~ fezzes, quiz ~ quizzes.

V. The apostrophe -s is used in some nouns of unusual form, eg letters: dot your i's and cross your t's. Numerals: in the 1890's (or, increasingly, 1890s); abbreviations: three PhD's (or, increasingly, PhDs).

Note: In abbreviations, reduplication also occurs as a purely written convention eg: p~pp [the plural = 'pages'], l~ll [= 'lines'], ms ~ mss [= 'manuscripts'], ex ~ exx [= 'examples'], c~cc [= 'copies'], f ~ ff [= 'and following pages'].

So far, the effort is to try and justify the regular formulation of plural though some of them are problematic, yet it can be said that they belong to the class of regular plurals.

The above position of Quirk. R, Greenbaum. S, Leech, G and Svartvik, J. (1985:305) is also shared by Corder (1982:231) who even wrote earlier. His position is that "English marks plural nouns with –s or –es with only a few exceptions". The positions of Quirk et al and Corder are also in agreement with that of Forest (1984) whose major concern is with nouns that end in –o and how their plurals are formed.

Opega (2005:27-9) states that pluralisation and plural formulation are constituted in a manner that:Singular nouns are usually unmarked but plurals are shown by plural markers, the commonest being the '-s' morpheme. Different count nouns have different ways of realizing their plurals. Count nouns may be regular or irregular

He goes ahead to argue that regular "count nouns have a consistent way of forming their plurals, usually by the addition of the '-s' plural marker to the noun". He supplies the following as examples:

Singular	**Plural**
Girl	girls
Book	books
Cat	cats
Car	cars
Dog	dogs

Opega goes further to identify seven ways by which regular count nouns form their plurals. He explains the reason for the diverse ways of forming plurals thus:

> English Language borrows heavily from classical, romance and modern languages, each with its characteristics and perculiar ways of forming their plurals. As a result of these diverse origins of most English words today, there are a number of rules of pluralisation of English nouns.

The seven rules as outlined by him for regular noun formation as follows:

(1) The adding of the plural morpheme '-s' to the singular noun:

Singular	**Plural**
Boy	boys
Cup	cups

(2) Nouns ending in sibilants or hissing sounds such as 'ss', 'sh', 'ch', and or 'z' add '-es' to the noun to form plural:

Singular	**Plural**
kiss	kisses
bush	bushes

church	churches
tax	taxes
waltz	waltzes

(3) Most nouns ending in '-o' take '-es' in forming their plurals.

Singular	**Plural**
Mango	mangoes
Mosquito	mosquitoes
Hero	heroes

(4) Others ending in '-o' take '-s' only:

Singular	**Plural**
Piano	pianos
Calico	calicos
Dynamo	dynamos
Folio	folios
Manifesto	manifestos

(5) Some ending in '-o' still take both '-s' and '-es':

Singular	**Plural 1**	**Plural 2**
Motto	mottos	mottoes
Tornado	tornados	tornadoes
Buffalo	buffalos	buffaloes
Cargo	cargos	cargoes
Volcano	volcano	volcanoes

(6) Noun ending in '-y' preceded by a consonant change the 'y' to 'i' and add '-es':

Singular	**Plural**

Baby	babies
Party	parties
Lady	ladies
Lorry	lorries

However, if the ‘y’ is preceded by a vowel, the ‘-y’ is retained and ‘-s’ is added to form the plural:

Singular	**Plural**
Day	days
Key	keys
Boy	boys
Bay	bays

(7) Most count nouns ending in ‘f’ or ‘fe’ change the ‘f’ to ‘v’ and add ‘-es’:

Singular	Plural
Wife	wives
Knife	knives
Half	halves
Thief	thieves
Life	lives

Some of this category of nouns takes both the regular ‘-s’ and irregular ‘ves’ forms:

Singular	Plural 1	Plural 2
Beef	beefs	beeves

Hoof	hoofs	hooves
Dwarf	dwarfs	dwarves

Some still maintain only regular '-s': grief, strife, belief, and goof.

Quirk et al (1974: 304 and 1985) note that the regular noun pluralisation has mainly '-s' as its inflectional marker regarding alphabet but various forms in terms of pronunciation. This means that the letter '-s' used as plural marker can have three different sounds in different words, depending on the final sound of the base:

	Sound	**Spelling**
(i)	/iz/	after bases ending in sibilants
		as in horse-horses; box-boxes
	/z/	as in size-sizes; prize-prizes
	/ ʃ /	as in rush – rushes; bush – bushes
	/ *t*ʃ /	as in church – churches; bunch – bunches
	/s /	as in mirage – mirages; marriage – marriages

Roberts (1964:33-34) say that "the realisation of spoken –s plural morpheme": Aside from consonant changes, there are three varieties of the –s plural in spoken English: an s sound, a z sound and iz sound:

/s/	/z/	/iz/
Rats	pads	churches
Caps	cabs	boxes
Picks	pigs	misses
Cliffs	hives	hedges
Books	tomatoes	smashes

The sound /iz/ is added after hissing sounds (ch, x, s, z, dz, sic, sh); s is added after voiceless consonants other than hissing sounds (p, t, k, f), and /z/ is added after voiced consonants and vowels (b, d, g, v, o etc).The above guidelines are spelt out by Quirk et al (1974 and 1986) and are in consonance with Gregerson (1977) concerning regular plural formation.

It is worthy to note that Roberts wrote about the spoken –s plural marker long before most of the other linguists – stating how it can be realized in three different ways as outlined above. Roberts discusses the disagreement between the spoken –s as plural marker and the written –s or –es as plural marker.

Discussing the issue of regular pluralisation, Leech and Svartvik (1986:252) state that the morphophonemic realisation of these plurals is not important as some nouns end in–s even in their singular forms: mathematics; hence the regular plural is a matter of addition of –s or –es to a singular form to obtain the plural.

Stageberg (1981:30) considers the realisation of spoken /s/, /z/, and /iz/ and the written –s and –es pluralisation patterns as a matter of "voice assimilation", which he defines as a process by which one speech sound looks identical with a similar sound among words. Allerton (1979:218) also writes on the issue of allomorphic realisation of the pluralisation process in English as he agrees with the existence of morphemic variants or morphemic harmony.

Another contributor to issue of plurality in English is Jesperson (1974:198-200) who also agrees with other Linguists in the area of morphemic variations or the three allomorphs which represent the core of English regular plurality system phonologically. He however, goes ahead to observe that in formation of some regular plurals a mute –e; normally inserted between –o and –s to produce plural: tomatoes,

heroes, etc. He goes ahead to state that most borrowed words do not have the silent or mute –e: albinos, ghettos, solos, photos, pianos etc and that if there is the presence of a vowel before the –o ending, there is usually no mute –e before the plural s- ending: video, folio etc.

Crew (1987:402-408) in his contribution on plurality of English delves into the orthographic realisation of plurals as against the oral realisation of the three allomorphs but his examples cut across the three:

Singular	Plural
Class	classes /-s/
Shoe	shoes /-z/
Summons	summonses /-iz/

Another of crew's contribution in regular plural formation is where he states that in making a name plural, an addition of –s or – es should be done without an apostrophe:

Singular	**Plural**
Smith	The Smiths
Kennedy	The Kennedys
Carolina	Two Carolinas
Goodman	The Goodmans
Helen	Both Helens

Crew as well looks at the issue of nouns ending in –ful; which he states that their plurals are formed by adding –s to the end:

Singular	**Plural**
Cupful	cupfuls
Spoonful	spoonfuls
Shovelful	shovelfuls

From the foregoing, it can be observed that regular plural formation is normally done by the inflection of the singular noun at the final position by addition of –s or –es, with the exception of some rare cases. These orthographic representations of plurality are always represented phonologically by the three morphophonemic variants (allomorphs) of /s/, /z/, and /iz/.

It must be stated that in realisation of the above allomorphs, there is always a voice harmony between the plurality allomorphs and the preceding sound which may either be vowel or consonant. These are part of what Opega (2005:27) calls "plural markers" phonologically.

2.13 The Non-Regular Pluralisation Process in English

The non-regular plurals otherwise referred to as irregular plurals are what Quirk et al (1985:305) call 'unpredictable' by way of definition. This is because none of the indicators from singular is noticed in the case of non-regular plurals. In the words of Quirk et al (1985:305): "The particular plurals of these nouns have to be learned as individual lexical units". They go ahead to give one of the reasons why non-regular plurals are unpredictable as:

> In many cases where foreign words are involved, it is of course helpful to know, about pluralisation in the relevant Languages, particularly Latin and Greek. Thus, on the pattern of analysis - analyses we can construct the

following plurals: axis - axes, basis – bases, crisis – crises, etc. But we cannot always rely on etymological criteria: Unlike larva – larvae, for example plurals like areas and villas do not conform to the Latin pattern.

In classifying the irregular or non-regular plurals, the researcher chooses to adopt the methods used by Quirk et al (1985: 305-307)

i. Voicing and –s plural method

ii. Mutation method

iii. The – en plural method

iv. Zero plural method

v. Noun with foreign etymology.

2.14 Voicing and –s Plural Method

This type of pluralisation in most cases follows words that end in the voiceless fricative /θ/ in their singular form and spelt – th but form their plural with the corresponding voiced fricative/ð/ with the – ths spelling:

Singular	**Plural**
Path /θ/	Paths / ðz /

Indeed, there is no consistency between voicing and non voicing in nouns ending in -th. In the words of Quirk et al (1985:305) "There is considerable indeterminacy between voicing and non voicing in many nouns ending in – th. With a consonant letter before the -th, the pronunciation of the plural is regular /θs/.

The following examples have been offered:

Singular	**Plural**
Berth	berths
Birth	births
Length	lengths

Again, in some cases, even when a vowel is before the –th the pluralisation that follows normally maintain /θs/:

Singular	**Plural**
Cloth	cloths
Death	deaths
Faith	faiths
Heath	heaths
Moth	moths

There are few cases where both regular and voiced plurals can go:

Singular	**Plural**	**Plural**
Truth	/tru:θs/	/tru:ðz/

The same applies to words like oaths, sheaths and wreaths etc. We have to, however, note that the irregularity is more noticed in the area of pronunciation than spelling as the example above attests.

2.15 Mutation Method

These types of plural formation are done by a change of vowel (mutation) in the medial position of the concerned words. These words are basically seven in number:

	Singular	**Plural**
1.	goose	geese
2.	tooth	teeth
3.	foot	feet
4.	man	men
5.	woman	women
6.	mouse	mice
7.	louse	lice

Quirk and his associates (1985:306) go ahead to note that compound words with unstressed - man, as in Englishman – Englishmen do not show difference in pronunciation between singular and plural at all as both are pronounced /mən/. The same applies to fireman – firemen, postman – postmen, etc. Again, - man and - goose as they appear in German, and mongoose are not compounds, and therefore have regular plurals: Germans, mongooses. However, the irregular plurals can be realized if the nouns involved are not 'true' compounds with-man: Dragoman – dragomans or dragomen.

2.16 The –en Plural Method

This method is applicable to three words in English: oxen, children and brethren. It can be noted that in American English oxen can sometime be rendered as oxes. Children on the other hand is phonologically changed from /ai./ to /i/ sound with an addition of –r: /tʃaild/-/tʃildren/, while in the case of brother, there is mutation at the

level of replacing –o with –e orthographically and the –en ending preceded by /r/ producing "brethren".

2.17 Zero Plural Method

One of the methods of plural formation in English is the Zero plural process; which does not give the difference between singular and plural orthographically. This type of noun has two strands. One is the type that can either be singular or plural without morphological change or the second type that can be plural orthographically but singular in sense and application. The following are examples zero pluralisation methods:

Singular	**Plural**
Sheep	sheep
Deer	deer
Aircraft	aircraft
Fish	fish
Cattle	cattle
Counsel	counsel
Salmon	salmon
Furniture	furniture
Cod	cod
Staff	staff
Quail	quail/quails

It has to be noted that, those nouns even though zero in application by way of plural, they are still marked when it comes to indicating numerals or quantity. This means indicating plural by number:

i. One sheep

ii. Two sheep

Under the zero plural, we also have some nouns that do not have plural connotation, but appear so orthographically which make their structures or morphological Make up highly deceptive as already discussed above. These groups of nouns include the following:

a. News
b. Mathematics
c. Physics
d. Economics
e. Scissors
f. Trousers
g. Measles
h. Statistics
i. Phonetics

There are other nouns that connote generic ideas, which do not show the difference between singular and plural morphologically, but plural is preceded with the use of "the". Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:70) outline them as follows:

Singular	**Plural**
Chinese	The Chinese

Japanese	The Japanese
Portuguese	The Portuguese
Swiss	The Swiss
Vietnamese	The Vietnamese

Quirk and Greenbaum (1973:70) go ahead to state that the determiners in this kind of pluralisation assist in deciding whether a given noun is singular or plural as can be seen above.

2.18 Nouns with Foreign Etymology

Some nouns and words are borrowed from other languages into English and therefore maintain the pluralisation processes of the original languages. This may explain why some of these words or nouns have more than one way of marking their plural formation – both the regular and irregular. Quirk *et al.* (1974:311) says that plurals "… are more common in technical usage, whereas the -s plural is more natural in everyday language":

Singular	**Plural**
Formula	formulas (general usage)
Formula	formulae (mathematical and Linguistic usage)
Antenna	antennas (general and electronic usage)
Antenna	antennae (Biological usage).

One fact about borrowed words including nouns is that most of them are loaned from Greek or Latin as well as French. These classes of nouns normally carry the plurals in

their original languages into English. Roberts (1964:37) notes that nouns that retain their foreign plurals are difficult to run away from:

> A hundred years ago nearly every educated man knew one or both of these languages and consequently, retention of Greek and Latin forms was easy among the literate. Now, when the classical languages are almost unknown, at least in America, some of these plurals have become so deeply embedded in the language that they continue to resist the –s plurals

It can be observed that, borrowed nouns form their plurals by making use of both the regular and the non-regular by adopting the regular-s plural system or maintaining the system in the original language of the noun respectively. Both are sometime acceptable depending on the context of use.

This is also the position of Stageberg (1981) who states that the tendency of English is to assimilate foreign pronunciation; most of the plurals are still retained along the line of the foreign language, though many still adopt the English –s system as earlier stated. Jerpersen (1974:201) put it more practically this way:

> A strong natural tendency to inflect such words as are in everyday use in the English way: No one thinks of using a learned ending instead of saying: ideas, circuses, gymnasiums….Formulas, dogmas and funguses are more English than formulae, dogmata and fungi. Indexes are used in ordinary language, but indices in mathematics; Geniuses means men of 'genius; but genii means 'spirit. Stamina in Latin is the plural of stamen, but in English, it is apprehended as an independent singular; similarly, 'errata' (the Latin plural of erratum) is used as a singular with the meaning 'List of printer's errors.

What is being done or portrayed above is to show that, English and indeed any other language is dynamic in nature, hence the use of context cannot be diffused from language. In his contribution, Aliyu (2006:181) cites the following as examples of irregular plurals in English Language: Man/men, Woman/Women,

phenomenon/phenomena, criterium/criteria, medium/media, memorandum/memoranda, graffito/graffiti, stimulus/stimili, stratum/strata, appendix/appendices etc. Aliyu goes ahead to observe that pluralisation: "A noun is singular if it can be replaced by any of the following: She/her, he/him, this, that or it. A noun is plural if it can be replaced by any of the following; these, those, they/them (Aliyu 2006:152).

From the foregoing, it is clear that English language has basically two forms of pluralisation, regular and irregular. The regular has –s, es, -ies (with replacement of 'y') which are normally represented by/s/,/z/ and /iz/ phonologically. The irregular has voicing, mutation, en, zero and foreign pluralisation which are adopted or assimilated into English Language. In forming plurals in English, most singular nouns are inflected or morphologically affected at the final positions of the concerned words; though some are medially affected and some still maintain their singular spellings in their plural forms as was discussed above.

We must note that some of the zero plurals sometime form their plurals by qualifying the noun or its quantity (most of them uncountable nouns):

a. Pieces of advice
b. Bottles or cups of water
c. Basins of sand
d. Pints of blood
e. Litres of petrol
f. Kilograms of meat e.t.c.

Contributing in the same vein, Ogbeha (2003:4) has the following examples of uncountable or non-count nouns that can be converted to countable units as already shown above:

Singular	**Plural**
Perfume	Vials of perfume
Soap	Tablets of soap
Rice	Kilograms of rice
Butter	Kilograms, tins of butter
Kerosene	Liters of Kerosene.

2.19 Forming Plurals through Pronouns

Another Way of identifying a plural is through the use of pronoun. Pronoun is actually divided into three grammatical persons: First person, second person and third person. Each person is divided into singular and plural. The singular pronouns are the following: 'I', 'he', 'she', 'you', 'it' 'me', 'him', 'his', 'her', 'hers' 'your' and 'its'. The first five belong to subjective form while the remaining seven belong to the objective form. The following pronouns on the other hand belongs to the plural pronouns: 'We', 'you', they, 'them', 'us', 'your', and their (theirs) – the first three are subjective while n the rest are objective grammatically. The following sentences show the difference between singular and plural in terms of pronouns:

Singular pronouns

1. I want to go to Lagos.

2. You want to go to Lagos.
3. She/he wants to go to Lagos.

The following sentences are cast in plural:

4. We want to eat food
5. You want to eat food.
6. They want to eat food.

The words underlined above show the singular and plural as prevalent in pronouns- all the underlined words are pronouns attesting to the fact that they can be expressed in singular or plural depending on the context of use. We can also notice the inflection in number three sentence above in the word 'want' which metamorphosed into 'wants' to form to the third person (singular) in conformity with grammatical rule. This is an issue of number which deals with singular and plural.

2.20 The use of Verb to Show Singular and Plural

This area of grammar deals with the issue of concord or agreement in grammar. That is the agreement between noun or pronoun and verb. This is also an area that deals with singular and plural. No wonder, if the noun or pronoun is cast in singular form in a sentence, then, the verb used must conform to it and if in plural, the same applies to both noun/pronoun and verb. The following sentences would attest to this fact:

Singular:

1. Daniel has one book
2. Ahemen is eating.
3. Dooyum is a good girl.

4. I have two legs.
5. You (singular) have two eyes.
6. He/she has four cars.

Plural:

1. Daniel and Dora have three books.
2. Ahemen and Oryiman are eating.
3. Dooyum and Doofan are good girls.
4. We have two legs each.
5. You (plural) have two eyes each.
6. They have four cars each.

The above analysis shows that verbs through concord (agreement between verbs and nouns) can assist in the formation of singular and plural between verbs and between verbs and nouns as can be seen in the above examples: "are" is the plural of "is" and "they have four cars". This aspect is more applicable in English Language than Tiv.

2.21 Theoretical Framework

This work proposes the realization Optimality Theory model as its theoretical framework in accounting for language phenomena of pluralisation not only peculiar to Tiv Language.The researcher advocates a realizational model because as pointed out by Stump(2001), it is compatible with cases of extended exponence in which a morpho-syntactic or semantic feature value is realized by more than one form. By contrast, incremental models (Lieber 1992, Steele 1995, Wunderlich 1996) assume that affixation introduces morpho-syntactic feature values. These models also assume that affixation is strictly information-adding and therefore must exclude cases like the

one in Classical Arabic given that *-ii* introduces the second person feature value which does not need to be introduced by *t-* again.

Within Optimality Theory, there are two parallel morphological models. One assumes that the phonological information of affixes is introduced through inputs and morphological information such as "affix", "root", and "stem" which constitute enough information for the grammar to process (Prince and Smolensky (1993), McCarthy and Prince (1993), Bonet (2004). The researcher shows that this model needs to make bald stipulations to deal with cases in which a morpho-syntactically less specific form emerges to replace a morpho-syntactically more specific form which is supposed to be adjacent to another phonologically (partially) identical form.In contrast to this morphologically restricted OT model which is not centered on the relation of meaning to form, the researcher shows that the proposed realization OT model readily captures these phenomena in which the relation of meaning to form plays a crucial role.

This thesis investigates an autonomous morphological domain which isbuilt on the relation of meaning to form. In contrast to a morphologically restricted OT model, the proposed realization OT model assumes that realization is a central part of an autonomous morphological domain, although phonological constraints sometimes show their effects in this domain. For example, allomorph selection is sometimes motivated by phonotactics. In contrast to a model which reveals in every instance of syntax-morphology interpenetration, it is assumed that affix order is motivated primarily by semantic considerations, which make syntactic structure and morphological structure "mirror" each other (cf. Wunderlich and Fabri 1996).

It is proper to state here that the concept of Kager (2004) which showcases Lexicon, Generator and Evaluator representing the input, output and optimal candidate is used in the analysis of the data. The choice of this model is suitable to this work considering the fact that both languages under review are realizational in nature hence generator is free to produce any imaginable output candidate for some input and evaluator is central to study of grammar since it accounts for perculiarities of every individual language. This position is undoubtedly relevant to the study of pluralisation in particular and morphology in general.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Methodology of research is very essential to the success of any research work. It is sometimes referred to as research procedure and in the words of Osuala (1982:32) "the procedure section is perhaps the crux of the research report". This is because it is the basis for the result of the research. This chapter looks at the validity and reliability of this research based on the type of method adopted. The chapter considers and establishes some methods used in gathering information for the research such as source of data collection, method of data collection and textual analysis which are inspiration to determining findings and conclusion of this research.

3.2 Source of Data Collection

This research basically seeks to contrast (differentiate) between the pluralisation processes in Tiv and English Languages and the similarities as well. In gathering information or materials for the work, the researcher made use of mainly secondary sources. These include books, journals and other printed materials, and the internet. The researcher equally made use of the primary sources of research like interviews and face to face arrangements with the informants to obtain information from the native speakers of Tiv language on pluralisation patterns to enrich the work. And it is this data that is used in the analysis of data.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

In this study, data came from mainly the primary source of obtaining information through face to face and interview on Tiv and English languages with emphasis on Tiv which is the basis for analysis and apart from the secondary source used in the review of related literature. A wide range of vocabulary does exist in Tiv language and the

data supplied by the informants through the direct method and the researcher as a native speaker constitute data for theanalysis of this research. In fact, the researcher is of the position that the selected singular and plural nouns will help in answering the research questions raised in chapter one of this study.

The researcher has therefore make use of mainly the data obtained from the interviews and face to face arrangements to analyse the data in this study. All together twenty informants were interviewed to produce some singular nouns and their plural forms in Tiv but only ten informants' plurals were randomly selected which are used for the analysis of this research.

3.4 Textual Analysis

This study makes use of Optimality Theory discussed in Chapter Two and accordingly the model adopted for the analysis of this work is the Optimality model with focuses on the lexicon (noun), generator (inflection) and the evaluator (derivatives) as basis for analysis of the work.

Language is dynamic and so is its usage. Therefore, it might be discovered that certain morpho-syntactic features might have a higher degree of appearance in one language than the others. Such differences in the appearance or non-appearance of these features were the concern of this study. Consequently, the morpho-syntactic features in the data were categorized into inflection, mutation, tonality, replacives, additives and zero allomorphs with the gamut of other features identified in each language.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter the researcher applies the methodology and analytical model stated in Chapter Three to the data of the research. This will help to answer the research questions and confirm the finding of the research which will definitely prove the reliability and validity of the research questions or otherwise. The chapter is to also ascertain what constitutes pluralisation and whether or not there are areas of similarities and dissimilarities between the pluralisation processes in Tiv and English languages in the analysis of the data. The data obtained shall be subjected to analysis under the morpho-syntactic processes of inflection, mutation, tonality, zero allomorphs etc. This is to conform with the theoretical framework (Optimality Theory)adopted for the work.

4.2 Analysis of Data and Discussion

In the analysis of data the researcher has first of all look at the similarities between the `pluralisation processes in Tiv and English languages and there after analyse the differences that exist between Tiv and English in the area of pluralisation. This will help to bring out the findings clearly.Note should also be taken that the analysis and discussion does not differentiate between borrowed words and the original words of the languages under study. The analysis has been done in tables:

4.3 The Similarities between Tiv and English Pluralisation

Table 4.I The Additive Plural Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Mkohol	mba	mbamkohol	meetings
Abeda	mba	mbaabeda	wrappers
Mondo	u	umondo	cocoyams
Kon	i	ikon	trees
Bua	i/a	ibua/abua	cows

English :

Singular	Generator	Plural
God	s	gods
Picture	s	pictures
Bench	es	benches

Discussion

The above table shows how plurals are formed by adding plural morpheme here refers to as generator to the singular noun. The lexicon is the singular noun, the generator is the plural morpheme and the evaluator is the final product technically refers to by optimality model as optimal candidate which is the plural noun. The addition of plural morpheme to a singular noun in Tiv is similar to that of English language; the only difference being the addition of plural morpheme at the final position of the singular noun in English as against the initial

position of the singular noun in Tiv. So, the addition of plural morpheme is an example of the similarity between Tiv and English pluralisation patterns.

Table4. 2 Vowel Mutation

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Iyange	a	ayange	days
Iji	a	aji	eggs
Igbo	a	agbo	bullets
Inima	a	anema	umbrella
Inima	a	anema	bats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Man	e	men
Woman	e	women
Foot	ee	feet
Goose	ee	geese
Louse	ic	lice
Tooth	ee	teeth

Discussion

The above table shows that vowel mutation is observed by both Tiv and English languages as mutation in this case is the replacement of vowel with vowel to form plural. This is an area of similarity between the two languages. The difference however is that while the vowel replacement in Tiv is effected at the initial position of the singular noun the replacement in English is at the medial position of the noun as shown above.

Table 4.3 Zero Plural Structure

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Igo	tonal	igo	pigs
Iyo	tonal	iyo	snakes
Ivo	tonal	ivo	goats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Sheep	----	sheep
Fish	---	fish

Discussion

The above table shows that in the plural formulation, the generator which is the determiner of plurality is absent hence o generator structures. The plurality is predetermined by number (eg fish --- two fish). This element is present both in Tiv and English languages. However, in Tiv language the plurality morpheme is determined by tonality through phonetic realization, for instance (iyo --- iyo, which is snakes) .

Table 4.4 Nouns with Foreign Etymology

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Redio	u	uredio	radios
Fan	u	ufan	fans
Tebul	u	utebul	tables
Chiaa	u	uchiaa	chairs
Benchi	u	ubenchi	benches

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Criterium	a	criteria
Studium	a	studia
Alumnus	ai	alumnai

Discussion

It can be seen from the above table that both Tiv and English borrow from other languages. This is however the characteristic of every language. The slight difference between Tiv and English is that while Tiv language pluralisation is influenced by Tiv standard that of English is influenced by the foreign language borrowed from.

Table 4.5 Compound Plurals

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss

Kwase-ya	kasev mbayaa	kasev mbayaa	housewives
Wankwase	onovkasev	onovkasev	spinsters/ladies
Orsule ior/mba	iormbasule/mbasule		farmers
Ortato	mba	mbatatoo	hunters

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Women	e/s	women teachers
Woman soldier	e/s	women soldiers
Manservant	e/ s	menservants

Discussion

Table 5 above shows that in forming plurals among singular compound nouns is possible both in Tiv and English. The table goes ahead to show plural morphemes in all the two elements of the compound nouns in both languages. Though there are cases where only the first or last element will carry the plural morpheme as is shown by Quirk(2000: 84-85).

Table 4.6 Additive Vowel Plural Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Nguhar	a	angahar	legs
Togh	a	ato	ears
Loho	i	iloho	messages
Kon	i	ikyon	three

Hunda	i	ihyunda	doors
Nor	u	unor	elephants
Kpev	u	ukpev	billy goat

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Alumnus	i	alumni
Stimulus	i	stimuli
Fungus	i	fungi

Discussion

The above table shows that there is a similarity between Tiv and English in plural formation where the plural inflections are all vowels.

Table 4.7 Replacement of Vowel by Consonant

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Ikungur	m	mkungum	
Ijondough	m	mzondom	
Ikonough	m	mkonom	
Ityough	m	mtom	

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Lady	ies	ladies
Baby	ies	babies
Fly	ies	flies
Society	ies	societies
Centuryies	centuries	
Bench	es	benches
Church	es	churches
Torches	es	torches

Discussion

Table 4.7 above shows that plurals can be formed by replacing vowels with consonant. This can be seen in the formulation of the plurals in English as well. This is another area of similarity between Tiv and English languages. However, in the case of English the plural morpheme is preceded by some vowels: Lady-ladies

Table: 4.8 The Non- Regular Plurals

Singular	**Generator**	Plural	Gloss
Wan	irregular	onov	children
Won	irregular	wonov	in-laws
Ikyo	irregular	ako	forests
Ishima	irregular	asema	hearts

Ishoho	irregular	asoho	toads
Ishase	irregular	asase	cashews
Ikyamegh	irregular	akam	blocks
Kwa	irregular	ikya	leaves
Wegh	irregular	ave	hands
Kwase	irregular	kasev	women
Ngokem	irregular	Ngombakemgh	Mothers in-laws

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Loaf	ves	loaves
Wolf	ves	wolves
Calf	ves	calves
Knife	ves	knives
Analysis	e	analyses
Crisis	e	crises
Axis	e	axes

Discussion

The above table indicates that non-regular plurals are available in Tiv Language as is the case with English Language.

Table 4.9 Plurals from Abstract Nouns

Singular	Generators	Plural	Gloss
Ishoon	a	asoon	love
Kwaghfan	a	akaa-afan	kindness
Ishimaverenkeghen	a	asemaaverekeghen	hope
Mfe	mba	mbamfe	wisdom
Kwaghwan	a	akaa-awan	advice

English:

Singular	**Plural**
Love	love
Beauty	beauty
Poverty	poverty
Kindness	kindness
Advice	advice

Discussion

The table above reveals that abstract noun can be used in Tiv language in forming plurals. The fact remains that English language also forms plurals from a abstract nouns. This indicates plurality in the two languages.

Table 4.10 Special Plurals (En- and Mba)

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Akpa	mba	mbaakpa	whips
Alum	mba	mbaalum	oranges
Alom	mba	mbaalom	hares
Adeda	mba	mbaadeda	bungalows

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Brother	en	brethren
Child	ren	Children
Ox	en	Oxen

Discussion

The above table shows that some plurals are special in their formulation .In Tiv they serve as prefixes to the singular nouns to make plurals. They also constitute a reasonable number. In English language they are only three in number as can be seen in the table. 4.11 Pluralia Tantum in Tiv and in English.

Table 4.11 Nouns that appear only in Plural

Plural in Tiv	Gloss	Plural in English
Ahumbe	wind/air	arrears
Awambe	blood	banns
Mngerem	water	goods

Discussion

In this table all the nouns appear in plural. This feature is applicable both in Tiv and English as can seen in table 4.11 above. This shows that the two languages do not have singular nouns in the words discussed above.

Table 4.12 Double Pluralisation

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Bua	a/i	abua/abua	cows
Kpev	u/i	ukpev/ikpev	billy goats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Dwarf	s/ves	dwarfs/ dwarves
Hoof	s/ves	hoofs/hooves
Scarf	s/ves	scarfs/scarves
Wharf	s/ves	wharfs/wharves
Index	es/ices	indexes/indices

Discussion

The above table shows that some nouns in Tiv have two plurals. This is also the case with English where some nouns also have double plurals. This is an area of similarity.

4.4 The Differences between Tiv and English Pluralisation

Table 4.13 Position of Plurality Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Mpin	mba	mbampin	Questions
Gambe	u	ugambe	beds
Dagi	u	udagi	spears

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Book	s	books
Bench	es	benches
Baby	ies	babies

Discussion

The above table shows that the plurality morpheme is effected at the initial position of singular nouns in Tiv to form plural. This is not the case with English language where the plurality morpheme is mostly effected at the final position of singular nouns to form plural with the exception of few special cases.

Table 4.**14Vowel Mutation**

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Iyange	aayange	days	
Ikondo	a	akondo	clothes
Ivaan	a	avaan	arrows
Ikor	a	akor	rats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Man	e	men
Woman	e	women
Foot	ee	feet
Goose	ee	geese
Tooth	ee	teeth
Louse	ic	lice
Mouse	ic	mice

Discussion

The table above shows that both Tiv and English make use of vowel mutation in plural formulation but the difference however is that, the vowel replacement with vowel is at

the initial position in Tiv whereas, the replacement is effected normally at the medial position of singular nouns in English language to form plural noun.

Table 4.15Tonality Application

Tiv:

Singular	Generator(Tonality)	Plural	Gloss
Iyo	‘iyo	‘iyo	snakes
Ivo	‘ivo	‘ivo	goats
Inyam	‘inyam	‘inyam	animals
Iwa	‘iwa	‘iwa	dogs

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Class
Register	s	registers	noun/verb
Product	s	products	noun/verb
Project	s	projects	noun/verb

Discussion

The above table shows that Tiv language is a tonal language as the plural nouns in the table are realized phonetically.The structure of the singular nouns remains the same as plurality is obtained from pronunciation. This is not the case with English where the normal plurality is shown as phonetic change attracts class and semantic change from noun to verb or vice versa.

Table 4.16 Third Person Singular Application

Tiv:

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Shater	gbidi	bol	hanma yange.
Mba	gbidi	bol	hanma yange.

English:

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Shater	plays	football	every day.
They	play	football	every day.

Discussion

The above table shows that Tiv language does not observe the use of third person singular. This is however observed by English language as the sentences in the above table show: The verb is determined by the status of the noun (third person singular noun carries –s in the verb while the plural does not). It can therefore be said that third person application is one of the differences between Tiv and English pluralisation.

Table 4.17Forming Plurals from Pronouns

Tiv:

Singular Pronoun	Plural Pronoun
Mo/me/m (I)	se (we)
We (you)	ne (you)
Un/ngu (he/she)	ve/mba (they)

Ki/ngyi/ngu (It) nga/ma/mba(they)

English

Singular	**Plural**
I	**we**
You	**you**
He/she	**They**

Discussion

The above table shows that apart from nouns, pluralisation can be formed from pronouns as well. The pronouns can be realized in different ways in Tiv as can seen above. However, in English the pronouns either singular or plural are identified by only one name.

Table 4.18 Additive Consonant to Consonant Plural Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	**Generator**	**Plural**	**Gloss**
Mkohol	mba	mbamkohol	meetings
Mpin	mba	mbampin	questions
Abeda	mba	mbaabeda	wrappers
Ikungur	m	mkungur	doves

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Book	s	books
Boy	s	boys
Bag	s	bags

Discussion

This category of plurals makes use of consonant affixation to form their plurals. However, the Tiv uses mainly “mba” to form this plural while English uses “s” to mark the plural as the table above shows. Again, the Tiv plural uses the cluster “mb” + “a” while the English uses allomorphs:/s/, /iz/, /z/.This is also an area of dissimilarity.

Table 4.19Compound Plurals

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Kwase-ya	kasev mbayaa	kasev mbayaa	housewives
Wankwase	onovkasev	onovkasev	spinsters/ladies
Orsule ior/mba	iormbasule/mbasule		farmers
Ortato	mba	mbatatoo	hunters

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Women	e/s	women teachers
Woman soldier	e/s	women soldiers
Manservant	e/ s	menservants
Director-general	s	directors-generals
Assistant director		assistant directors
Mother-in-law	s	mothers-in-law

Discussion

The above table reveals that compound plurals in Tiv reflect plurality at both of the two words coming together to form compound nouns.This is not the case with English as some of the nouns carry plurality morpheme at either the first element or the second element: Director-general to Directors-generals and manservant to menservants. This is an area of difference between Tiv and English pluralisation.

Table 4.20 Nouns With Foreign Etymology

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Redio	u	uredio	radios
Fan	u	ufan	fans
Tebul	u	utebul	tables
Chiaa	u	uchiaa	chairs

Benchi	u	ubenchi	benches

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Criterium	a	criteria
Studium	a	studia
Alumnus	ai	alumnai

Discussion

The difference between Tiv and English here is that while Tiv language pluralisation is influenced by Tiv standard, that of English is in most in cases is influenced by the foreign language borrowed from: Tebul – utebul (Tiv), stimulus – stimuli. Note that the pronunciation of "stimuli" is maintained as in the original language. This is not so with Tiv Language.

Table 4.21 Plurals from Abstract Nouns

Tiv:

Singular	Generators	Plural	Gloss
Ishoon	a	asoon	love
Kwaghfan	a	akaa-afan	kindness
Ishimaverenkeghen	a	asemaaverekeghen	hope
Mfe	mba	mbamfe	wisdom
Kwaghwan	a	akaa-awan	advice

English:

Singular	Plural
Love	love
Beauty	beauty
Poverty	poverty
Kindness	kindness
Advice	advice

Discussion

The table above reveals that the basic difference between Tiv pluralisation and English pluralisation in this aspect of pluralisation is that while Tiv Language pluralises most of the abstract nouns the English does not, though some abstract nouns in English do: idea – ideas, opinion – opinions etc .

Table 4.22 The Relationship between Spelling and Sound

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Jijingi	u	ujijingi / uʤ idʒ iŋ i /	spirits
Tor	u	utor / ut□ : /kings Gbande	a
agbande ægbænde	plates/drums		
Tsombor	i	itsombor//	families
Kon	i	ikyon	trees

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Eye	s	eyes
Ewe	s	ewes
Quay	s	quays
Suite	s	suites
Night	s	nights

Discussion

Information from the above table reveals that most of the Tiv nouns are pronounced as spelt both original and borrowed nouns while in English there is always no clue between borrowed especially the borrowed ones as can be seen in this table.

4.5General Discussion

It can be seen from the above discussion and analysis that plurality in the two languages, Tiv and English is fluid as there is no one formular or rule upon which the formation of plurals can be based. Each noun has a perculiar way of forming its plural. This is the reason why Matthews (1990:168) states that:

> *Each morpheme has one basic allomorph; each basic allomorph is different from every other; in every word-form the sequence of allomorph is transparent. Of the languages which have a rich morphology, those conventionally called 'aggrutinating' meet these conditions most nearly.*

From the discussion so far, the two languages under study, Tiv and English have to a certain extent meet the condition stated above as they are fluid as plural formulation is

concerned as can be observed in the analysis that there are many ways of forming plurals. Moreover, theoretical framework used in the analysis of this work, the Optimality Model is in line with the pluralisation process in the two languages as already in chapter two.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, FINDINGS,RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

Language represents culture and development and any nation that wants to develop must take the study of language seriously. The researcher has in this piece done a contrastive study of Tiv language, which is one of the many languages in Nigeria and the study of English which is an international language. This is with a view to looking at the universality of languages and the similarity of the roles and purposes of all languages of the world.

The study opens with background to the study with language description and a brief historical introduction to Tiv language and its speakers. This is closely followed by the review of related literature of Tiv and English languages as it affects pluralisation. The analysis of data was done. Then, the summary, findings as discovered by the researcher in the course of this work. These were put to test and analyzed with significant result.

5.2 Findings

This study finds out the working of pluralisation in Tiv and English languages and attempts to answer the research questions of the work. The study shows that the idea of pluralisation in both Tiv and English languages is similar: Singular means one item or entity while plural means more than one item or entity. It is an issue of number in both languages.

The rules governing the formation of pluralisation in the two languages have been discussed and analyzed. In Tiv there are rules like inflection at the initial position of singular nouns to form plurals as against the inflections at the final positions of

singular nouns in English for the same purpose among other rules. The researcher also looked at other similarities and the differences that exist in forming pluralisation in the two languages. It was discovered that there exist irregular pluralisation in Tiv Language just as it is applicable in English among other things.

5.3 Recommendation for Further Study

In undergoing this research work the researcher was exposed to a lot of inadequacies in the area which need to be rectified. The researcher therefore recommends as follows:

1. This study reveals that Tiv pluralisation can conveniently and carefully be divided into regular and irregular. So, further study on Tiv pluralisation should look more specifically into this aspect of Tiv language to widen the scope of research on the language.
2. That Benue State Government should re-introduce the study of Tiv language in all primary and secondary schools in the Tiv-speaking area of the state including private nursery, primary and secondary schools.
3. Tiv Language should be made one of the subjects in Senior School Certificate Examinations in both West African Examination Council and National Examination Council to encourage the study of the language.
4. A committee to be membered by writers of Tiv language should be set up to recommend good books for study to avoid mediocrity.The committee should also try to develop standard orthography for the Tiv language as there is no central orthography for the language. This is an ugly situation as lack of standard makes it very difficult to enhance the study of the language.

5. Benue state University should be encouraged to introduce the study of Tiv language at degree level as it being done by the University of Uyo where Efik/Ibibio languages are studied at the degree level to compliment the effort of College of Education, Katsina-Ala where the study of Tiv language is paramount.

5.4 Conclusion

In conclusion, this research has revealed that Tiv language as any other language is worthy of study or attention as the research has dealt with the morphological processes and structures involved in the realization of Tiv and English pluralisation including additive, replacive, mutation, the zero allomorph, tonality and other morphological ways of forming plurals includingregular and irregular plural formations. The research has revealed that there are similarities and differences between Tiv and English pluralisation that constitute pluralisation in the two languages.

The work also dealt with how plurals can be formed from pronouns in in Tiv and English Languages as shown in the following table:

Singular Pronoun	**Pluarl Pronoun**
Mo/me/m (I)	se (we)
We (you)	ne (you)
Un/ngu (he/she)	ve/mba (they)
Ki/ngyi/ngu (It)	nga/ma/mba(they)

The work has shown the relationship between Tiv and English languages. The research discusses pluralisation making use of books, journals and similar sources including the review of related literature. The work also makes use of the Direct Method by obtaining information through interviews from some informants from the study area to enrich the work. Most of the words used for the analysis of the work in Chapter Four are obtained from the Direct Method.

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APPENDIX A

Plurals Supplied by the Informants and the Researcher as a Native Speaker

The Additive Plural Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Mkohol	mba	mbamkohol	meetings
Abeda	mba	mbaabeda	wrappers
Mondo	u	umondo	cocoyams
Kon	i	ikon	trees
Bua	i/a	ibua/abua	cows

English :

Singular	Generator	Plural
God	s	gods
Picture	s	pictures
Bench	es	benches

Vowel Mutation

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Iyange	a	ayange	days
Iji	a	aji	eggs
Igbo	a	agbo	bullets
Inima	a	anema	umbrella
Inima	a	anema	bats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Man	e	men
Woman	e	women
Foot	ee	feet
Goose	ee	geese
Louse	ic	lice
Tooth	ee	teeth

Zero Plural Structure

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Igo	tonal	igo	pigs

Iyo tonal iyo snakes

Ivo tonal ivo goats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Sheep	----	sheep
Fish	---	fish

Nouns With Foreign Etymology

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Redio	u	uredio	radios
Fan	u	ufan	fans
Tebul	u	utebul	tables
Chiaa	u	uchiaa	chairs
Benchi	u	ubenchi	benches

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Criterium	a	criteria
Studium	a	studia
Alumnus	ai	alumnai

Compound Plurals

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Kwase-ya	kasev mbayaa	kasev mbayaa	housewives
Wankwase	onovkasev	onovkasev	spinsters/ladies
Orsule	ior/mba	iormbasule/mbasule	farmers
Ortato	mba	mbatatoo	hunters

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Women	e/s	women teachers
Woman soldier	e/s	women soldiers
Manservant	e/ s	menservants

Additive Vowel Plural Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Nguhar	a	angahar	legs
Togh	a	ato	ears
Loho	i	iloho	messages
Kon	i	ikyon	three
Hunda	i	ihyunda	doors

Nor	u	unor	elephants
Kpev	u	ukpev	billy goat

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Alumnus	i	alumni
Stimulus	i	stimuli
Fungus	i	fungi

Replacement of Vowel by Consonant

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Ikungur	m	mkungum	
Ijondough	m	mzondom	
Ikonough	m	mkonom	
Ityough	m	mtom	

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Lady	ies	ladies
Baby	ies	babies
Fly	ies	flies
Society	ies	societies

Centuryies		centuries
Bench	es	benches
Church	es	churches
Torches	es	torches

The Non- Regular Plurals

Singular	**Generator**	Plural	Gloss
Wan	irregular	onov	children
Won	irregular	wonov	in-laws
Ikyo	irregular	ako	forests
Ishima	irregular	asema	hearts
Ishoho	irregular	asoho	toads
Ishase	irregular	asase	cashews
Ikyamegh	irregular	akam	blocks
Kwa	irregular	ikya	leaves
Wegh	irregular	ave	hands
Kwase	irregular	kasev	women
Ngokem	irregular	Ngombakemgh	Mothers in-laws

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Loaf	ves	loaves

Wolf	ves	wolves
Calf	ves	calves
Knife	ves	knives
Analysis	e	analyses
Crisis	e	crises
Axis	e	axes

Plurals from Abstract Nouns

Singular	Generators	Plural	Gloss
Ishoon	a	asoon	love
Kwaghfan	a	akaa-afan	kindness
Ishimaverenkeghen	a	asemaaverekeghen	hope
Mfe	mba	mbamfe	wisdom
Kwaghwan	a	akaa-awan	advice

English:

Singular	Plural
Love	love
Beauty	beauty
Poverty	poverty
Kindness	kindness
Advice	advice

Special Plurals (En- and Mba)

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Akpa	mba	mbaakpa	whips
Alum	mba	mbaalum	oranges
Alom	mba	mbaalom	hares
Adeda	mba	mbaadeda	bungalows

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Brother	en	brethren
Child	ren	Children
Ox	en	Oxen

Pluralia Tantum in Tiv and **in English**

Plural in Tiv	Gloss	Plural in English
Ahumbe	wind/air	arrears
Awambe	blood	banns
Mngerem	water	goods
Awaar	sand	arms

Double Pluralisation

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Bua	a/i	abua/abua	cows
Kpev	u/i	ukpev/ikpev	billy goats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Dwarf	s/ves	dwarfs/ dwarves
Hoof	s/ves	hoofs/hooves
Scarf	s/ves	scarfs/scarves
Wharf	s/ves	wharfs/wharves
Index	es/ices	indexes/indices

Position of Plurality Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Mpin	mba	mbampin	Questions
Gambe	u	ugambe	beds
Dagi	u	udagi	spears

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Book	s	books
Bench	es	benches
Baby	ies	babies

Vowel Mutation

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Iyange	aayange	days	
Ikondo	a	akondo	clothes
Ivaan	a	avaan	arrows
Ikor	a	akor	rats

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Man	e	men
Woman	e	women
Foot	ee	feet
Goose	ee	geese
Tooth	ee	teeth

Louse ic lice

Mouse ic mice

Tonality Application

Tiv:

SingularGenerator(Tonality)	Plural	Gloss
Iyo	iyo	iyo snakes
Ivo	ivo	ivo goats
Inyam	inyam	inyam animals
Iwa	iwa	iwa dogs

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Class
Register	s	registers	noun/verb
Product	s	products	noun/verb
Project	s	projects	noun/verb

Third Person Singular Application

Tiv:

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Shater	gbidi	bol	hanma yange.
Mba	gbidi	bol	hanma yange.

English:

Subject	Verb	Object	Complement
Shater	plays	football	every day.
They	play	football	every day.

Forming Plurals from Pronouns

Singular Pronoun	Plural Pronoun
Mo/me/m (I)	se (we)
We (you)	ne (you)
Un/ngu (he/she)	ve/mba (they)
Ki/ngyi/ngu (It)	nga/ma/mba(they)

English

Singular	**Plural**
I	**we**
You	**you**
He/she	**They**

Additive Consonant to Consonant Plural Morpheme

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Mkohol	mba	mbamkohol	meetings
Mpin	mba	mbampin	questions

Abeda	mba	mbaabeda	wrappers
Ikungur	m	mkungur	doves

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Book	s	books
Boy	s	boys
Bag	s	bags

Compound Plurals

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Kwase-ya	kasev mbayaa	kasev mbayaa	housewives
Wankwase	onovkasev	onovkasev	spinsters/ladies
Orsule	ior/mba	iormbasule/mbasule	farmers
Ortato	mba	mbatatoo	hunters

English:

Singular	**Generator**	**Plural**
Women	e/s	women teachers
Woman soldier	e/s	women soldiers
Manservant	e/ s	menservants

Director-general s directors-generals

Assistant director assistant directors

Mother-in-law s mothers-in-law

Nouns With Foreign Etymology

Tiv:

Singular	Generator	Plural	Gloss
Redio	u	uredio	radios
Fan	u	ufan	fans
Tebul	u	utebul	tables
Chiaa	u	uchiaa	chairs
Benchi	u	ubenchi	benches

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Criterium	a	criteria
Studium	a	studia
Alumnus	ai	alumnai

Plurals from Abstract Nouns

Tiv:

Singular	Generators	Plural	Gloss
Ishoon	a	asoon	love

Kwaghfan	a	akaa-afan	kindness
Ishimaverenkeghen	a	asemaaverekeghen	hope
Mfe	mba	mbamfe	wisdom
Kwaghwan	a	akaa-awan	advice

English:

Singular	Plural
Love	love
Beauty	beauty
Poverty	poverty
Kindness	kindness
Advice	advice

The Relationship between Spelling and Sound

Tiv:

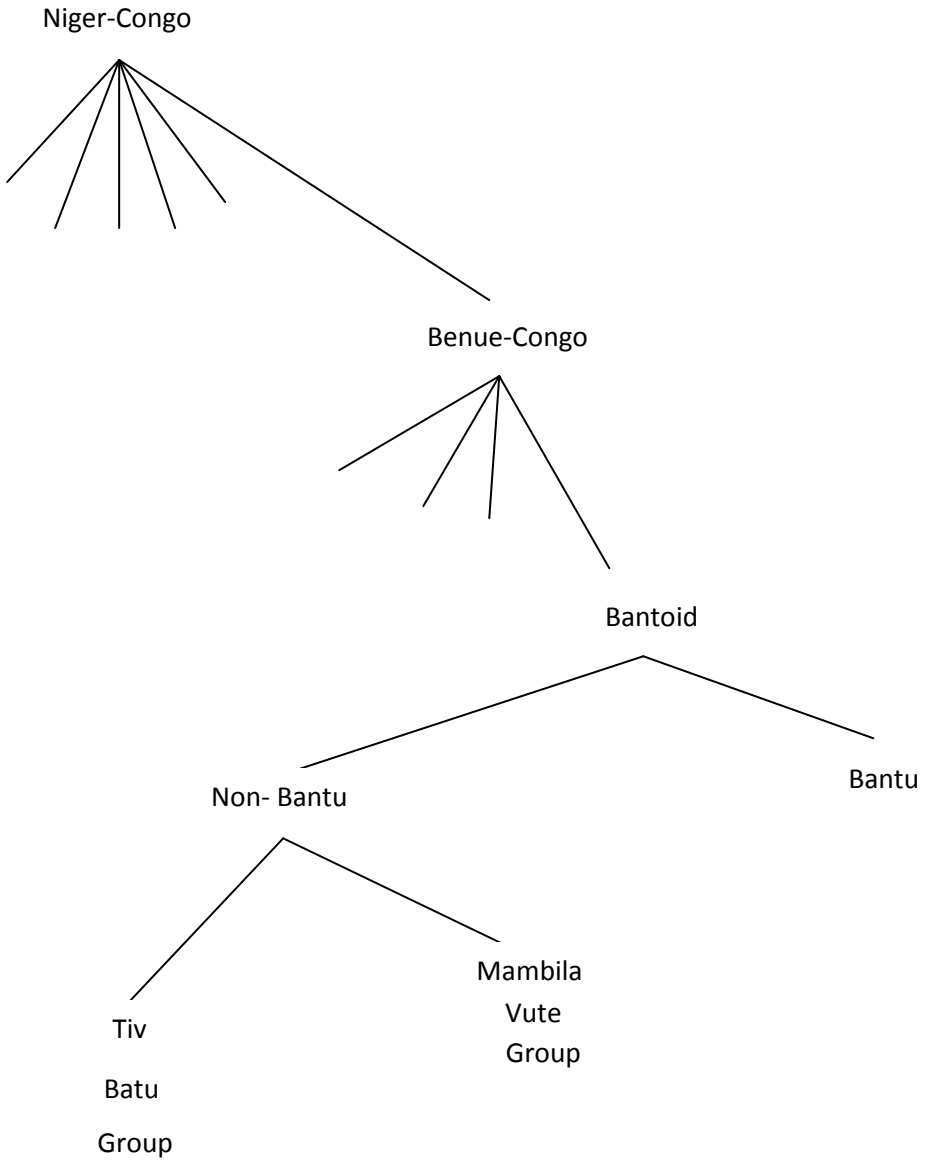
Singular	**Generator**	**Plural**	**Gloss**
Jijingi	u	ujijingi	spirits
Tor	u	utor	kings
Gbande	a	agbande	plates/drums
Tsombor	i	itsombor	families
Kon	i	ikyon	trees

English:

Singular	Generator	Plural
Eye	s	eyes
Ewe	s	ewes
Quay	s	quays
Suite	s	suites
Night	s	nights

APPENDIX B

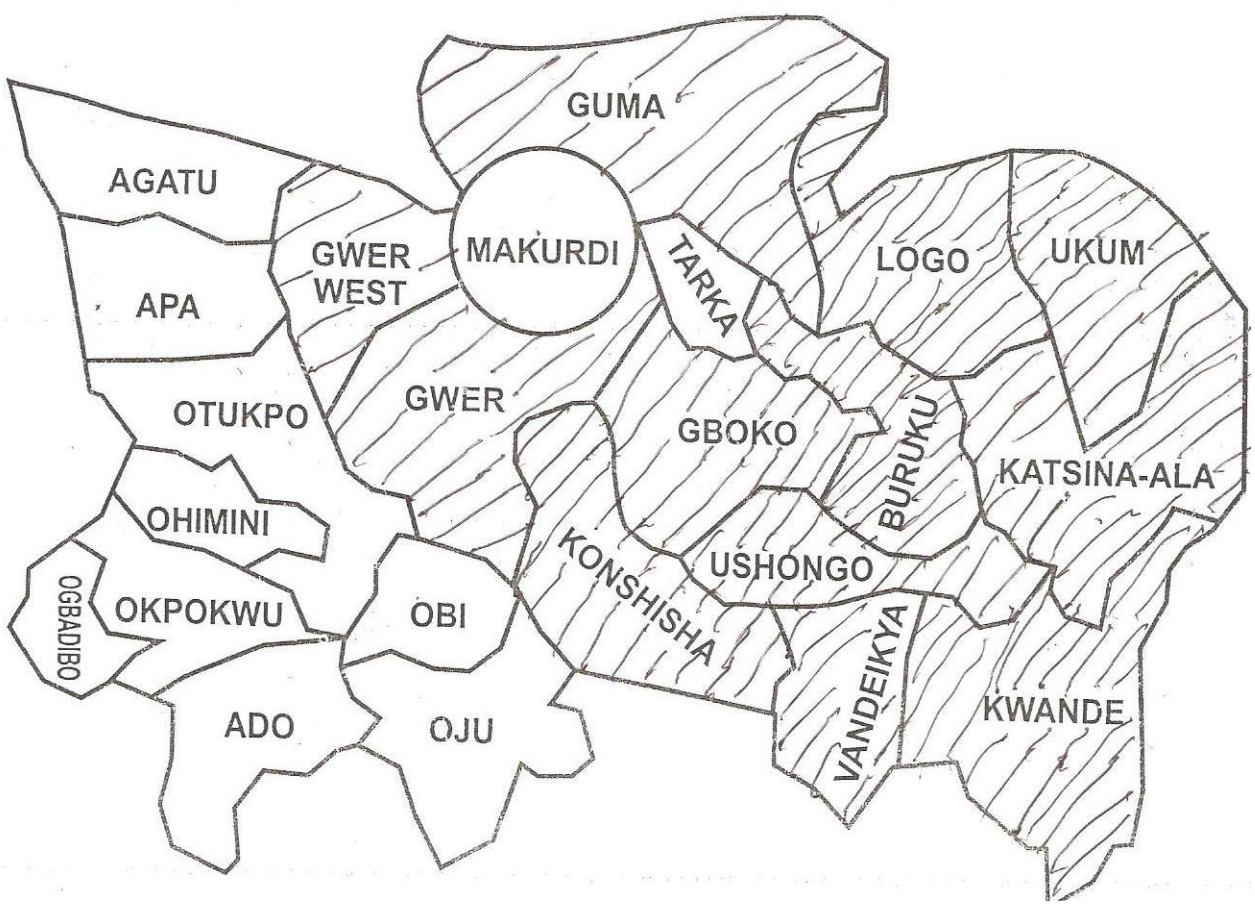
Benue-Congo Language Family Showing the Position of Tiv



Source: Gundu, G.A. and Jockers, H. (1985: xvii) Tiv Bibliography. Makurdi: The Government`Printer.

APPENDIX C

Political Map of Benue State Showing the Study Area



Source: simpleprojectnigeria.crs.org

Key

The Study area	//////////////
The rest of Benue	