

# The Use of Adverbs in Obeledu Dialect and Standard Igbo: A Contrastive Analysis

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**Abstract:** Studies have shown that all human languages have ways of expressing adverbs and adverbial notions. In addition, multiple studies on the dialects of Igbo have focused on a wide range of areas in the linguistics field with various scholars focusing on comparative analysis of different dialects of Igbo. However, findings showed that only few researches have been done on adverbs in the various varieties of Igbo language; especially on Obeledu dialect of Igbo language. As a result of the very few researches on the use of adverbs in Igbo and particularly in Obeledu dialect, there are a number of things we do not know about adverbs in Obeledu dialect of Igbo language. We do not know the peculiarities found in the adverbs of Obeledu dialect; we do not know how adverbs, as a word class, operate and/or are realized in Obeledu dialect of Igbo language. Also, our knowledge is limited with respect to what similarities and differences that exist in the use of adverbs in Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo. This study therefore problematized the use of adverbs in Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo. This paper is theoretically framed around Lado's (1957) Contrastive Analysis (CA). To attempt to answer the questions raised in this paper, the study employed a descriptive research design in order to provide the procedural outline for the conduct of the study under investigation. Obeledu, a town that is geographically situated in Anaocha Local Government Area of Anambra State constitutes the study area. Data for the study were collected by means of elicitation from six elderly speakers who are natives of Obeledu and had lived in the village for a period of time. The elicited information was recorded with the aid of phone recording. The data collected for this research were analyzed through the use of simple descriptive method. The data was then presented in tabular form and analysed accordingly. The findings of the study showed that adverbs are used the same way in the two varieties concerned. Findings further showed that there are identifiable similarities and differences in the use of adverbs in the two varieties of the language at the lexical, phonological, semantic and morphological levels. Adverbs therefore function as adverbial clause elements and modifiers of adjectives, prepositions, pronouns, determiners, numerals and noun phrases in both SI and OD.

**Keywords:** Adverbs, Contrastive Analysis, Standard Igbo, Obeledu Dialect

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## 1. Introduction

All human languages have distinct ways of expressing various notions, concepts, beliefs, terms, ideas, as well as word classes. The expression of word classes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, and adverbs differ from one language to another. According to Ikegwuonu [24], "all human languages have ways of expressing adverbs and adverbial notions, but there exist some parametric variations in the ways of expressing them

that differ from one language to another". For instance, the ways in which adverbs are expressed in Igbo language differ from the ways in which they are expressed in English language, French language, Spanish language, Portuguese, Chinese language, German language or any other language.

Like many other languages, Igbo language consists of several dialects that are mutually intelligible [14]. However, there exist some differences between these dialects which could be seen in the ways in which they express word classes such as adverbs. For example, "sometimes" is expressed as "oge ufodu" in the Obeledu dialect of Igbo, while in the Oji

River dialect of Igbo, it is expressed as “*oge ughoḍu*”. “Now” is expressed as “*ugbu a*” in the Owerri dialect of Igbo while it is expressed as “*kita a*” in the Obeledu dialect of Igbo.

In the words of Halling [20], it is well known in linguistics that adverb is an elusive label. It refers to a wide range of items and is used in a variety of senses. In language descriptions, adverbs are often differently described and as a consequence, it is difficult to find cross-linguistically comparable data on any given type of adverb. The term “adverb” refers to a specific word class or lexical category and therefore contrasts with other word classes such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, or prepositions [27]. Adverb is often used as a generic term for leftover items that do not appear to belong elsewhere. Syntactically, adverbs are found on several different levels. Semantically, they can be divided into any number of subtypes, and such classifications can be made in a variety of ways [20].

In view of the foregoing, researches have shown that multiple studies on the dialects of Igbo have focused on a wide range of topics in the linguistics field. Prominent among such are: Udemmadu’s [43] *Nominalization in Igbo Language: A Morphological Approach*; *The Contrastive Analysis of English and Igbo Deverbal Nouns* by Umeodinka & Ugochukwu [44]; and Emodi’s [15] *A Contrastive Analysis of the Syntactic Features of English and Igbo Nouns and Verbs*. Also, various works have been carried out on comparisons between different dialects of Igbo. Onumajuru [31] for instance carried out a study on *A Contrastive Analysis of the Onicha and Central Igbo varieties of Igbo Language*; Enweonye and Ukwuoma [16] on the other hand examine *Negation in Amaiyi Dialect*. Also Akidi [1] in his work *Ntulekorita “Na” n’Igbo Izugbe na Oluasusu Nekede* adopted the theory of contrastive analysis in comparing the use of “na” in both Standard Igbo and Nekede dialect of Igbo language. All these works and findings have contributed greatly to the promotion of Igbo language. However, findings show that only a few studies have been done on adverbs in the dialects of Igbo language. As a result of the very few researches on the use of adverbs in Igbo and particularly in Obeledu dialect, there are a number of things we do not know about adverbs in Obeledu dialect of Igbo language. We do not know the peculiarities found in the adverbs of Obeledu dialect; we do not know how adverbs as a word class operate and/or are realized in Obeledu dialect of Igbo language. Also, our knowledge is limited with respect to what similarities and differences that exist in the use of adverbs in Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo. This study therefore problematized the use of adverbs in Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo.

#### *Obeledu Dialect*

Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo belong to the Igboid group of languages of the Benue-Congo, one of the sub-families of the Niger-Congo, according to the classifications of Bennette and Sterk [4] in Bendor-Samuel [3]. Igbo is one of the three main Nigerian languages, and it is characterized by many dialects. Speaking on the multiplicity of dialects in Igbo, Nwadike [30] states that: “Igbo language is fraught

with multi-dialects which can be grouped in clusters: Ika, Ukwuani and Enuani clusters (in Delta State), Onitsha, Orlu, Owerri, Oguta, Nsukka, Umuahia, Abakaliki clusters (in Anambra, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi and Abia States), and Ikwerre-Etche cluster (in Rivers State)”. Nwadike’s [30] list is not exhaustive but it gives an idea of just how much the Igbo language is dialectally diversified. The Obeledu speech community is one of the towns that make up the geographic delineations called Anaocha Local Government Area in Anambra State of Nigeria. Geographically, the town is situated in the middle of Anaocha Local Government Area. It is bothered by Adazi-Nnukwu in the north, Akwaeze in the south, Aguluzigbo in the south-east and Neni to the west. It is about 12km south of Awka (capital of Anambra State). Other neighbouring towns around it include: Agulu, Ichida, Adazi-Enu, and Nri.

## 2. Literature Review

As Robin and Babbie [37] rightly point out, “no good researcher writes in a vacuum”. This is because every worthy research must be guided by past related works. In order to provide a better understanding of the study, this section looks at works that are relevant to the present study.

### 2.1. Adverb: A Conceptual Overview

The word class of adverbs has often been used as a residual category, covering everything not covered by other well established word classes such as verbs, nouns, adjectives and adpositions [21]. An adverb is a word class whose most characteristic role is traditionally that of modifying a verb or verb phrase; it modifies a verb, an adjective, another adverb, determiner, noun phrase, clause or sentence (Huddleston [23]; Gupta [19] and Ikegwonu [24]). Adverbs typically express time, manner, place, frequency, degree, etc. answering questions such as how, in what way, when, where and to what extent. This function is known as the adverbial function and may be achieved by a single word (an adverb) or a multi-word expression (adverbial phrases and clauses).

According to Schachter and Shopen [39], adverbs are often given a definition that is based on exclusion: they are modifiers of everything except for nouns. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs as well as a whole sentence [24]. Adverbs are used to denote when an action took place, how an action took place, where it took place, the strength and intensity at which it took place, how often it took place, etc. To Parrot [32] adverbs refer to different kinds of words - quickly, smartly, wrongly, down, below, here, inside, usually, tomorrow, today, then, yesterday, too, very, rather, sometimes, seldom, etc - with quite different functions which occupy a range of positions in the sentence.

Murphy [28] states that “an adverb tells us about a verb. It tells us in what way someone does something or in what way something happens”. To Gorys [17], an adverb is a word or group of words which have the function of explaining adverbs and adjective which also have a function in a sentence. Parrot [32] also defines adverbs as different kinds

of words with quite different functions which occupy a range of positions in a sentence. He believes that choosing where to place them is often a major problem for people having restricted language competence. To Yule [45], “adverbs are used typically with verbs to provide more information about actions, states and events (*slowly, yesterday*)”. He further points out that “some adverbs (*really, very*) are also used with adjectives to modify information about things”. Adverbs are traditionally regarded as one of the parts of speech. However, modern linguists note that it has come to be used as a kind of catch all category, used to classify words with different types of syntactic behaviour, not necessarily having much in common except that they do not fit into any of the other available categories - nouns, adjectives, preposition [23].

Linguists like Collins and Thrainsson [8] and Nesfield [29] also identify what items adverbs could modify, that is, adjectives, adverbs, sentences, verbs, pronouns, prepositional phrases and nouns. However, they mention nothing about how to classify these adverbs as modifier or clause element adverbials when modifying these items [22]. Others like Ehrlich and Murphy [13]; and Strumph and Douglas [41] also explain what functions adverbs may have, that is, modification of adjectives, adverbs, verbs etc. In addition, they give categories of adverbs based on what meaning they convey: manner, place, time, degree, reason or purpose. Again, no reference has been made to the modifier or clause element adverbial category [22].

Furthermore, Grammarians such as Thomson and Martin [42], Eastwood [12] and Parrott [32] have approached adverbs in a way somehow similar to Quirk *et al* [36]. They consider in their classification of adverbs a combination of meaning, function and position. For example, adverbs denoting degree have been viewed with regards to the items they modify and their position in the sentence. However, there is no distinction between clause element adverbial and modifier category [22]. Similarly, Chalker [6] also bases her discussion of adverbs on a mixture of meaning, position and functions. Unfortunately, neither the modifier function nor clause element adverbials are being distinguished. For example, in the discussion of degree adverbs, it is true that Chalker [6] explains the items these adverbs modify such as adjectives, adverbs, verbs, indefinite pronouns and numerals. Still she has not realized that adverbs modifying verbs are syntactically different from those modifying the other items, since the former is a clause element adverbial and the latter is a modifier [22].

In conclusion, what distinguished the treatment of adverbs by Quirk *et al.* [36] from others is that they make distinct the adverbial function from the modifier, elaborating more on what characteristics clause element adverbials have and how to distinguish between their subcategories: adjunct, subjunct, disjunct and conjunct [22].

## 2.2. Adverb Categories

Strumph and Douglas [41] note that “adverb modification chooses to occur in verbs, adjectives and other adverbs as it is shown respectively in: 1. *He sings beautifully*. 2. *His voice*

*is very beautiful*. 3. *He always speaks too quickly*. Where *beautifully*, *very* and *too* modify *sings*, *beautiful* and *quickly* respectively. Eastwood [12] posits that adverb modification is extensive in nature since it transcends modifying verbs, adjectives and other adverbs into modifying nouns, phrases and sentences. Examples: (i) *We had quite a wait*. (ii) *Luckily no one was killed*.

Moreover, grammarians like Conlin [9], Anson and Schuegler [2], Strumph and Douglas [41] assume that the adverb modification may be extended to cover pronouns and prepositional phrases. Consider these examples: (i) *Hardly anyone recognizes me with this hairstyle*. (ii) *Mike feels very deeply about this*. Ehrlich and Murphy [13] sum up what adverbs can modify by stating that “adjectives modify only nouns and pronouns, adverbs modify everything else”. This extension in adverb modification is due to the freedom with which adverbs move in and out of the sentence structure. As a consequence, the adverb class is difficult to classify. Conlin [9] calls such freedom as “novel propensity” saying “unfortunately for the grammarian, the words that modify a verb have the habit of moving around within a sentence and forming attachments with other words. We find them also modifying adjectives, adverbs, nouns and sometimes even the whole sentence. Thus adverb is a nomad difficult to classify”.

Despite this variation in the types of item adverbs tend to modify, some scholars (Quirk and Baum [34]; Quirk [35]; Crystal [11]; Leech and Svartvick [26]) identify two main functions that characterize the adverb class and to cover those varying modifying roles performed by adverbs. These functions are:

(1) As an adverbial clause element where the adverb functions as an element of clause structure along with S, V, O and which function together to build up sentence structure.

a. 
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{We are traveling tomorrow} \\ \text{S} \quad \text{V} \quad \text{A} \end{array}$$

(2) A modifier of adjectives and adverbs and other phrases.

a. You sounded terribly anxious.

b. You spoke very anxiously.

## 2.3. Adverb as a Modifier

The second main function of an adverb is to modify. Traditionally, adverbs are known for modifying adjectives and adverbs. Studies [9, 35]; Crystal [10]; Greenbaum and Quirk [18]; Leech and Svartvick [26]) have shown that there has been an extension in the range of the modifier function to cover parts of speech other than adjectives and adverbs. The presumed extension includes nouns or noun phrases, pronouns, prepositions, particles, determiners, etc. For instance, when an adverb functions as a modifying part in a phrase realizing a clause element, it should be distinguished from the same adverb functioning as an adverbial clause element, since the former would be grammatically related into the clause element in question while the latter would be a grammatically separate unit [35].

(a). I keep a spare bicycle in the garden.

(b). I keep the bicycle in the garden well oiled.

The adverb *in the garden* is a modifier in (b) and it is grammatically part of a phrase realizing the object *the bicycle*. On the other hand, *in the garden* is an adverbial in (a) and it functions as a quite separate element in the sentence structure [22]. Based on the particular element an adverb modifies, the modifier function is divided into the following:

### 2.3.1. Modifier of Adjectives

Such function is described by Sinclair [40] and Cobuild [7] as “sub-modification”. Others like Vict (1986) describe it as “modifier of modifiers”. Such terms are attributed to the fact that by this function, the adjectives (and the adverb as it will be shown later) which is itself a modifier is being modified. Cobuild [7] states that “when you want to indicate something more about the quality which an adjective describes, you can use a sub-modifier such as “very” and “rather” with it. You do this in order to indicate the amount of the quality or to intensify it.

There are many kinds of adjective modifiers and narrowly oriented subjuncts are the majority among them. Still, the most commonly used sub kinds of these subjuncts are intensifiers since pre-modification by an intensifier is a characteristic feature of adjectives and adverbs. It should be noted that adverbs usually premodify adjectives not postmodify them. Saying how much or how little of the quality denoted by the adjective depends on the type of intensifier being used (Quirk *et al* [35]). To put it differently, if the adjective is intended to be scaled high, an amplifier is used. If on the other hand, it is intended to be scaled low, a down toner is called upon [22]. Respective examples include:

- a. It is an extremely narrow way.
- b. My last question is somehow personal.

Other kinds of adjective modifiers are the emphaziers which are used with none gradable adjectives in order to intensify or add to the force, not degree, of the adjective [22]. However, Quirk *et al* [35] assume that emphaziers modifying non gradable adjectives also have an intensifying effect similar to that of intensifiers.

- c. The play was indeed excellent. (excellent indeed).

Not all adjective modifiers tend to premodify. Notice for example *indeed* which could premodify or postmodify. Also *enough* is restricted to postmodification of adjectives and adverbs.

- d. It seemed that Henry had not been careful enough.

### 2.3.2. Modifier of Adverbs

As it is shown above, an adverb modifier function is similar to that of an adjective modifier due to the fact that the adverb which is itself a modifier is being modified or submodified. Still, adverb modifying adverbs differ from those of adjective in that they only intensifying subjuncts that could perform this function, that is, adjuncts or viewpoint subjuncts cannot be adverb modifiers as with the previous function [35].

- (a) \*He spoke quietly (assertively).
- (b) \*He reasoned theoretically (soundly).
- (c) He reasoned extremely (soundly).

The first and second sentences are starred not due to the stylistic objection to two *-ly* adverbs occurring successively, but due to the claim that it is not possible to convert adjuncts and viewpoint subjunct into adverb modifying intensifiers since in (c), the two *-ly* adverbs occurring simultaneously and the sentence are grammatical because the modifier word is a subjunct intensifier. In adverb modifier function, there is a combination of the two adverb classes: the adverbial class which is performed by the modifying word and the modifier class which is the word being modified [22].

In adverb modifier function, there is a combination of the two adverbial roles: the adverbial role which is performed by the modifying word and the modifier role which is the word being modified. This can be related to the fact that pre-modification by an intensifier is a feature of adverbs [35]. However, adverbial clause elements vary in accepting modification and sometimes there is a variation in the same adverbial kind.

Others include adverbs as:

### 2.3.3. Modifier of Particles, Prepositional Adverbs and Prepositions

In this function, the modifier is again an intensifier subjunct affecting superficially similar items. First, an intensifier tends to premodify the particle in a certain kind of multi-word verbs called free combination where the verb and particle can be separated by the insertion of an intensifier adverb [35].

- a. Go straight on.
- b. Drink right up.

The insertion of *straight* and *right* above has been considered as a syntactic criterion separating free combination verbs from phrasal verbs (another kind of multi-word verb) where such separation is not possible.

### 2.3.4. Modifier of Pronouns, Determiners and Numerals

Here, the modifier is an intensifier. Starting with the first element modified, that is indefinite pronouns. Hudlestone [23] assumes that such pronouns are devoid of definiteness which is a feature available in other kinds of pronouns like personal, possession and reflexive pronouns. Indefinite pronouns are of two kinds: compounds and of- pronouns [22]. The first kind consists of two parts - a determiner morpheme like *very*, *some*, *any* or *no* and a nominal morpheme *one*, *body*, *thing*. The other kind is of- pronouns which is so called because they can be followed by a partitive of- phrase: *many of*, *some of*.

Examples are:

- a. Nearly everybody seemed to be at the party. [26].
- b. We lost almost everything. [41].

Secondly, a determiner or predeterminer could also be modified by an intensifier. Strumph and Douglas [41] describes determiners as closed-class items which function to determine or restrict the reference of the noun phrase occurring before its pre-modifier. The classes of the determiners have been established on the basis of their order of appearance before the noun.

- a. predeterminers: half, all, double

- b. central determiners: the articles the, a, an
- c. postdeterminers: cordinal and ordinals, many, few

The only order in which these three classes appear is: Pre

+ central + post, for example:

- (a). All their problems were solved.
- (b). \*Their all problems were solved.

Examples of the determiners modification are:

- a. There were so many people there.
- b. We have had rather a lot of complaints.

*rather* in (b) intensifies the determiner *a lot* since a predeterminer does not exist. A distinction has to be drawn between an intensifier modifying a pronoun and the same intensifier functioning as a determiner since many words have two functions: determinative function and pronoun function [41].

### 2.3.5. Modifier of Noun Phrases

In this kind of the modifier function, a noun phrase-modifier could be an intensifier or an adjunct of time or place. To begin with intensifiers, when these modify indefinite noun phrases, they usually precede the indefinite article.

- a. It is rather a pity you won't be there. [12].
- b. He was quite an expert. [6].

It is assumed that with certain of- phrases used as intensifiers of noun phrases, there are various constructions [6].

This must be sort of a joke.

- (a) A sort of joke.
- (b) A sort of a joke.
- (c) A joke, sort of.

### 2.3.6. Adverbs as a Catch all Category

Adverbs are considered as part of speech in traditional English grammar and are still included as a part of speech in grammar taught in schools and used in dictionaries. However, modern grammarians recognize that words traditionally grouped together serve a number of different functions. Some describe adverb as a "catch all" category that includes all words that do not belong to one of the other parts of speech. In the words of Payne [33], a logical approach to dividing words into classes relies on recognizing which words can be used in certain context. For example, the only type of word that can be inserted in the following template to form a grammatical sentence is a noun: "the *hat* is red". When this approach is taken, it is seen that adverbs fall into a number of different categories. For example, some adverbs can be used to modify an entire sentence, whereas others cannot. Even when a sentential adverb has other functions, the meaning is often not the same. For example, in the sentence "She gave birth naturally" and "Naturally, she gave birth", the word "naturally" has different meanings. In the first sentence, as a verb-modifying adverb, it means "in a natural manner" while in the second sentence, as a sentential adverb, it means something like "of course" [33].

Words like "very" show another example. We can say *Jay is very fast*, but not *Jay very won the race*. These words can modify adjectives but not verbs. On the other hand, there are words like "here" and "there" that cannot modify

adjectives. We can say *The sock looks good there* but not *It is a there beautiful sock*. The fact that many adverbs can be used in more than one of these functions can confuse the issue, and it may seem like splitting hairs to say that a single adverb is really two or more words that serve different functions. However, this distinction can be useful especially when considering adverbs like "naturally" that has different meanings in their different functions.

## 3. Methodology

This study uses a descriptive research design since it aims to do a contrastive study of the use of adverbs in Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo. This design is appropriate for this study because it provides the procedural outline for the conduct of the study under investigation. Obeledu, a town that is geographically situated in Anaocha Local Government Area, Anambra State constitutes the study area. Data for the study were collected by means of elicitation from six elderly speakers who are natives of Obeledu and had lived in the village for a period of time. The elicited information was recorded with the aid of phone recording. The data collected for this research were analyzed through the use of simple descriptive method. The data was then presented in tabular form and analysed accordingly.

## 4. Theoretical Framework

This paper is theoretically framed around Lado's [25] Contrastive Analysis (CA). Contrastive analysis, the systematic study of a pair of languages with a view to identifying their structural differences and similarities, was extensively used in the 1960s and early 1970s as a method of explaining why some features of a Target Language were more difficult to acquire than others. The study of CA was first formulated by Lado who provided a comprehensive theoretical treatment and suggested a systematic set of technical procedures for the contrastive study of languages which involved describing the languages (using structuralist linguistics), comparing them and predicting learning difficulties (Buren [5] and Rustipa [38]). Thus, the theoretical foundations for what became known as the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis were therefore articulated in Lado's [25] *Linguistics across Cultures*. Lado claimed that "those elements which are similar to the learner's native language will be simple for him, and those elements that are different will be difficult". Therefore, there is need to predict and describe the patterns that will cause difficulty in learning, and those that will not cause difficulty, by comparing systematically the language and culture to be learned with the native language and culture of the student [25].

## 5. Data Presentation and Analysis

### 5.1. Adverbial Clause Element

Here, an adverb functions as an element of clause

structure, it is grammatically independent and distinct from any other clause elements in the clause. In other words, the adverbial functions outside a clause element as a separate unit. If an adverb is integrated into a clause element, it is no

more an adverbial since it will be part of that clause element unable to function independently. This is presented in data as shown in Tables 1-4 below:

*Table 1. Showing  $\phi s i i \phi$  as an adverbial clause element.*

Standard Igbo (SI)					Obeledu Dialect (OD)				
O	bjara	ebe	A	$\phi s i i \phi$ .	O	bjara	ebe	a	$\phi s i i \phi$ .
3SNG	come-PST	place	here	quick.	3SNG	come-PST	place	here	quick.
He/she came here quickly.					He/she came here quickly.				

In Table 1 above,  $\phi s i i \phi$  is an adverb modifying the verb *bjara* in the adverbial clause element. As Murphy [28] stated, an adverb tells us about a verb. It tells us in what way

someone does something or in what way something happens. It is also observed that both SI and OD use  $\phi s i i \phi$  as an adverbial clause element without any identifiable difference.

*Table 2. Showing  $n w a y \phi$   $n w a y \phi$  as an adverbial clause element.*

Standard Igbo (SI)						Obeledu Dialect (OD)					
Ha	riri	nri	ha	$n w a y \phi$	$n w a y \phi$ .	Fa	lili	nni	fa	$n w a y \phi$	$n w a y \phi$ .
3PL	eat-PST	food	3PL	slowly	slowly.	3PL	eat-PST	food	3PL	slowly	slowly.
They ate their food slowly.						They ate their food slowly.					

As in Table 2 above,  $n w a y \phi$   $n w a y \phi$  constitutes part of the clause element *Ha/Fa riri/lili nri/nni ha/fa  $n w a y \phi$   $n w a y \phi$* . The adverb  $n w a y \phi$   $n w a y \phi$  modifies the verb *riri/lili* as shown in both the SI and OD. Both *riri/lili* are varieties of

Igbo as shown in SI and OD respectively used to denote how the action of *riri/lili nri/nni* (ate) took place. There is reduplication of  $n w a y \phi$   $n w a y \phi$  as shown in the two varieties.

*Table 3. Showing  $u g b u$   $a$  and  $k i t a$   $a$  as adverbial clause elements.*

Standard Igbo (SI)				Obeledu Dialect (OD)			
Obinna	gburu	agwọ	$u g b u$ $a$	Obinna	Gbulu	agwọ	$k i t a$ $a$
Obinna	kill-PST	Snake	Now	Obinna	kill-PST	snake	now
Obinna killed a snake now.				Obinna killed a snake now.			

In Table 3 above,  $u g b u$   $a$  and  $k i t a$   $a$  are the adverbs used in the SI and OD respectively. There is therefore an instance of lexical variation in the two varieties. Semantically as

varieties of one language,  $u g b u$   $a$  and  $k i t a$   $a$  are synonymously related in that they refer to the same thing *now*.

*Table 4. Showing  $m g b e$   $u f \phi d u$  and  $o g e$   $u f \phi d u$  as adverbial clause element.*

Standard Igbo (SI)						Obeledu Dialect (OD)					
Ha	na-	ekpe	Ekpere	$m g b e$	$u f \phi d u$	Fa	na-	Ekpe	ekpere	$o g e$	$u f \phi d u$
3PL	AUX	pray	Prayer	time	some	3PL	AUX	Pray	prayer	time	some
They pray sometimes.						They pray sometimes.					

One of the peculiarities of Igbo language is in the way words are being formed. As in Table 4 above,  $m g b e$   $u f \phi d u$  and  $o g e$   $u f \phi d u$  have their literal meaning. While  $m g b e$  and  $o g e$  both refer to *time*,  $u f \phi d u$  means *some*. It is in line with word formation process that  $m g b e$   $u f \phi d u$  and  $o g e$   $u f \phi d u$  as two varieties of the language come to mean *sometimes*.  $m g b e$  and  $o g e$  here are two varieties of Igbo language. Therefore,  $m g b e$   $u f \phi d u$  and  $o g e$   $u f \phi d u$  are adverbs modifying the verb *ekpe ekpere* – pray. The adverb(s)  $m g b e$   $u f \phi d u$  and  $o g e$   $u f \phi d u$  are synonymously related in that they denote the

time or frequency of happening of the verb *ekpe ekpere*.

## 5.2. The Use of Adverbs as Modifier of Adjectives

In this case, the modifier itself is being modified. When you want to indicate something more about the quality which an adjective describes, you can use a sub-modifier such as “very” and “rather” with it. You do this in order to indicate the amount of the quality or to intensify it.

*Table 5. Showing  $n k e$   $u k w u$  and  $e z i g b o$  as Modifiers of Adjective.*

Standard Igbo (SI)							Obeledu Dialect (OD)				
O bu	Nwata	nwaanyi	Mara	mma	$n k e$	$u k w u$	O bu	Nwata	nwaanyi	mara $e z i g b o$	mma
3sng	is child	woman	fine-PST	beauty	of	big	3sng	is child	woman fine-PST	beauty of	big
She is a very beautiful girl.							She is a very beautiful girl.				

As Sinclair [40] and Cobuild [8] note, adverbs function as

“sub-modification” and as “modifier of modifiers” in the

words of Vict (1986). In Table 5 above, *mara mma* and *nke ukwu* in SI as well as *mara mma* and *ezigbo* in OD are adjectives and adverbs respectively. The adverbs *nke ukwu* and *ezigbo* are modifiers of modifiers, modifying the adjective *mara mma* (beautiful) in both SI and OD. The modifier and modifier of modifiers are both modifying the

noun *nwata nwaanyi* (girl). *nke ukwu*, a compound word as used in SI and *ezigbo* are synonymously related in the context of the sentence *Ọ bụ nwata nwaanyi mara mma nke ukwu*. Worthy of note in OD is the occurrence of the modifiers in *mara ezigbo mma* where the *ezigbo* occurs in between the adjective *mara mma*.

**Table 6.** Showing *oke* and *hinne* as Modifiers of Adjective.

Standard Igbo (SI)	Obeledu Dialect (OD)
Mmiri ahụ dị <i>oke</i> ọkụ	Mmiri ahụ dị ọkụ <i>hinne</i>
Water that is hot too	Water that is hot too
That water is too hot.	That water is too hot.

In Table 6 above, the sub-modifiers *oke* and *hinne* (too) are adverbs use to indicate how *hot* the water is. *oke* and *hinne* (very) are therefore synonymously related in that they are two varieties of Igbo language. In the data above, *oke* which

occurs before the adjective *ọkụ* is used to refer to *too* as in *Mmiri ahụ dị oke ọkụ* in the SI while *hinne* which occurs after the adjective *ọkụ* is as well used to refer to *too* as in *Mmiri ahụ di ọkụ hinne* in Obeledu dialect.

**Table 7.** Showing *adikarị* and *adikalị* as Modifiers of Adjective.

Standard Igbo (SI)	Obeledu Dialect (OD)
Ụmụ nkịta <i>Na</i> <i>adikarị</i> obere	Ụmụ nkịta <i>na</i> <i>adikalị</i> obele
Children Dog AUX (are) usually small	Children Dog AUX (are) usually small
Puppies are usually small.	Puppies are usually small.

In Table 7 above, *adikarị* and *adikalị* are adverbs used as modifiers of adjectives *obere* and *obele* as shown in SI and OD. In the adverbs used, there is phonological variation

between *adikarị* in SI and *adikalị* as in OD. They differ in their phonemes as in voiced alveolar trill /r/ sound and voiceless alveolar lateral /l/ in *adikarị* and *adikalị* respectively.

**Table 8.** Showing *nke ukwu* and *ọfuma* as Modifiers of Adjective.

Standard Igbo (SI)	Obeledu Dialect (OD)
Amaka bụ nwata akwụkwọ a ma Ama <i>Nke</i> <i>oma</i>	Amaka bụ nwata akwụkwọ a ma ama <i>ofuma</i>
Amaka is child Book know-PST Know well	Amaka is child book know-PST know well
Amaka is a well-known student.	Amaka is a well-known student.

The data in Table 8 above showed that the sub-modifiers *nke oma* and *ọfuma* are adverbs (well) modifying the adjective *a ma/a ma ama* with both forming a compound word *well-known*. This in turn modifies the noun *nwata akwụkwọ* (student) being referred to in the subject position (Amaka). This is in agreement with studies by Conlin [9]; Quirk *et al* [35]; Crystal [10]; Greenbaum and Quirk [18]; Leech and Svartuick [26] reflecting the range of the modifier function of adverbs to cover parts of speech other than adjectives and adverbs; and in this case, nouns.

### 5.3. Modifier of Particles, Prepositional Adverbs and Prepositions

In this case, particles, prepositional adverbs and prepositions are being modified by adverbs. As Quirk *et al*. [35] note, the modifier serves as an intensifier subjunct affecting superficially similar items. In this case, an intensifier tends to pre-modify the particle in a certain kind of multi-word verbs called free combination where the verb and particle can be separated by the insertion of an intensifier adverb.

**Table 9.** Showing *etiti* as Modifier of Prepositional Adverbs/Prepositions.

Standard Igbo (SI)	Obeledu Dialect (OD)
Ahịa nọ na <i>Etiti</i> Obodo	Afịa nọ na <i>etiti</i> Obodo
Market At P Center Village	Market at P center Village
The market is at the center of the town.	The market is at the center of the town.

In Table 9 above, *etiti* is an adverb functioning as the modifier of prepositional phrase *obodo* in the clause element *nọ na (etiti) obodo* (is at the center of the town). It can be seen in the data above that there exist many similarities and differences in the use of adverbs in both Obeledu dialect and Standard Igbo.

### 5.4. Modifier of Pronouns, Determiners and Numerals

Here, the adverb functions as a modifier of pronouns, determiners, and numerals as can be seen in the data below.

Table 10. Showing *ozo* as modifier of pronoun.

Standard Igbo (SI)					Obeledu Dialect (OD)				
Onye	<i>ozo</i>	<i>guru</i>	Egwu	Ahu	Onye	<i>ozo</i>	<i>gulu</i>	egwu	ahu
Somebody	again	sing-PST	Song	That	Somebody	again	sing-PST	song	that
Someone else sang that song.					Someone else sang that song.				

In Table 10 above, *ozo* is an intensifier that is used as modifier of pronoun *Onye*. The pronoun been modified here belongs to one of the two kinds of indefinite pronoun, compounds pronoun based on Hesan's [22] identification. This consists of two parts - a determiner morpheme like *very*,

*some*, *any* or *no* and a nominal morpheme *one*, *body*, *thing*. In this case, the structure *Onye* (Someone) *ozo* (else) *guru* (sang) *egwu ahu* (that song) reflects this adverb *ozo* as modifier of the pronoun *Onye*.

Table 11. Showing *ihe obula* and *ife obuna* as adverbs.

Standard Igbo (SI)						Obeledu Dialect (OD)					
Anyi	Ga	eri	<i>ihe</i>	<i>obula</i>	O	Siri	Anyi	ga	Eli	<i>ife</i>	<i>obuna</i>
1PI	Go	eat	Thing	Any	3sng	cook-PST	1PI	go	eat	thing	any
We will eat whatever she cooked.						We will eat whatever she cooked.					

In Table 11 above, *ihe obula* and *ife obuna* are adverbs used in SI and OD respectively. There exist phonological differences between *ihe obula* in Standard Igbo and *ife obuna* in Obeledu dialect. The differences are between the phonemes voiced fricative /h/ as in *ihe* and voiceless labio dental fricative /f/ as in *ife* as well as in the nasal sound /n/, a voiced alveolar fricative and voiceless alveolar lateral /l/ in

*obula* and *obuna* respectively.

### 5.5. Adverbs as Indicator of Place or Position of Noun Phrases

An adverb functions as a modifier of noun phrases as seen in the data presented below.

Table 12. Showing *ebe ahu* adverbs as indicator of place or position of noun phrases.

Standard Igbo (SI)					Obeledu Dialect (OD)				
Nwoke	<i>ahu</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Ebe</i>	<i>ahu</i>	Nwoke	<i>ahu</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>ebe</i>	<i>ahu</i>
Man	there	At	place	That	Man	There	at	place	that
That man is there.					That man is there.				

In Table 12 above, *ebe ahu* is an adverb used to refer to there/that place in both SI and OD. *ebe ahu*, a compound word, is used to show the position of the noun, *Nwoke ahu* – that man, that is being referred to in the structure *Nwoke*

*ahu no ebe ahu*. Therefore, *ebe ahu* is an adverb of place by answering the question “where”. There is no identifiable difference between the adverbs in both SI and OD.

Table 13. Showing *ebe a* as adverb of place.

Standard Igbo (SI)				Obeledu Dialect (OD)			
Oche	<i>di</i>	<i>Ebe</i>	<i>A</i>	Oche	<i>di</i>	<i>Ebe</i>	<i>a</i>
Chair	Is	Placed	Here	Chair	is	Placed	here
The chair	Is	Here		The chair	is	Here	

Table 13 above showed *ebe a* as adverb of place (where) the noun *oche* is. In this case, *ebe a* indicates the position/location of the noun *oche*. In the two varieties of the language under consideration, *ebe a* refers to here in both SI and OD.

## 6. Conclusion

From the data presented, it can be observed that adverbs are identifiable in Standard Igbo and Obeledu dialect of Igbo language. In the two varieties concerned, adverbs are used in the same way in the sense that they function as adverbial clause elements and modifiers of adjectives, prepositional adverbs, prepositions, pronouns, determiners, numerals and noun phrases. Also, some of the adverbs in the two varieties are very much identical. Although the ways in which these

adverbs are used in the Obeledu dialect of Igbo language are similar to the ways in which they are used in Standard Igbo, there exist some differences in the words used to express these adverbs. For instance, adverbs like “*Kita a*” in the Obeledu dialect which is used to express “now” is very much different from “*ugbu a*” in the Standard Igbo which is also used to denote “now”. Also in data number (3), Standard Igbo uses “*ugbu a*” to denote “now” as in “*Obinna gburu agwo ugbu a*” while the Obeledu dialect uses “*kita a*” to denote “now” as in “*Obinna gbulu agwo kita a*”. Although these words have different forms, they are synonymously related in that they share the same meaning. Another noticeable difference apart from lexical differences is the difference in morphemes. Some of the adverbs in the two varieties being compared are identical but are differentiated by a morpheme. For instance, in data number (7), the adverbs “*adikari*” in Standard Igbo and



“*adikali*” in Obeledu dialect are identical but differentiated by the morphemes “i” and “l” in the sentences “ha na adikari ocha” and “ha na adikali ocha”. It can therefore be seen here that contrastive analysis has served as a tool for identifying the structural similarities and differences that exist between SI and OD. The identifiable similarities and differences are found at the lexical, phonological, semantic and morphological levels, all projecting the use and function of adverbs as adverbial clause elements and modifiers of adjectives, prepositions, pronouns, determiners, numerals and noun phrases in both varieties under investigation.

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