Determiner Morphology of Ale

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ABSTRACT

This study was focused on describing the determiner of the Ale language. Therefore, the study followed a descriptive research design and language consultants were selected using purposeful sampling. Then, the linguistic data was collected using interviews, focus group discussions and elicitation. The collected data were analyzed using qualitative methods. The findings show that the demonstrative determiner in Ale is used to show something is near to the speaker/ listener, expressed by husi 'This' for singular and hisi 'These' for plural. Oppositely, to describe some things far from the speaker /listeners are indicated by husa 'That' for singular and hisa 'Those' for plural nouns. Ale's Demonstrative determiners begin with the similar consonant sounds/h-/ and vowel ending. Possessive determiners in Ale show that something belongs to someone. These determiners of Ale are used to describe the belongs of something for someone by inserting before nouns. Quantifiers are also determiners that modify a noun to indicate its quantity. Quantifiers like he tiikisa 'a few', tiikisa 'a little', he kisha' many'. On the other hand, in Ale, quantifiers may describe cardinal and ordinal numbers. Cardinal numbers refer to the number of or quantity of something. Cardinal number quantifiers are; to'on 'one', laki 'two', and izzex 'three'. Ordinal numbers refer to the numeral positions of something. The sample of ordinal quantifiers in Ale is Paayoote' first', lanka' second, and isxxa 'third'.

1. INTRODUCTION

Morphologies are the smallest meaningful units of a language that cannot be divided without changing meaning. Therefore, we can say that morphology is the smallest grammatical unit of a language by which meaningful words are formed. Therefore, morphology is a collection of phonemes that form a meaning that is below words but above phonemes (Matthew, 2015). Gerner (2020) morphologies are divided into two based on whether they have a meaning; they are known as free and bound morphologies. Free morphology has individual meaning and can be formed independently. Meanwhile, bound morphology is a type that does not have any independent meaning and can be formed with the help of free morphologies.

All words which have individual meanings are called free morphologies. Free morphology is categorized into two subtypes. The first is lexical morphology, and the second is that of Grammatical or functional morphologies. Lexical morphologies are large in number and independently meaningful. Therefore, the lexical morphology is mostly nouns, adjectives and verbs in parts of speech. The second type of free morphology is

grammatical or functional morphologies, which consist of functional words in a language, such as prepositions, conjunctions, determiners, and pronouns (Baerman, 2015).

Matthew (2015) states that bound morphologies can be divided into two subclasses. These are bound roots and affixes. Bound roots are bound morphologies with lexical meaning when included in other bound morphologies to form the content words. The other bound morphology is Affixes. Affixes are bound morphology naturally attached to different types of words and used to change the meaning or function of those words. In addition, affixes can be categorized into five sub-classes based on their position in the word and function in a phrase or sentence. They are prefixes, infixes, suffixes, and derivational and inflectional affixes.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1 The People of Ale and Its Language

Ale, also known as Ale, Gauada, Gawata, Kawwad'a kawwada, is an Afro-Asiatic filum, a Cushitic language family spoken around in southern parts of Ethiopia. This language has around six dialectal Variants. This are; Ale, Dihina, Gergere, Gollango, Goroze and Harso (Hudson, 2005). Ale language is one of the Afro-Asiatic families within the Lowland East Cushitic language family. The previous language studies show the name given to the language is 'Ale'; the language came to be named 'Alette or 'Ale. Since the people call themselves Ale, Ale should remain the place's name. In addition to that, the Ale language has two different dialect groups. These are lowland dialect groups and highland dialect groups. Even though scholars agree that this language belongs to the Lowland East Cushitic group, they have shown some differences in the classification of the language (Dawit 2005 and Geberew 2003).

Black (1976) described the Werizoid group as an independent third division of the East Cushitic family, but Dawit (2005) claimed that Ale should be placed with Konso rather than as a third branch of the East Cushitic family. According to Haregeweyin (2002), it was classified Werizoid under the Konsoid group and declared Ale as a member of Konsoid languages.

Ale language is one of the least studied languages of the East Cushitic group. It is spoken in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Regional states around Derashe (Bender 1971). Omotic and Cushitic languages surround the Ale language. According to Ethiopia's 1994 population and housing census, there are 32,698 native speakers of the language. They inhabit the highland to the East of the Weyto River and North East of the Konso. The language is one of more than 140 ethnic groups in Ethiopia (Black 1976).

Ale people were administered in two different woredas: Derashe and Konso woredas. The Derashe woreda administered ten kebeles, and the Ale language people who had been under Derashe and who inhabited the highland areas were called Haparparo. On the other hand, the seven kebeles were administered by the Konso woreda, and the 'Ale language people who had been part of the Konso woreda were referred to as 'Ale language Gora. However, the Ale language society and the Dobase considered themselves one people, and this integration has also been shown in the 2007 Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia (Central Agency of Statistics 2007).

Sajid (2020) described that a determiner is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or another Determiner. It provides further information about a verb, adjective or another Determiner. It tells us in which manner, at what place or time, something happened or is/was done. Determiners are categorized into possessive, quantifier and demonstrative.

2.2 Features of Ale Phonology

According to Black (1973), Haregeweyin (2002), and Gebrew (2003) Ale language has twenty-four consonants and five vowel phonemes. On the contrary, Haregeweyin's (2002) and Gebrew's (2003) studies show that the language has twenty-three consonants and five vowel phonemes. The researcher agreed that the Ale language has twenty-three consonants and five vowels, like Gebrew's (2003) and Haregeweyin's (2002) results.

2.2.1 Features of consonant phoneme in Ale

Table 1. Features of Consonant phoneme in Ale

	Bilabial	Labiodentals	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Stops	P		T		K	q		?
Implosives	b'		d'		g'			
Fricatives		F	S	s^v	X			H
Ejectives	P'		t'	$c^{v'}$	k'			
Nasals	M		N	$(n^v)^3$				
Lateral			L					
Flap			R					
Glides	W			y				

Source: previous study from Black (1973), Haregeweyin (2002) and Gebrew (2003)

2.2.2 Features of vowel phonemes in Ale

Black (1973), Haregeweyin (2002) and Gebrew (2003), in those previous studies, indicate that in the Ale language, five vowel phonemes are presented. These are i, e, a, u and o. Those vowels have front, central, and back features and high, mid and low characteristics.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research, a descriptive research design was implemented. The data was collected using interviews and focus group discussions, elicited from the native speakers of the language, and analyzed in the descriptive analysis method using word-by-word elicitation. Regarding sampling techniques, the study used a non-probability sampling technique. As Creswell (2007) explained, non-probability sampling techniques are used by researchers to select participants based on their own experience, knowledge, and personal judgment. Non-probability sampling techniques contain many types of samples, one of which is a purposeful sampling method. Most scholars said that they chose this method based on the purpose of their study. To whom can the sample provide the information I need? Which parts of the study can we find important information? They explain that they choose people or things to accomplish the purpose of the study.

The people who provided information were selected from those close to the study's purpose and considered to have sufficient information. Therefore, this study included the

targeted areas selected by purposeful sampling. Regarding the informants' selection, five language consultants were selected from the Ale Woreda people of Ale language speakers.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Determiners of Ale

Determiners are words placed before nouns to clarify what the noun refers to. In Ale, there are three types of Determiners. These are Demonstrative, Possessive and Quantifiers in each determiner listed below with examples.

4.1.1 Demonstrative determiners

In Ale language, demonstrative determiners are used to show something is near to the speaker/ listener, expressed by **husi** 'This' for singular and **hisi** 'These' for plural. Oppositely, to describe some things far from the speaker /listeners are indicated by **husa** 'That' for singular and **hisa** 'Those' for plural nouns. The following examples details show demonstrative determiners of Ale.

Table 4.1. Demonstrative determiners

Demonstrative in Ale	Gloss
Husi	This
Husa	That
Hisi	These
Hisa	Those

The above-listed demonstrative determiners of Ale begin with the similar consonant sound /**h-**/ and vowel ending.

4.1.2 Possessive determiners

In Ale, a possessive determiner shows that something belongs to someone. The possessive determiners in Ale are listed below.

Table 4.2. Possessive determiners

Possessive in Ale	Gloss
haayu	My
haahu	Your
huusu	His
hiisi	Her
haani	Our
huusundhi	Their

The above-listed possessive determiners of Ale are used to describe the belongingness of something for someone by inserting before nouns. On the other hand, the determiners are beginning consonant sound /**h-**/, vowel lengthening also occurred at the medial position, and the possessive words end with vowel sounds. Other features of possessive determiners in Ale show first, second and third-person singular and plural markers.

4.2 Quantifiers Determiner

Quantifiers are also determiners that modify a noun to indicate its quantity. The following quantifiers are the sample examples of Ale Quantifier determiners.

Table 4.3. Quantifiers determiners

Quantifier in Alle	Gloss
he tiikisa	A few
Tiikisa	A little
he kisha	Many
olho dhama	A lot of
he ghula	Most
tooke tooke	Some
Yaxhaka	Any
Hxafna	Enough

On the other hand, in Ale, Quantifiers may describe cardinal and ordinal numbers.

4.3 Cardinal Numbers

Cardinal numbers refer to the number of or quantity of something. The following examples are the samples of Ale cardinal number quantifiers.

Table 4.4. Cardinal determiners

Cardinal numbers in Ale	Gloss
to'on	One
Laki	Two
Izzex	Three
Salax	Four
Hxupin	Five
Thapi	Six
Thaxan	Seven
Seten	Eight
Kolan	Nine
Hudhan	Ten
hudha pa to'on	Eleven

4.4 Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers refer to the numeral positions of something. The following examples show the samples of Ale ordinal number quantifiers.

Table 4.5. Ordinal numbers

Ordinal numbers in Ale	Gloss
Paayoote	first
Lanka	Second
Isxxa	third
Salxxa	fourth
Hxupna	fifth
Thappo	sixth
Thaxanto	seventh
Setento	eighth
Kolanto	ninth
Hudhanto	tenth

The same prefix is used for marking ordinality with base ten; the following sample examples describe its features.

Table 4.6. Ordinal numbers

Ordinal numbers in Ale	Gloss
hudhapa to'onto	eleventh
hudhapa lanka	twelfth
hudhapa isxxa	thirteenth
hudhapa salxxa	fourteenth
hudhapa hxupna	fifteenth

5. CONCLUSION

In this section, the major objective of the article is to describe the determiners of Ale. Therefore, Ale determiners are assessed regarding demonstrative, possessive and quantifiers of determiners in Ale. The objective of this study is presented in two sections. The first section deals with demonstrative determiner, the second section is possessive, and the third section deals with the quantifiers of Ale. Therefore, in this conclusion, we have presented the three features of determiners in Ale.

Demonstrative determiner in Ale is used to show something is near to the speaker/ listener, expressed by husi 'This' for singular and hisi 'These' for plural. Oppositely, to describe some things far from the speaker /listeners are indicated by husa 'That' for singular and hisa 'Those' for plural nouns. Ale's Demonstrative determiners begin with the similar consonant sounds/h-/ and vowel ending.

Possessive determiners in Ale show that something belongs to someone. Possessive determiners of Ale are used to describe the belongingness of something for someone by inserting before nouns. On the other hand, the determiners are beginning consonant sound /h-/, vowel lengthening also occurs at the medial position, and the possessive words are ending by vowel sounds. Other features of possessive determiners in Ale show first, second and third-person singular and plural markers. These are the first person expressed by haayu' my' (1st per sing) and haani' our' (1st per plu), the second person belongs also expressed by haahu' your' (2nd person singular masculine), hahe 'your' (2nd person singular feminine) and hahundi 'yours' (2nd person plural) and the third person possessive markers shows that huusu his (3rd per masculine singular), hiisi 'her' (3rd per feminine singular) and huusundhi 'their' (3rd per plural).

Quantifiers are also determiners that modify a noun to indicate its quantity. The following quantifiers are the sample examples of Ale Quantifier determiners. These are; he tiikisa 'a few', tiikisa 'a little', he kisha' many'. On the other hand, in Ale, Quantifiers may describe cardinal and ordinal numbers. Cardinal numbers refer to the number of or quantity of something. The following examples are the samples of Ale cardinal number quantifiers. These are; to'on 'one', laki 'two', and izzex 'three'. Ordinal numbers refer to the numeral positions of something. The following examples show the samples of Ale ordinal number quantifiers. These are; Paayoote' first', lanka' second, and isxxa 'third'.

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