LEXICO SEMANTIC VARIATION IN ANAANG LANGUAGE: A STRATIFIED COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LOWER CROSS LANGUAGE

Aniekan NYARKS, Ph.D
English Department
Akwa Ibom State University, Nigeria

1.0   Abstract

This study is undertaken to find out the lexico semantic aspects of Anaang Language. To achieve this goal, we used a survey and library sources, a stratified random sampling with 80 Anaang indigenes using Ibadan 400 wordlist, 20 Anaang word list and five simple sentences. A comparative analysis was adopted and it was discovered that there are distinctive lexico/semantic variations in Anaang Language. For instance, in a gloss, "plantain" Anaang Central Dialect (ACD) calls it /ŋŋiyɔn/; Anaang Northern Dialect (AND) calls it / mbiyɔn /; Anaang Southern District (ASD) calls it /Ukɔm/ while Anaang Western District (AWD) calls it /ndiyɔŋ/. This discovery will be of immense assistance to the linguists, linguistic students and other language researchers; it will serve as a roadmap for further investigations in Anaang Language.

KEYWORDS: Lexico Semantic Variation, Anaang Language and Lower Cross Language

2.0 Preamble

This work**: "**Lexico Semantic Variation in Anaang Language: A Stratified Comparative Analysis of Lower cross Language" was motivated by the clarion call from the academic treasure: "The Linguistic Analysis of the Phonological Deviations in Anaang Language: A Stratified Comparative Analysis of Lower Cross Language" in International Journals of Current Innovations in Education, volume 4 number 1 P 55 – 56 2020. The article advocated for the investigation of the lexical and semantic (lexico semantic) varieties in Anaang Language. So in response, this work delved into the lexico semantic as a study and dialectology as a course.

3.0 Introduction

Khan and Jabeen (2015) define lexico semantics as the study of the way individual words and idioms tend to pattern in different linguistic contents on the meaning level. Lexico Semantics is the study of the meaning of words. This involves the study of the structure of words and their meaning and how they act in grammar, compositionality and the relationship between the distinct senses and uses of words. Ordinary description of lexis may be said to be the total stock of words in a language or the component of language made up of vocabulary. It consists of jargons, dialects, slangs, swearing, taboos, colloquialisms, terms, dysphemism's, clichés, euphemisms,

archaisms (Wikipedia) etc. Moreover, John Lyons (2016) defines linguistic semantics as the study of meaning systematically encoded in the vocabulary/grammar of natural language. Linguistically, according to Wikipedia lexico semantics stands for the complete set of all possible words in a language or a particular group of words that are brought together for a particular linguistic purpose. Stringer (2019) sees lexical semantic as being concerned with inherent aspects of word meaning. On the other hand, semantics is the diffusion of words.

In an attempt to distinguish a language from a dialect, another related definition of a language given by Trudgill (1993:3) is that "a language is a collection of mutually intelligible dialects". Mutual intelligibility means the understanding of that dialect within the language community (the environment where the language is spoken). This definition has the features of categorizing dialects as sub-forms of a language. Daulatova (2020) asserts that lexico semantic is concerned with "the relationship between the expressive and semantics aspects of words, the whole and part relation between the lexical meaning and its semantics, this is evidenced by the paradigmatic and syntagmatic feature of word meaning". On the whole, Race and Hulis (2019) see lexical semantics as the computation of the representation of the meaning of a word.

However, we see dialects as a genre; that is an aspect of language. The reason for this concept is that a dialect is a part of a language. Mutual intelligibility, which exists in dialect, suggests that all the dialects are understood by their speakers though they may be some phonological or lexical differences. This suggests that such mutual intelligible dialect may have developed from one source, the proto language. This is the reason they are often referred to as "family, group, division, phylum, etc". For instance, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish which developed from the same proto-language, Indo-European, have today become different languages as the people migrated to different geographical location and contacted other tribes and other languages. Meanwhile, there are some lexical similarities in all the languages from the same proto stock. According to Trudgill (1993:4)

> If we consider, the first Scandinavian language, we observe that Norwegian, Swedish, Danish are usually considered to be different languages. Unfortunately, for our definition, though they are mutually intelligible, speakers of these languages can readily understand and communicate with one another.

This is the reason dialects are sometimes referred to as subparts of a language, meaning that they all have aspects of each other in them, which shows a trace to a common background.

Furthermore, apart from the different dialects, which come from the proto-language becoming languages, a language can be made up of different varieties, which are the dialects, like the different dialects of the Anaang language. In this study, variety shall be used as a dialect

interchangeably. Varieties may also arise as a result of accent. Accent refers to the way speakers realize their words implying phonetic or phonological differences. Trudgill (1993:5) agrees that dialect on the other hand, may refer to varieties, which are grammatically (and perhaps lexically) as well as phonologically different from other varieties.

Furthermore, Trudgill (1993:8) illustrates that language identification may be due to political, geographical, historical, cultural or social reasons. Thus when some groups of people know quite well that their variety of language will be a marker of identification of their region and sovereignty, they hold on to their variety and ignore the other. Therefore, apart from linguistic reasons, political, economic, and social reasons have played important roles in the identification of languages and dialects. According to Trudgill (1993:18)

> We have to recognize that, paradoxically enough; a "language" is not a particularly linguistic notion at all. Linguistic features obviously come into it, but it is clear that we consider Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and German to be single languages for reasons that are so much political, geographical, historical, sociological and cultural as linguistic.

Since language is a maker of culture and identity every tribe wants to maintain her dialect or language as a tribal sign which will invariably be a step to their political aspiration and economic development in the same vein. Connell (1991:9) comments as follows on the language situation of the Lower Cross:

> …equally important to the question of language or dialect (indeed perhaps are social, cultural and political considerations). In many instances, the actual deciding factor as to whether certain languages should be classified as dialects or languages depends on political boundaries or the culture identities of the groups involved.

In this study, it is our responsibility to find out aspects of lexico semantic varieties in Anaang language and in another study, the factors responsible for this variation.

4.0   LEXICO SEMANTIC VARIATION IN ANAANG LANGUAGE

In order to achieve our goal, it is pertinent to analyze the materials, data collection format and the informants used for this work.

From the interview of the 80 Anaang indigenes from Anaang Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State using the Ibadan 400 wordlist, 20 Anaang wordlist and five simple sentences were conducted on ten respondents from each LGA for comparative analysis. Derived from this

analysis, we realized that all informants in each LGA pronounced words almost in the same manner according to their region. Extract of the main analyses are shown below.

Table 1

Extract of the main analyses of the Anaang wordlist

L.G.A's	river	Market	jaw	Teeth	Skin	fat	Variants
ABAK	irim	Ùrùa	ákpɔmbáñ	Èréd	íkpàídém	ákpɔ`ŋ	r
ESSIEN UDIM	irim	Ùrùa	ákpɔmbáñ	Èréd	íkpàídém	ákpɔ`ŋ	r
ETIM EKPO	irim	ùrùa	ákpɔmbáñ	Èléd	íkpàídém	ákpɔ`ŋ	r
IKA	idim	ùdùa	ákpɔmbáñ	Èréd	íkpàídém	ákpɔ`ŋ	d
IKOT EKPENE	irim~idim	Ùrùa~ùlùa	ápɔmbáñ	èréd~èléd	ípàídém	ápɔ`ŋ	p
OBOT AKARA	irim~dim	Ùrùa~ùlùa	ápɔmbáñ	èréd~èléd	ípàídém	ápɔ`ŋ	P
ORUK ANAM	ilim~idim	ùlùa	ákpɔmbáñ	Èléd	ípàídém	ákpɔ`ŋ	l
UKANAFUN	ilim	ùlùa	ákpɔmbáñ	Èléd	íkpàídém	ákpɔ`ŋ	l

Derived from the above examples, phonologically, there are phonemic substitution of vowels and consonants in Anaang language.

After a careful comparative analysis of the data, we confirmed that there are four varieties of Anaang language. These varieties were then grouped together geographically according to their dialect. They are Anaang Central Dialect (ACD) made up of Abak, Etim Ekpo and Essien Udim; Anaang Northern Dialect (AND) consisting of Ikot Ekpene and Obot Akara; Anaang Western Dialect (AWD) comprising Ika people and Anaang Southern Dialect (ASD) comprising Ukanafun and Oruk Anam (Nyarks 2020:60).

The classification of Anaang dialects into four varieties is for convenience in identifying all dialectal traits in order to properly group them into their closest dialectal patterns for accurate consideration for a standard variety. This does not mean that the dialects are mutually unintelligible. All the dialects spoken in Anaang are mutually intelligible, as the Anaang people

understand each other. However, these diverse dialects may pose a problem to people from other tribes who may understand one variety without the others. (Nyarks 2006:5).

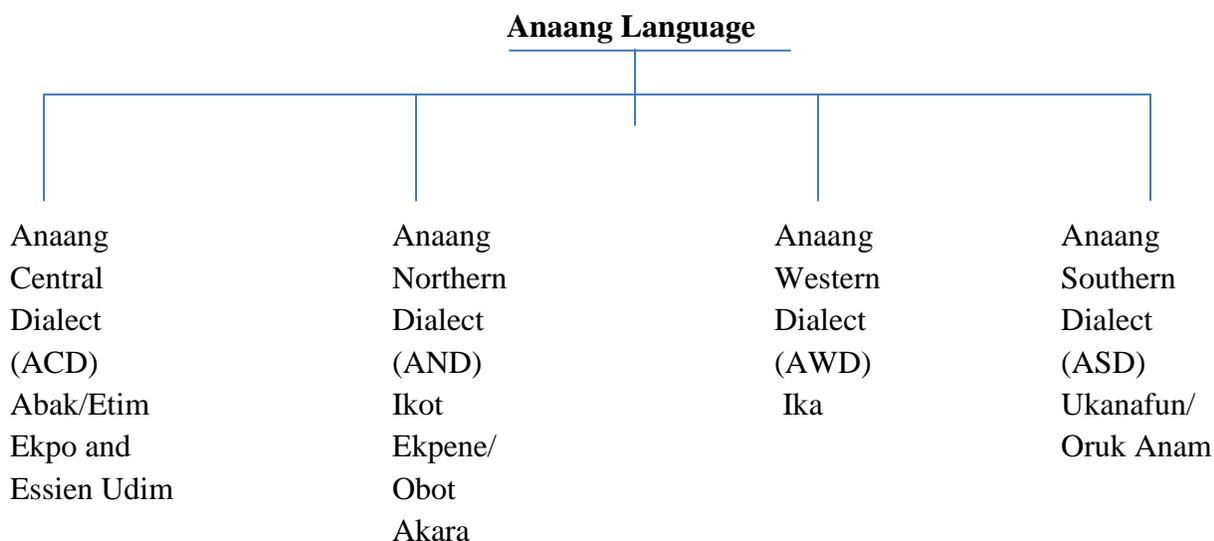**Table 2 Anaang Language and Its Varieties**

Anaang Language

Anaang Central Dialect (ACD) Abak/Etim Ekpo and Essien Udim	Anaang Northern Dialect (AND) Ikot Ekpene/ Obot Akara	Anaang Western Dialect (AWD) Ika	Anaang Southern Dialect (ASD) Ukanafun/ Oruk Anam

Table 3
Lexical varieties in Anaang Language

S/No	Gross	ACD	AND	AWD	ASD
1.	Blood	ìjìb, umiana	ùbàlà, ùbàdà	ùbàdà	ùbàlà
2.	Okro	àtìkè	àtìkè, nkɔrɔ	nkɔdɔ	àtìkè
3.	Money	àkwɔk, àkúk	apoho	àkpoʁo	akpoho
4.	Flat plate	akpankpaŋ, akpakrakuʧan	mpakrakusan	mkpakrak	ŋkrakuʧan
5.	Plantain	nɲiyɔn	nɲɔyɔn, mbiyɔn	ndiyɔŋ	ukɔm
6.	Egg	nkwaunen	nʧenunen	nʧenunen	nkwaunen
7.	Cassava fofo	ukumudɔk, ntɔrɔrɔ	ntɔrɔrɔ	ntɔdɔdɔ	ukulɔk
8.	Forefinger	akpannuɔn	apannuon	akpannuɔn	akpannuɔn
9.	Hip	Ifukɔ	Ifukɔ	ifukɔ	igwɔn
10.	Spoon	ekpaŋeto	akomo	akomo	ukamamkpɔ
11.	File	achɔɔk	edimekpe	asɔk/ aʧɔk	uʧɔkmkpɔ

12.	Glass cup	adʒeren/ *tumbla*	adʒeren	àdʒédèn	àbɔde
13.	Onions	àjìm	àjìm	àjìm	àjɔ
14.	Cap	ìtàm	ìtàm	ìtéŋ	ìtéŋ
15.	Trouser	àfɔ ŋúkòd	àfɔ ŋúkòd	àfɔ ŋúkòd	mfɔ ʻIɔ´ùkòd
16.	Axe	èkùd	èkùd	èkùd	àbùbù
17.	Cowpea	úkpátɔ´rɔ´k	úpátɔ´rɔ´k	úkpátɔ´rɔ´k	àɲyìnénàŋ ɲɲiyɔn
18.	Stockfish head	ìwúó akpòròkó	ìwúó èpòròkó	ìwúó òkpòkròkó	èbènkánánái or iwúo údò úmó
19.	Hot drink	àkáíkáí	àkáíkáí	ɔjɔ´ŋkɔ´	ɔjɔŋkɔ´kɔ´

5.0 Lexico Semantic Varieties in the Anaang Language

It is realized that lexico semantic varieties involved a complete change of word for another or internal morphological change; though the users of other varieties have known their meaning, but their variants serve as an identification of the locality of that dialect.

The lexio- semantics varieties are illustrated in the following Anaang words below. In the word blood, each variety pronounces it differently. For instance, in ACD, it is realized as *ijib* or *úmíaná*, AND calls, *úbálà*, *úbádà*, AWD calls it *úbádà*, while ASD, realizes it as *ubala*.

In a word like *okro*, it was observed that informants from ACD and ASD call it àtìkè AND calls it àtìkè, or nkɔrɔ, while AWD calls it nkɔdɔ.

Money has four varieties, it is realized as àkwɔk, àkúk by ACD, AND calls it àkpóhó AWD and ASD calls it àkpóhó.

Flat plate is called akpaŋkpaŋ/akpak̲rakuʧan by ACD, AND realizes it as mpak̲rakusan, AWD just calls it mkpákrák and ASD calls it nkrakuʧan.

For *plantain* ACD calls it ɲɲiyɔŋ, in AND the variant is ɲɲɔyɔŋ or mbiyɔŋ, then ASD maintains *úkɔm*.

Egg has three different variations too, in ACD and ASD, it is called *nkwaunen*, some call it *nsenunen*, in AND and AWD the variant is nʧenunen.

The variant for *Cassava foofoo* were three. In ACD, it is called ukumudɔk or ntɔrɔrɔ, AND maintains ntɔdɔdɔ, AWD maintains ntɔdɔdɔ and ASD calls it *ukulɔk*.

In the word *forefinger* there are two variants: ACD, AWD and ASD realize it as akpannuɔn, while AND variant has apannuon.

Hip has three variants. It is called ifukɔ by ACD and AND, whereas AWD calls it ifukɔ, while ASD realizes it as igwɔn.

There were varieties of *spoon*, ACD speakers use *ekpaŋeto*, AND and AWD use *akomo* while ASD uses *ukamamkpɔ*.

File has five variations, ACD uses atʃɔk AND uses èdìmékpé, AWD calls asɔk/ atʃɔk while ASD calls it utʃɔkmkpɔ.

Glass cup has four variations: ACD and AND realize it as tumbla or adʒeṟen AWD called it adʒeden while ASD called it *abɔdi*.

     Onions has two variations: ACD, AND and AWD call it àjím while ASD calls it àjɔ´.

     Cap has only two variants: ACD and AND have ìtàm while, AWD and ASD have ìtéŋ.

     Trouser has two variations: ACD, AND and AWD have àfɔ`ŋúkòd, ASD has mfɔloukod.

     Axe has two variations also: ACD, AND and AWD have ekud while ASD has àbùbù.

     Cowpea has three variations: ACD and AWD have úkpátɔrɔk while AND has úpátɔrɔk and ASD has aṇinenaṇ.

Stockfish head has three variations too: ACD and AWD has íwúókpòròkó AND has ìwúópòròkó whereas ASD has èbènkánánái or ìwúo údọ umọ.

Hot drink has three variations too: ACD and AND has akaikai while AWD has ɔjɔ´ŋkɔ´ whereas ASD has ɔjɔŋkɔ´kɔ´

5.1   Sentence Types

Evidences of these varieties in the grammar of Anaang people could be noticed in the Anaang language after our interviews with our despondent. This is derived from the sentence patterns shown below:

1. My name is Akpan   -   Declarative
2. Will you come to school   -   Interrogative (request)
3. Stand up immediately!   -   Imperative (command)
4. Please give me your bag   -   imperative
5. Oh! My pig has died   -   exclamatory

The above types of sentences are realized in the various varieties of Anaang as follows:

5.1.1   Anaang Central Dialect (ACD)

Table 4

S/NO	ANAANG LANGUAGE	GLOSS
1.	Ami nche nkere Akpan	My name is Akpan
2.	Ara ari ufok nwed	Will you come to school
3.	Dakara iragham!	Stand up immediately!
4.	Mbok nno ekpad afo – o	Please, give me your bag.
5.	O! eri ami akpa	Oh! My pig has died.

5.1.2   Anaang Northern Dialect (AND)

Table 5

S/NO	ANAANG LANGUAGE	GLOSS
1.	Nche nkere Akpan	My name is Akpan
2.	Aya ali ufok nwed	Will you come to school
3.	Dakara idagham!	Stand up immediately!
4.	Mbok nno epad afore	Please, give me your bag.
5.	O! eri ami apa!	Oh! My pig has died.

5.2.3   Anaang Western Dialect (AWD)

Table 6

S/NO	ANAANG LANGUAGE	GLOSS
1.	Nche nkede Akpan	My name is Akpan
2.	Ada adi nwed	Will you come to school
3.	Dahada idagham!	Stand up immediately!
4.	Mbok nno ekpad afode	Please, give me your bag.
5.	O! edi ami akpa!	Oh! My pig has died.

5.1.4   Anaang Southern Dialect (ASD)

Table 7

S/NO	ANAANG LANGUAGE	GLOSS
1.	Nche nkele Akpan	My name is Akpan
2.	Ala ali ufok nwed	Will you come to school
3.	Dakala ilaham!	Stand up immediately!
4.	Mbok nno ekpad afole	Please, give me your bag.
5.	O! eli ami apa!	Oh! My pig has died.

The four varieties of Anaang language have demonstrated their differences in the above declarative, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory sentences.

In the declarative sentence "My name is Akpan" ACD variant used Nche nkere Akpan, AND uses Nche nkere Apan, AWD uses Nche nkede Akpan then ASD used nche nkele Akpan.

Deduced from the above sentences, there are differences in the words used in the sentences above. ACD uses Nche nkere Akpan indicating its variant, the alveolar tap /ɾ/ in Nkere. AND

uses nche nkere Apan, there is a difference in the word "Apan" as compared to "Akpan" used other varieties. This is the substitution of the voiceless labial velar plosive /p/ in the voiceless labial velar plosive /kp/ as used by other varieties. AWD used nche Nkede Akpan, showing a difference in "Nkede", the use of the voiced alveolar plosive /d/ as a substitute for alveolar tap /ɾ/ and alveolar lateral /l/ used by other varieties. ASD uses Nse Nkele Akpan. There is the replacement of the alveolar lateral /l/ in "Nkele" whereas others use alveolar tap /r/ or the voiced alveolar plosive /d/.

In the interrogative sentence, "will you go to school?" there are variations in the way each group asked questions. ACD uses "Ala ali" which shows the alveolar tap variant /ɾ/, AND uses Aya ali AWD uses Ada adi which indicates their variants, the last adopts voiced alveolar plosive /d/ and ASD uses "Ala ali" which indicates the alveolar lateral /l/ in this variety.

In the imperative sentence, we have the request as "Please, give me that your bag" and the command as "Stand up immediately".

In the request made, ACD has "Mbok nno ekpad afore", and in the command, it has "Dakara iragham". In request and command, we have elements of the dialectal variations indicated by the presence of the alveolar tap /ɾ/ in "afore" and "dakara iragham". AND has in the request "Mbok nno epad afore", again in the request above, the variant that has made this variety specific is the use of the voiceless bilabial plosive /p/. AWD, we have in the request: "Nno ekpad afode", while in the command we have "Dahada idagham". The specific use of the voiced alveolar plosive /d/ is noticed as compared to the alterative use of the alveolar tap /ɾ/ and alveolar lateral /l/ used by other varieties. The ASD variant has in the request "Mbok nno ekpad afole", and in the command "Dakala ilagham". The above sentences below show evidences of the absolute manifestation of the alveolar lateral /l/ as a prominent variant in this zone. It is this sound that makes this variant distinct.

In the exclamatory sentences, "Oh! My pig is death", ACD has "O!eri ami akpa". The variant of the group is shown by the use of the alveolar tap /ɾ/ in "eri" and the voiceless labial velar plosive /kp/. In "akpa". In AND variant we have "O! eli ami apa" showing the substitution of the voiceless bilabial plosive /p/ in the place of the voiced labial velar plosive /kp/ as use by other variants. In AWD we have "O! edi ami akpa", showing the use of the voiced alveolar plosive /d/ in "edi". ASD we have "O! eli ami akpa" indicating the presence of the alveolar lateral /l/ in "eli" as the marker of this variant. With the display of these differences in the grammatical illustrations above, we have realized that Anaang language has four dialectal varieties in the lexico semantic level same as the phonological level. This is witnessed with the varieties in the sentence formations and types. The varieties are ACD, AND, AWD and ASD.

6.0 Conclusion

It is very glaring that there are variants of lexico semantics in Anaang Language as could be seen above. These varieties are x-rayed in form of differences in words and sentences as obtainable in Anaang Central Dialect (ACD), Anaang Northern Dialect (AND), Anaang Western Dialect (AWD) and Anaang Southern Dialect (ASD). The realization of this lexicon/semantic variants will assist in further research into the language.

7.0 Recommendations

Based on the findings made it is recommended that, for clearer understanding of the language, a collection of the lexicon of the language will be of immense contribution to the growth of the language.

8.0 References

Connell, B. A. (1991). *Phonetic aspects of the lower cross languages and their implications for sound change*". Ph. D Dissertations. University of Edinburgh. Pp. 399.

Daulatova, M. H. (2020). *Lexico semantic structure and its analysis on the example of verbs*. In Journal of Multidisciplinary Peer Reviewed Journal Novatem Publication.

Khan, A. and Jabeen, T. (2015*). Stylistic analysis of the poem.* ''To Autumn'' by John Keats. In Kilbride; Hassain M. (ed) International Journal of academic research and reflection. Vol. 3 Nos 127 – 137.

Lyons, J. (2016). *Language meaning and contact*. London. Fontana

Nyarks, A. (2006) *Varieties of the Anaang Language*. Unpublished Master's Thesis. University of Uyo.

Nyarks, A. (2020) *The linguistic analysis of the phonological deviations in Anaang Language*: a *stratified lower cross language development.* In International Journal of Current Innovations in Education. Vol. 4 No. 1. Wake Forest University, United States.

Race D. S. and Hulis A. D (2019) *Lexical semantics in brain mapping*. Sourcedirect.com

Stringer, D. (2019). *Lexical semantics*. Department of second language studies

Trudgill, P. (1993). *Dialectology,* New York Cambridge University Press. Pp 218.
www.wikipedia.com