

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to:

the souls of my parents in their heaven

and the soul of my sister Zobayda

may Allah the Almighty rest their souls

in paradise.

my beloved brother, Neem and his family.

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Abstract

Western Darfur state where Tama language is spoken widely among other linguistic minorities, has witnessed an ongoing transitions in all walks of life. This directly affects the internal cohesion of these languages and exposes their existence and usage to the hazards of disappearance. However, to protect Tama language from these hazards, every branch of its linguistics needs to be explored and this is why the study set out to investigate the morphological rules of noun-formation in Tama language in contrast to English. The study aimed to find out the similarities and differences in the morphological rules of forming nouns between the two languages, intending to determine if there is any sort of transfer from learners' first language that can affect doing their practical analysis of complex words, especially nouns. The intention is also to investigate the possibility of devising a writing system for Tama language, and what is the suitable script to adopt for writing Tama language. Moreover, the study also aimed at examining to what extent its findings are helpful in the field of teaching and learning English. The study used the descriptive and analytical method. To achieve the objectives, the researcher has conducted an interview and discussions with fifty members of Tama native speakers (informants). They are both male and female, who were born in western Darfur (Dar Tama). Twenty of them hailed from Dar Tama to live in Khartoum, Gazira and White Nile area, they are above fifty years old. The other twenty members are English teachers in secondary schools, the researcher met them during the period of marking Sudan School Certificate, and they are between 35-40 years. They know well both languages and able to provide the researcher with adequate information. Ten members are undergraduates in English colleges, their ages range between 18-22 years, they are aware of where the

areas of difficulties exactly are. A questionnaire is also given to thirty eighth tutors in universities to investigate their attitudes toward introducing a writing system in Tama language. Based on the procedures above, the study arrived at the findings that there are similarities and differences between Tama and English languages; Tama has seven inflectional processes for forming a plural noun from a singular one, while English has only two. Tama language can have its independent writing system and Arabic script is the most suitable script for Tama to adopt. Based on the findings, the study recommended that, indigenous languages should be taken care of; more studies should be carried out on Tama language; The Sudan should acknowledge its pluralism and accepts it as a way of life and source of development and progress.

Abstract (Arabic version)

شهدت ولاية غرب دارفور التي يتحدث فيها المواطنون لغة التاما ضمن غيرها من اللغات العديد من التغيرات في كافة مجالات الحياة مما أثر ذلك مباشرة علي التماسك الداخلي لهذه اللغات ، كما تعرض وجودها واستخدامها لمخاطر الضياع . ولحماية لغة التاما من هذه المخاطر يحتاج كل فرع من فروعها أن يتم تناوله بالدراسة ، هذا ما دفع الباحثة لتناول هذه اللغة بالدراسة لتقصي القواعد الصرفية في تكوين الأسماء مقارنة باللغة الانجليزية ، هدفت الدراسة إلى إيجاد أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في القواعد الصرفية لتكوين الأسماء بين لغة التاما واللغة الإنجليزية لتحديد نوع الانتقال من لغة الطلاب الأولى والتي يمكن أن تؤثر على قدرتهم على التحليل الفعلي للكلمات المركبة وخاصة الأسماء. كما هدفت الدراسة إلى اختبار إمكانية إدخال نظام خطي بلغة التاما وماهي أنسب الخطوط التي يمكن تبنيها لكتابتها حيث يعتقد التاما أن لغتهم يمكن ان تستخدم بعد تصميم نظام خطي لها في التدريس في مراحل التعليم الأولية. وأيضاً هدفت الدراسة إلي تحديد مدي الاستفادة من نتائج الدراسة في مجال تدريس وتعليم اللغة الإنجليزية. استخدمت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي التحليلي وقد تم جمع المعلومات من خلال المقابلات الشخصية والمناقشات مع خمسين فرد من متحدثي لغة التاما (رجال ونساء) الذين هاجروا من ديارهم للاستيطان بولاية الخرطوم ، النيل الأبيض والجزيرة. عشرون منهم تزيد أعمار عن الخمسين عام، وعشرون من أساتذة اللغة الإنجليزية بالمرحلة الثانوية حيث تتراوح أعمارهم بين الثلاثين والأربعين عاماً وعشرة من طلاب كليات اللغة بالجامعات تتراوح أعمارهم بين الثامنة عشر والعشرين عام، كما تم توزيع ثمانية وثلاثون استبانة لأساتذة اللغة الإنجليزية بالجامعات لتقصي آرائهم حول إدخال نظام خطي في لغة التاما . وقد توصلت الدراسة إلى عدة نتائج منها وجود تشابهات واختلافات بين لغة التاما واللغة الإنجليزية، حيث أن هنالك سبعة قواعد صرفية للأسماء بلغة التاما مقابل قاعدتين فقط في اللغة الإنجليزية، كما توصلت الدراسة إلى إمكانية أن يكون للغة التاما نظام خطي مستقل، ويعتبر نظام في اللغة العربية هو أنسب الخطوط لكتابة لغة التاما. وبناءً على النتائج توصي الدراسة بضرورة الاهتمام باللغات المحلية ، يجب القيام بالمزيد من الدراسات التي تتناول المجالات الأخرى في لغة التاما، يجب على الدولة (السودان) الاعتراف بالتعددية اللغوية وتقبلها على أنها طريقة الحياة ومصدر للتطور والتقدم.

List of abbreviation

CA: Contrastive study

MT : Mother Tongue

TL : Target Language

Art: An article.

N: Noun.

V: Verb.

NP: Noun phrase:

VP: Verb phrase.

Ng: Vela consonant

List of Definition of Key Terms

Lexeme: The set of inflected forms taken by a single word.

Morpheme: The smallest meaningful unit or element in a word.

Allomorph: different morph representing the same morpheme.

Free morpheme: morpheme that can stand alone by itself as a single word

Lexical morpheme: morpheme which belong to the major part of speech.

Functional morpheme: morpheme that has grammatical function rather
Than meaning.

Bound morpheme: morpheme that cannot stand alone by itself as a single Word.

Root: The core of the word. It refers to a base that cannot be analyzed Further into morpheme.

Base: It is used to refer to the part of a word to which an affix is attached.

Stem: It is used form bases of inflection and sometimes for bases of serivational suffixes.

Productivity: refers to the property of an affix to be used to coin new complex word.

Inflection: A change in the form of a word that reflects a change in grammatical function.

Derivation: creation of complex word from a base word.

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College of Graduate Studies

College of Language

Department of English

**A Morphological Contrastive Study on the English
Language and the Tama Language**

دراسة تقابلية صرفية بين اللغة الإنجليزية ولغة التاما

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Submitted By:

Mastora Mohammed Ibrahim Dawood

Supervised By:

Prof. Mahamood Ali Ahamed

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