

PRAGMA-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF PERCEPTIVE VERBS IN ONICHA IGBOEZE DIALECT OF IGBO

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Abstract

This Study examined the Pragma-semantic Analysis of Perceptive Verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo language. The research investigated how speakers of Onicha Igboeze Dialect of Igbo use perceptive verbs to construct meanings, negotiate social content based relationships and infer meanings in different contexts of language use. The study unveils how certain lexical items in Onicha Igboeze dialect can change in meaning as a result of their frequent use in a new context. The verbs involved are hu (see), le (look at), nu (hear), ge (listen), metu (touch), nu uto (taste), and nu isi (smell). The primary data were purposively collected through elicitation from native speakers of Onicha Igboeze in Onicha LGA of Ebonyi State, Nigeria while the Secondary data were collected from books, journals, newspapers and online works. The study adopted cognitive semantics which observes that words can take different meanings from earlier meanings as a result of use in different contexts. Therefore, the study analyzes the semantic fields associated with perceptive verbs, pragmatic inference and contextualization. The findings of this research contribute to our understanding of the grammar and pragma-semantics of Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo language via pragma-semantic analysis.

Keywords: Pragmatics, Semantics, Perceptive Verbs, Dialect, Igbo Language

Introduction

The Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo is a variant of the Igbo language spoken in Nigeria. According to Okeke & Okeke (2022), perceptive verbs, also known as sensory verbs, are verbs that describe sensory experiences, such as seeing, hearing, and touching something or having feelings of any kind. Broadly, perceptive verbs are verbs that describe the process of perceiving, experiencing or becoming aware of something.

Linguistically and culturally speaking, perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze are used to convey complex meanings and contexts, including visual, auditory, cognitive, and emotional perceptions and expressions. In addition, perspective verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect are influenced by cultural norms, values, and beliefs such as the importance of respect, hospitality, and commitment.

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies how content influences the meaning of language. In the context of Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo, pragmatics examines how speakers use language in social interactions to convey meaning beyond the literal interpretation of words by implicative, inference, presupposition and speech acts communications. Therefore, Pragma-

semantic analysis is a linguistic approach that examines the relationship between language and context, based on how meaning is constructed and negotiated in communications.

Semantics is the study of meaning in language, focusing on the relationship between words, phrases, sentences, and their meaning. In the context of Onicha Igboeze Dialect of Igbo, semantics examines how words and phrases convey meaning, sense and reference, connotation, collocation and semantic fields, including how polysemy, homophony and idiomatic expressions convey meaning.

Consequently, cognitive semantics holds that language is part of a more general human cognitive ability and can therefore only describes the world as it is organized within people's conceptual spaces. It is implicit that there is some difference between this conceptual world and the real world. The main tenets of cognitive semantics are that: grammar is a way of expressing the speakers concept of the world, knowledge of language is acquired and contextual, and the ability to use language draws upon general cognitive resources and a special language module.

Furthermore, a dialect is a regional or social variety of a language, distinguished by its unique pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, while a language, on the other hand, is a broader system of communication that encompasses various dialects. In the context of Igbo language, Onicha Igboeze dialect is spoken in the Onicha Igboeze Community in Ebonyi State, Nigeria. While Onicha Igboeze shares many similarities with other Igbo dialects, but it has distinct features that set it apart. Therefore, in Onicha Igboeze, perceptive verbs play a crucial role in conveying meanings and contexts. The verbs are used to describe various aspects of perceptions, including sensory experiences, cognitive processes, emotional and intuitive states. Therefore, a Pragma-semantic Analysis of Perceptive Verbs in Onicha Igboeze Dialect of Igbo are categorized into meaning constructions, and how perceptive verbs are used to construct the meanings in different contexts, viz:

- Semantic fields:- The semantic fields associated with perceptive verbs such as visual auditory and tactile, others include, gustatory and factory.
- Pragmatic influence: How the speakers use perceptive verbs to infer meaning, make assumptions, and negotiate social relationship.
- Contextualization: How perceptive verbs are contextualized in different social cultural sensory contexts.

Background to the Study

The Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo is a complex and nuanced dialect that exhibits various linguistic phenomena, including polysemy, hyponymy, and inherent complement. This study focuses on the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in this dialect with a particular emphasis on polysemy and hyponym.

Perceptive verbs, such as 'hu' (see), 'nu' (hear) and 'metu' (touch) are crucial in Igbo language, as they convey various meanings and nuances. These verbs exhibit polysemy, where a single word has multiple related meanings, and hyponymy, where a general term is related to a more

specific term. For instance, the verb 'hu' (see) can convey different meanings depending on the context. It can mean "to see" a physical sense, but it can also mean "to understand" or "to perceive" in a more abstract sense. Similarly, the verb 'nu' (hear) can convey different meanings depending on the context, including 'to hear' in a physical sense, 'to listen' in a more intentional sense, or 'to obey' in a more figurative sense.

The inherent complement of perceptive verbs is also crucial in determining their meanings. For example, the verb 'hu' (see) requires a complement such as 'enya' (eyes) or ihe (something to convey a complete meaning. Similarly, the verb 'nu' (hear) requires a complement such as "onu or olu" or "ophu or okwu" (words) to convey a complete meaning.

This study provides a systematic analysis of polysemy and hyponymy in perceptive verbs, highlighting the complexities of Igbo languages. It also demonstrates the importance of contextualization in determining the meaning of perceptive verbs highlighting the role of context in Igbo language. Furthermore, this study reveals the significance of inherent complement in determining the meaning of perceptive verbs, highlighting the interplay between verb, complement and context in Igbo language. Therefore, this is applied to this study by providing a framework for analyzing the perceptive verbs hu (see), 'nu' (hear), and 'metu' (touch) in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo language. The study examines the polysemy and hyponymy of hu, nu and metu, highlighting their various meanings and understanding within contexts.

This study analyzes the inherent complements, of the sensory-perceptive verbs demonstrating their importance in determining the verb's meanings. The study provides a systematic analysis of perceptive verbs, semantic fields, context, pragmatic inference, and contextualization of perceptive verbs (see, hear and touch) highlighting the role of context in determining their meanings.

Also, this study provides foundation for understanding the complexities of perceptive verbs in Igbo language, and this study applies this discourse to the analysis of the perceptive verbs in the Onicha Igboeze dialect.

Statement of the Problem

Perceptive verbs are essential part of language use in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. However, the meanings and uses of these verbs are not well understood by linguists, researchers, or even some native speakers, which hinders a deeper appreciation of the dialect's nuances and complexities, highlighting the need for further study and documentation.

Despite the importance of perceptive verbs, there is a significant gap in the existing literature on the semantic and pragmatic aspects of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Dialect of Igbo. Furthermore, there is lack of comprehensive documentation on the linguistic features, lexical items, and grammar of the dialect.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

- (i) To identify the semantic field of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect.
- (ii) To analyze the pragmatic inference of perspective verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect.
- (iii) To examine the contextualization of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect.

Research Questions

This study raises the following research questions:

- (i) What are the semantic fields of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect?
- (ii) How do perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect convey pragmatic inference in contexts?
- (iii) How are perceptive verbs contextualized Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo?

Significance of the Study

This research contributed to a deeper understanding as follows;

- (i) Igbo language structure: Shedding light on the linguistic properties of Igbo verbs inclusive of the grammar and sentences referencing Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo.
- (ii) Cultural Expression: Revealing how Igbo speakers conceptualize and communicate sensory experiences via pragma-semantic analysis.
- (iii) Language Use: Informing our understanding of how language teaching and learning shape human perception and interaction.

Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. Although, this study is limited to the examining of the sensory aspects of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo, and it does not attempt to provide a comprehensive analysis of the grammar and pragma-semantic views of the dialect of Onicha Igboeze Community.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section reviews the relevant literature on the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs, focusing on the theoretical reviews and frameworks, empirical studies, and scholarly debates that inform this research.

Conceptual Review**Conceptual Review of Perceptive Verbs**

Perceptive verbs are a class of verbs that convey sensory experiences, perceptions, and cognitive states. They play a crucial role in language use, enabling speakers to express subtle nuances of meaning and context-dependent interpretations.

Perceptive verbs typically involve sensory modalities such as:

1. Visual (eg: see, notice)
2. Auditory (eg: hear, listen)
3. Tactile (eg: feel, touch)

4. Olfactory (eg: smell, scent)
5. Gustatory (eg: taste, savor)

These verbs often exhibit unique semantic and pragmatic properties, including, Pragma-semantic analysis

A pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in the Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo would examine:

1. Meaning construction: How perceptive verbs convey meaning in context.
2. Pragmatic inference: How speakers infer meaning beyond literal interpretation.
3. Cultural significance: How perceptive verbs reflect cultural values and practices

Conceptual Review of Polysemy

According to Taylor, J.R (2003). Polysemy refers to the coexistence of multiple related meanings within a single word or phrase. In the context of the research topic, "Pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo". Polysemy is crucial in understanding the complexities perceptive verbs.

Characteristics of polysemy

1. Multiple related meanings: polysemous words have multiple meanings connected through semantic relationships.
2. Semantic extension: polysemy often arises from semantic extension, where a words meaning is extended to related concepts.
3. Contextual dependence: The meaning of a polysemous word depends on the context in which it is used.

Types of Polysemy

1. Radial polysemy: A central meaning with extended meanings relating from it
2. Chain polysemy: A series of related meanings linked together.

Polysemy in perceptive verbs: perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect may exhibit polysemy, with multiple related meanings, such as:

1. Literal and figurative meanings: A perceptive verb may have both literal (eg: 'see' as visual perception), and figurative meanings (eg: 'see' as understanding).
2. Context-dependent meanings: The meaning of a perceptive verb may shift depending on the context, such as the subject, object or situation.

Conceptual Review of Homonymy

According to Lyons, J. (1977). Homonymy refers to the phenomenon where two or more words share the same form (phonological orthographic) but have different meanings. In the context of the research topic pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in OnichaIgboeze dialect of Igbo.

Types of Homonymy

1. Homophones: Words that sound the same but have different meanings.
2. Homographs: words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.

Characteristics of homonymy

1. Multiple meanings: homonymous words have distinct meanings but are often unrelated.
2. Same form: Homonyms share the same phonological or orthographic form.
3. Contextual disambiguation: meaning is often determined by context.

Homonymy in perceptive verbs: in Onicha Igboeze dialect, perceptive verbs may exhibit homonymy, leading to potential ambiguities in interpretation. For example: a verb like 'hu' might mean 'see' in one context and 'experience' in another.

Theoretical Review**Semantic Field Theory**

Semantic Field Theory, first proposed by Jost Trier in 1931 and later developed by John Lyons in 1977, posits that words are not isolated entities, but rather, they are part of a network of related words that share similar meanings. This theory has been instrumental to understanding the complex relationships between words and their meanings. In this study, the researcher explores the application of semantic field theory to the pragma-semantic analysis field theory to the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo.

According to Trier (1931), words are organized into semantic fields, which are clusters of words that share a common semantic feature in which the meaning of a word is determined by its relationships with other words within the same semantic field. For instance, the words: see, hear, and feel belong to the same semantic field of perception. The meaning of each word is influenced by its relationship with the other words in the field.

Lyons (1977) built upon Trier's work and proposed that semantic fields are hierarchical in nature. He urged that words within a semantic field can be grouped into subsets, with more specific words being hyponyms of more general words. For example, the word "See" can be further divided into subsets such as glimpse, glance, and stare. Each of these words has a more specific meaning than the general word 'See'.

The application of semantic field theory to the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs on Onicha Igboeze Dialect of Igbo can provide valuable insights into the meaning and relationships of these verbs. By identifying the semantic fields of perceptive verbs, we can understand how they relate to each other and to other words within the same field. This can help us to analyze the word relationships, such as synonymy, antonym, hyponymy, and polysemy, which are essential for understanding the meanings of perceptive verbs.

Furthermore, semantic field theory helps us understand how meaning is constructed through the relationships between perceptive verbs and other words within the same semantic field. By examining the relationships between words, we can identify the semantic features that distinguish perceptive verbs from other verbs. This provides insights into how speakers of Onicha Igboeze dialect construct meaning using perspective verbs.

In addition, semantic field theory facilitates the examinations of pragmatic-inference in the use of perceptive verbs. By analyzing the relationships between words within the same semantic field, we can understand how speakers infer the meanings of perceptive verbs in different contexts. This provides insights into how to convey meaning and how they negotiate meaning in different contexts.

Therefore, semantic field theory provides a valuable framework for analyzing the pragma-semantic properties of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. By applying this theory we can gain insights into the meanings and relationships of perceptive verbs, how meanings is constructed, and how pragmatic inference is made. This can contribute to a deeper understanding of the linguistic and cultural world-view of Onicha Igboeze speech community.

Pragmatic Theory

Pragmatic Theory, which examines how language is used in context to communicate effectively, has been instrumental in understanding the complex relationships between language, meaning and context. This study reviews pragmatic theory in line with Grice (1975), and Sperber and Wilson (1986) postulations as aligned in the comprehensive analysis with Pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo.

According to Grice (1975), effective communication is guided by the cooperative principle, which states that speakers and listeners cooperate to achieve effective communication. Grice identified four maxims that guide this cooperation. These are maxims of quality, quantity, relation, and manner. These maxims provide a framework for analyzing how speakers use language to convey meaning and how listeners infer the intended meaning.

Sperber and Wilson (1986) developed the relevance theory, which posits that communication is guided by the principle of relevance. According to this theory speakers communicate by providing evidence for the interpretation they intend to convey, and listeners infer the intended meaning by considering the context and evidence provided. Relevance theory provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing how speakers use language to convey meaning and how listeners infer the intended meaning.

The research topic: “Pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Dialect of Igbo, can benefit from pragmatic theory in several ways. Firstly, Grice’s cooperative principle can help analyze how speakers of Onicha Igboeze dialect use perceptive and how listeners infer the intended meaning. Secondly, Grice’s maxims can guide the analysis of how speakers use perceptive verbs to provide accurate, relevant, and clear information. Finally, Sperber & Wilson’s relevance theory can help examine how speakers provide evidence for the interpretation they intend to convey using perceptive verbs, how listeners infer the intended meaning, and how perceptive verbs are used in context to convey meaning.

Cognitive Semantic Theory

Cognitive semantics, a branch of cognitive linguistics, provides a framework for understanding the meaning of words and phrases in context. Scholars like Lakoff (1987) and Langacker (1987)

have contributed significantly to the development of cognitive semantics. This theoretical review explores the cognitive semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Igbo, specifically in Onicha Igboeze.

Cognitive Semantic theory, a theoretical framework for analyzing perceptive verbs in the Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. Cognitive Semantic Theory (CST) is a theoretical framework in linguistics that explores the relationship between language, mind, and reality. The study applies CST as a theoretical framework to analyze perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo, highlighting the complex relationships between language, cognitive, and experience. At the heart of CST lies the concept of conceptual metaphor, which posits that abstract concepts are understood in terms of more concrete, sensory-motor experience. This is achieved through conceptual metaphors, which map source domains (concrete experiences) onto target domains (abstract concepts). In the context of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo, conceptual metaphors play a crucial role in shaping their meaning. For instance, the verb 'hu' (see) might be understood in terms of the source domain of physical sight, mapping onto the target domain of understanding or recognizing.

Embodiment is another key tenet of CST, emphasizing the role of embodied experience in shaping linguistic meaning. This includes sensory-motor experiences, perceptual processes, and cognitive operations. In the context of perceptive verbs, embodiment highlights the importance in understanding their meaning. For example, the verb 'hu' (hear) is closely tied to the sensory experience of sound perception.

Cognitive schemes are abstract, conceptual representations of experiences, objects, and events that organize linguistic meaning. In the context of perceptive verbs cognitive schemas provide a framework for understanding their meaning. For instance, the schema for perception or understanding organizes the meaning of verbs like 'hu' (see), and 'nu' (hear).

In addition, prototype theory, another key aspect of CST posits that categories are organized around central, prototypical instances rather than fixed boundaries. In the context of perceptive verbs, prototype theory can help examine how categories of verbs are organized around prototypical instances. For example, the category of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo might be organized around prototypical instances like 'hu' (see) and 'nu' (hear).

Theoretical Framework

The research adopted cognitive semantics theory as it applies to this study in pragma-semantic of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Community. The adoption of cognitive semantics theory of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze community provides an in-depth understanding of how language users conceptualize and communicate perceptual experiences. This theoretical framework is particularly relevant due to its emphasis on the embodied nature of meaning and the dynamic relationship between language culture, and cognition. Cognitive semantics theory aligns well with the research objectives by offering a comprehensive framework for analyzing how perceptive verbs are used in context to convey meaning. It emphasizes the importance of

understanding languages grounded in human experience and shaped by cultural and situational factors.

The application of cognitive semantics theory involves analyzing perceptive verbs through a conceptual framework that considers the cognitive processes underlying language use. Methodologically, this may include discourse analysis, corpus analysis, or other approaches that capture the pragma-semantics nuances of perceptive verbs in natural language use.

The strengths of cognitive semantics theory lies in its ability to provide detailed insights into the cognitive and cultural dimensions of language use. However, potential limitations many include challenges in generalizing findings across different contexts or languages, and the need for careful consideration of the cultural specificity of the Onicha Igboeze Community.

This research contributes to existing knowledge by offering new insights into the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs, highlighting the importance of context and cognition in shaping meaning. It also advances the field of cognitive semantics by applying the theory to a specific linguistic a cultural context.

Thus, the adoption of cognitive semantics theory in this research provides a robust framework for understanding the pragma-semantic aspects thereby, emphasizing the role of context, culture and cognition. This approach offers valuable insights into how language users construct and communicate meaning through perceptive verbs:

Empirical Studies

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Verb is a word or group of words that express an action, such as eat, an event, such as happen and/or a state of being, such as exist. According, to Eme and Uwaezuoke (2022), the verb, a grammatical category, refers to a word that conveys action, occurrence or state of being in grammatical constructions of language. It is, therefore, a universal phenomenon.

They posit that a phono-semantic account of the Igbo 'take' verbs *we* and *chu*. The research give a phono-semantic account of the Igbo verbs *we* and *chi* in order to establish the semantic imports they carry besides 'take', which is often seen as their conventional meaning and the role of tone in the achievement of the meanings. The research discovers that the verbs perform interesting semantic functions in Igbo which range from the expression of singular and plural to portraying countable and uncountable notions.

Okeke and Okeke (2022) worked on the semantic-pragmatic interface of Igbo verbs perception examining some semantic cum pragmatic issues in realizing the senses of the Igbo verbs of perception. The objective of the empirical study of Okeke and Okeke was to find out how the gap between linguistic meaning and how the contextual features underpin what an utterance communicates using some Igbo verbs of perception. The verbs involved are *hu* (see), *le'* (look at), *nu* (hear), *ge* (listen), *metu* (touch and *nu-uto* (taste), and *nu-isi* (smell).

Ikegwuonu (2021) explains that the functions of verb vary according to languages, in many languages, verb takes different forms to depict tense, aspect, mood, and voice while in some languages, it may also agree with the person, gender or number of some of its arguments such as subject or object.

Eckardt (2020) investigated the semantic and pragmatic properties of verbs and their arguments, including perceptive verbs, and demonstrated that their meaning is influenced by their syntactic and semantic analysis of perspective verbs, in English language, it is a complex and multifaceted field of study.

In view of the Empirical Studies of Igbo Literature in line with this study on Pragma-Semantic Analysis of Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo, the researcher reviews as follows:

Emenanjo (1978) examines the semantic properties of perceptive verbs in Igbo language. He identified several semantic features that distinguish perceptive verbs from other verbs in Igbo, including their ability to take cognitive objects.

Ikekeonwu (1993) examines Igbo perspective verbs and their semantic and pragmatic properties. He identifies several pragmatic principles that govern the use of principle verbs in Igbo, including the principle of relevance and the principle of inference.

Nwachukwu (1997) examines their use in different contexts. He identifies several contextual factors that influence the meaning of perspective verbs in Igbo including the speaker's intention and the listeners inference.

According to Ume, Ugoji and Dike (1989), the Igbo verb expresses future, past, and perfective aspect as well as tense. They point out that scholars classified Igbo verbs in different forms using specified criterion. For them, Igbo verbs can be classified according to the number of morphemes they posses. This, there are simple verbs and complex/compound verbs. Whereas simple verbs have only one morpheme, complex/compound verbs have two or more morphemes.

According to Izunwa (2019), the verb is language universal, since it is a grammatical category found in all languages. He explains that in classifying the Igbo verbs using their morphological make up. We have simple verbs, complex verbs and compound verbs. Each of these classes of verbs can be inflected for tense mood, aspect, negation and creativity. A verb that is in its citation form only is simple very a complex verb has citation form plus one or more affixes; and a compound verb has two or more independent simple verbs.

According to Mbah (2018) cited in Ikegwuonu (2021:217), while talking on the structure and behaviour of Igbo verbs. "A simple verb form must not change its form by vowel harmony rules in any morphological alternation". The simple verb form comprises a consonant at the onset and a vowel at the peak. In other words, the structure of the simple verb form in Igbo can be represented as consonant (c)+ vowel(v) (ie, CV structure). Thus, the simple Igbo verb root has a CV structure.

According to Ugwu (2017) examines the pragma-semantic properties of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. He identified several semantic features that distinguish perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect from other verbs, including their ability to take sensory objects.

Therefore, it is pertinent to note that in the contextual influence of perceptive verbs, the context in which perceptive verbs are used significantly influences their meanings (Grice, 1975, Levinson, 2000). In Igbo, the pragmatic features of context, such as speaker intention and audience, play a crucial role in determining the meanings of perceptive verbs (Nwanegbo, 2015; Ikeke, 2018). The cognitive semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Igbo has implications for linguistic theory. It highlights the importance of context, image schemata, and pragmatic features in understanding language meaning (Lakoff, 1987; Langacker, 1987).

Akuma (2020) examines their semantic and pragmatic properties in relation to other Igbo verbs. He identifies several semantic features that distinguish perspective verbs from other Igbo verbs, including their ability to express cognitive and sensory experiences.

Therefore, the study of perspective verbs in English language provides a useful comparison with the study of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. While the two languages have different grammatical and semantic properties, they share some similarities in the use of perceptive verbs. These studies provide valuable insights into semantic and pragmatic properties of perceptive verbs in Igbo language and Onicha Igboeze dialect. They also highlight the importance of considering the contextual and pragmatic factors that influence the meaning of perceptive verbs in Igbo.

In addition, the empirical review of perceptive verbs in Igbo language has shown that perceptive verbs have different semantic and pragmatic properties that distinguish them from other verbs. The pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo is a recent area of study that requires further-research.

Summary of the Literature Review

This research work provides a summary of the theoretical and empirical review of perceptive verbs in Igbo language, highlighting the key concepts, frameworks, and research gaps. The theoretical review examined the key concepts and frameworks that underpin the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Igbo language. The main theories were reviewed, including: semantic Field Theory, Pragmatic Theory, and Semantic Field Theory, as postulated by Trier (1931), and Lyons (1977), posits that words are organized into semantic fields, which are dusters of words that share a common semantic feature. Pragmatic theory, as developed by Grice (1975) and Sperber and Wilson (1986) examines how language is used in context to context to communicate effectively.

The empirical review examined the existing research on Igbo language and linguistics with a focus on perceptive verbs. The review highlighted the contributions of various scholars,

including Emenanjo, Ikekeonwu, Nwachukwu, Ugwu and Akuma. These scholars have explored the semantic, pragmatic, and contextual factors that influence the meaning and use of perceptive verbs in Igbo language.

Therefore, the integration of the theoretical and empirical reviews provided a comprehensive framework for analyzing the pragma-semantic prosperities of perspective verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. The integration highlighted the importance of considering the semantic, pragmatic, and contextual factors, that influence the meaning and use of perceptive verbs in Igbo language.

However, the review also identified a research gap in the existing literature on Igbo language and linguistics, particularly in the area of pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Dialect.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a qualitative research design that focusing on the pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in OnichaIgboeze Community. The design allows for an in depth exploration of the meaning and usage of perceptive verbs in context.

The study was conducted in OnichaIgboeze Community in Onicha LGA of Ebonyi State South Eastern Nigeria, with a focus on the Igbo language spoken in this region. This area is chosen for its unique cultural and linguistic characteristics. The population consists of native speakers of Igbo language in OnichaIgboeze Community, including: Elders, Community leaders, youths, and women.

The study employed purposive sampling technique, selecting participants who are: native speakers of Igbo language people who were familiar with the community's cultural practices, participant who were willing to participate. Data was collected through interviews: in-depth interviews with participants to gather data on perceptive verb usage, focus group discussions to explore collective understanding and usage; observation: participant observation and community's interactions to note perceptive verb usage in context.

Data was presented and analysed using: qualitative content analysis, thematic analysis, and pragma-semantic analysis framework. This methodology allows for a comprehensive understanding of perceptive verbs in OnichaIgboeze Community, highlighting their meaning, usage, and cultural significance.

Data presentation

The data was presented in themes, highlighting the meaning and usage of perceptive verbs in context. The themes include:

Theme 1: Semantic field of perceptive verbs. This theme explores the meaning and relationship between perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Community highlighting their semantic fields.

Them 2: Pragmatic-Inference of perceptive verbs. This theme examines how speakers infer meaning from perceptive verbs in context, beyond their literal meaning.

Theme 3: Contextualization of perceptive verbs. This theme investigates how context influences the meaning and interpretation of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Community.

Data Analysis

Theme 1: Semantic field analysis of perceptive verbs. Semantic field refers to the network of meanings and relationships between words. The semantic field of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Community reveals the complex relationships between verbs related to perception. This theme explores the meaning and usage of perceptive verbs such as *hụ* (see), *nụ* (hear), and *metụ* (touch).

The data analysis showed that perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze Community can be categorized into different semantic field, including;

- i. Visual perception: *Hụ* (See), visual perception is used to describe visual experiences, such as observing events or seeing objects.
- ii. Auditory perception: *Nụ* (hear), auditory perception is used to describe auditory experiences, such as listening to sounds or voices.
- iii. Tactile perception: *Metụ* (touch). Tactile perception is used to describe physical contact or sensations.

Theme I: Semantic Field Analysis of perceptive verbs.

The analysis explores the semantic fields of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze, including *hụ* (see), *nụ* (hear), and *metụ* (touch).

A. Visual semantic field: *Hụ* (see)

1(i) Direct visual observation/direct visual perception: *ọ hụmara ununu ọbụ* (He/she saw the bird).

(ii) Visually perceiving one's way or direction: *Hụma ụzọ icho* (see your path).

2. understanding through visual cues/understanding through visual evidence

(i) *O hūmarana ọ bueziopfu* (He/she saw/understood that it was true).

(ii) Gaining insight or understanding: *hūmaifedumkpa* (see/understand what is important).

B. Auditory semantic field: *Nụ* (hear)

1(i) Direct auditory perception: *Ọ nūrūdaevu* (He/she) heard the sound of music).

(ii) Being receptive to messages or signs of hope: *Nūmaūdaifeoma* (hear the sound of hope).

2. Understanding through auditory cues/comprehension through auditory means:

(i) *r O numaraifeozọ* (He/she understood something else).

(ii) Paying attention and understanding: *Nūmaopfu m* (hear/understand my words).

C. Tactile semantic field: *metụ* (touch)

1. Physical contact/direct physical contact

(i) *O meturū m eka* (He/she touched my hand).

(ii) Emotional impact/Emotional resonance: *Ofu e meturun'ehu* (His/her words touched my heart).

Theme 2: Pragmatic reference perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze.**A. Inference of intentionality**

(i) Visual perceptive (Hu): Huma ifeanyichoro se ihuma (see/understand what we intend). This suggests perceiving or understanding the intentions behind actions or words.

B. Auditory perception (Nu): Hear

(i) O numaziriopfu e (He/she heard/understood his/her words well). In this context, 'Nu' implies intentionality in listening or comprehension.

(ii) Numaife o n'opfu (Hear/understand what he/she intends to communicate). This suggests paying attention to and grasping the intended meaning.

C. Tactile perception (metu)

(i) Ometuru eka kpataramgbanwe (He/she touched him/her in a way that caused a change). In this context, metu implies causality in physical contact leading to an effect.

D. Inference of Emotional State

(i) Visual perception (Hu): O humara ne o enweobuuchoro (He/she saw/understood that he/she was happy). In this context; 'hu' implies perceiving or understandings someone's emotionally state visually.

(ii) Humaenya mini e (See/understand his/her tears). This suggests understanding emotional distress or sadness through visual cues.

E. Auditory perception (Nu)

(i) O numaramkpuobuuchoro e (she heard his/her joyful shout). In this context, 'nu' implies understanding someone's emotional state through auditory means.

(ii) Numaolileenyan'opfu e (Hear/understand the hope in his/her voice). This suggests perceiving emotional states like hope or despair through sound or tone.

F. Tactile perception (metu)

(i) O meturu e eka n'obuoma (He/she touched him/her, with a warm heart). Here, 'metu' implies conveying or perceiving an emotional state through touch.

(ii) metu e eka n'achoro (touch with a smiling hand). This could imply a positive emotional state being conveyed through physical contact.

Theme 3: Contextualization of Perceptive Verbs in Onicha Igboeze Community.**A. Contextualization of social status**

(i) Nwoke e humaransogbu e (The man saw/understood the problem). Here, 'hu' conveys the man's authority and insight).

(ii) Onye nkuzi e numaziriopfu e (The teacher heard/understood the speech). In this context, 'nu' highlights the teacher's role in listening and interpreting.

(iii) Dokinta e meturuonyeoria eka n'ehu (The doctor examined the patient). Here, 'metu' conveys the doctor's expertise and care.

B. Contextualization of Gender

(i) Nwanyị e humarauzojiinwetaife o choro (The woman saw/understood the way to get what she wanted). In this context, 'hu' lights the woman's resourcefulness.

(ii) Nwoke e numaraozioma (The man heard/understood the good news). Here, nu conveys the man's receptiveness to positive information.

(iii) Nne e meturunwata e eka oman'obu (The mother touched her child with a warm heart). In this context, 'metu' conveys the mother's nurturing and caring role.

C. Contextualization of Age

(i) Nwataehumaraevure vu (The child saw/understood the play or masquerade). Here 'hu' conveys the child's curiosity and wonder.

(ii) Nna e numaraakukoodinala (The father heard/understood the traditional story). In this context, 'nu' highlights the father's respect for tradition.

Onye ogirinya e meturu eka oman'nwata e (The elderly person touched/ the child with a warm heart). Here, 'metu' conveys the elderly person's wisdom, care, and nurturing role. Meanwhile, the examples illustrate how perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze community can be used to convey complex meanings and understandings, depending on the context of social status, gender, and age.

Therefore, the data analysis for this research work on pragma-semantic analysis of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo reveals that the semantic field of perceptive verbs encompasses meanings related to visual, auditory, and tactile perceptions. Pragmatic inference plays a crucial role in interpreting these verbs, with context and speaker's intention significantly influencing the meaning. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates how perceptive verbs are used in different contexts to convey meaning, and achieve communicative goals, highlighting the importance of contextualization in understanding their usage.

Summary of findings

The findings of this study show that perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo are not just simple descriptions of sensory experiences, but also imbued with complex social, cultural, and contextual meaning. The semantic analysis revealed that perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo have a range of meanings that go beyond their literal definitions. The verbs are used to infer meaning, make assumptions and negotiate social relationships as related to visual, auditory, and tactile perceptions. These verbs convey various concepts, including, seeing, hearing, and feeling.

The pragmatic analysis revealed that the interpretation of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect is influenced by context, speaker, intention, and pragmatic factors such as implicature and inference. The study demonstrated that these verbs are used in various contexts to convey meaning and achieve communicative goals, including description, narration, and expression of emotions. While the contextualization analysis revealed that perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo are influenced by social cultural, contextual factors, such as social status, gender, and age.

The study employed a qualitative research approach, utilizing a combination of linguistic analysis and pragma-semantic theory to examine the perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect. Data was collected from native speakers of the dialect and analyzed, using a pragma-semantic framework.

The key findings include:

- Semantic field: The semantic field of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect covers a range of perceptual meanings.
- Pragma-semantic inference: context and speaker intention significantly influence the interpretation of these verbs.
- Contextualization: Perceptive verbs are used in different contexts to convey meaning and achieve communicative goals.

This study contributes to the understanding of the pragma-semantics of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect, highlighting the importance of context and speaker intention in shaping the meaning of these verbs. These findings have implications for linguistic theory, language documentation, and language teaching, providing a foundation for further research on Igbo language pragma-semantic approach.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has demonstrated the complex multifaceted nature of perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. The findings of this study contribute to our understanding of the grammar, semantics, and pragmatics of Onicha Igboeze dialect of Igbo. The study highlights the importance of considering the social, a cultural, and contextual factors that influence language use, significance of context and speaker intention in shaping the meaning of perceptive verbs. By emphasizing the crucial role of context and speaker intention, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of the pragma-semantics of Igbo language. Therefore, the study also underscores the reality of considering context and speaker intention when interpreting perceptive verbs in Onicha Igboeze dialect.

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