Property Concepts in Ga

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Abstract

Property concept words (PCs) are lexical items in a language that play adjectival role. The paper examined the morphological and syntactic properties of three word classes in Ga, a Kwa language, of the Niger Congo branch. The paper established that though there are adjectives in Ga which commonly play the adjectival roles, nouns and verbs can also perform that function. Morphologically, most of the adjectives used as property concepts agreed with the head noun in number, with the exception of those adjectives whose sources were mainly from nouns and a few that are derived from verbs. Verbs that are employed to express property concepts were mainly stative and may not necessarily agree with the subject but always express a property of whatever noun is found in the subject position The paper postulates that two categories of nouns play this role in Ga syntactically. The first category precedes the head noun and the second occurs after the head noun. Syntactically, the attributive role of PCs is played by the three categories. Data analyzed were from students in University of Education, Winneba and native speakers. The Dixon Framework was applied in the paper

Keywords: adjectival, property concept word, epithet, predicative

1. Introduction

In language attributes are given to nouns or concepts. Sometimes more than one attribute is given as a quality to a noun in language. These lexical items that serve as attributes may come from any of the syntactic or word classes depending on the language under consideration. It is not a universal phenomenon that all these attributive items come from the same lexical class for all languages. These lexical items could be from verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. The adjective class is what is used mostly to express the property of a noun. It is also known that not all languages may have adjectives but do express a quality of a noun.

Though it has been asserted by Dixon (2004) that all languages have the adjective class, other word classes can be used to express quality of a noun in certain languages from the further studies done by Dixon. These words that are used to express adjectival meaning in languages are what Palancar (2006) refers to as Property Concept words. Property concept words are a word that name a property or quality of a noun and has two primary functions, attributive and predicative (Thompson 1988). These property concept words can be from any word class though most languages employ adjectives to express this concept. Languages without adjectives express property concept for a noun using other syntactic categories such as nouns, verbs, and adverbs. In this paper, a Property Concept word (PC) is a word used to refer to a quality or feature or property of an entity which is either playing the role of attribution and/ or predication adopted from Palancar (2006) and Thompson (1988).

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In this paper, attributive means the PC serves as a modifier for the head noun, either preceding or occurring after the head, whereas in predicative position the PC occurs as the complement of copula verbs. The paper explores the lexical categories used to express adjectival concepts in Ga and examine their morphological and syntactic properties. The data for this paper was obtained mostly from teachings of the students of Ga students in University of Education, Winneba in addition to my native intuition. The students had an average age of twenty –five years. The students consisted of twelve males and ten females. These are native speakers of Ga and have lived in Ga community throughout their life. Their period of study is four years but the data was gathered for all those who were in school during the year 2012/2013 academic year. It is worth noting that the data gathered from the students during teaching was used in my doctoral work for my thesis. It is part of this data that has been discussed in this paper. A content analysis was done with the data, taking into consideration the morphological and syntactic features discussed by Dixon (2004) in his work. The Dixon Framework examines properties of word classes morphologically and syntactically and places the words in such classes. He postulates these word classes may not be adjectives but may play the adjectival role but come different word classes.

2. Short notes on Ga

Ga is a Kwa language from the Niger Congo family which is spoken mainly in the Greater Accra Region. It is a two tone language and has no dialects except vocabulary differences among the communities. It has five nasal vowels and seven oral vowels. The language has forty four sounds and four syllable types are present. Codas do not exist in the language. It therefore has open syllables unlike English. It is one of the Ghanaian languages studied in schools. Basically the sentence structure is SVO order.

3. Property Concepts in some Languages

Linguistic scholars have investigated PC words in languages and stated their findings such as Helmbrecht (2004) explored Hocank and noted the PC words were from the adjective class but some verbs are also employed as well. In Magar, PC words were found to be basic borrowed adjectives as asserted by Grunow -Harsta (2011). In a language like Otomi where the adjective class is absent, Palancar (2006) from his investigation postulated that adjectival meanings are expressed through the use of verbs. In Japanese, Backhouse (1984, 2006) grouped PC words into inflected and uninflected words as he noted that they have different morphological behaviors. In Ghanaian languages, most linguistic scholars in examining adjectival concepts, apart from a few like Ansah (2013), focused on the adjective class (Atintono &Adjei 2008, Ameka 2003 Amfo et al 2007,Ansah 2005, Dorvlo 2009, 2010, Osam 1999, 2003,Pokua,Saah & Osam 2007, Otoo 2005, Pokua 2003) and concluded that there exist adjectives in the languages they examined namely Frafra, Logba, Ewe, Akan, Ga and Logba. They noted that these languages form their adjectives through varied sources as they do not have many basic adjectives. They derived adjectives through suffixation, reduplication and compounding among other processes. However, though these scholars examined the sources of these adjectives that were derived they did not delve into details how PCs that do not have adjective equivalent are expressed. They did, however, mention that verbs were sometimes used. Though, there are adjectives in Ga, an interview conducted revealed that other word classes are used in Ga to play the adjectival role. The paper therefore investigates into detail the lexical categories used in Ga to express PC in relation to the nouns. The discussion will proceed as follows: structure of the NP in Ga, sources of adjectives and PC words in Ga, then summary and conclusion.

4. Structure of the Ga Nominal Phrase

The Ga Nominal Phrase (NP) is headed by a noun/pronoun and can be preceded by three pre-modifiers and followed by six posts -modifiers after the head. (Dakubu 2000). It must be noted that not all these positions of the modifiers are filled so they are all optional. The three pre-head modifiers are Identifier (ID), Possessor (POS) and Epithet (EP). The post modifiers consist of Adjective (ADJ), Numeral (NUM), Determiner (DET), Definite article (DEF), Quantifier (QUAN) and Intensifier (INT). The head noun agrees semantically with the numeral, quantifier and morphologically with the adjective and determiner. The structure of the Ga NP can be summarized as follows:

(ID) (POS) (EP) H (ADJ) (NUM) (DET) (DEF) (QUAN) (INT)

An example is below

1) Nakai   Ayi   dade   saatso   fɛɛfɛo   kome   nɛ   (l)ɛ   too   hu
   That   Ayi   metal bed   beautiful one   that this only too
   'that only one Ayi beautiful metal bed'

The example in (1) shows all the slots in the NP filled but in most cases all these slots are not filled as the native speaker may fill a few slots normally a maximum of five.

5. Property Concept words in Ga

The range of linguistic devices used to express adjectival meaning in Ga includes adjectives, noun, verbs and some adverbs. Though I may say the membership of the deep level adjectives in Ga is not so few unlike other languages like Logba 1 (Dorvlo 2009), Ewe 5 (Ameka 2003), Tafi 3 (Bobuafor 2013), the other lexical categories are employed. The adjective class consists of deep level adjectives as well as derived adjectives. An adjective that are not derived and cannot be segmented to be meaningful is what is termed deep or basic adjectives (Dixon 2004). Now let us examine the adjective class and how they are used to express PCs.

5.1 Adjectives as Property concept words

This section discusses the use of adjectives as PCs in Ga. It first examines deep/basic adjectives then it will examine the adjectives derived from other lexical categories.

5.1.1 Deep Level Adjectives

As noted above the adjective occur immediately after the head noun in the Ga NP. The adjective is the only word in the NP that can be repeated or may be stacked. The adjectives in Ga can be grouped into deep level and derived adjectives. Some examples of deep level adjectives is in (2) and in (3a) and (3b) some are put into sentences.

2)   i)   wùlù 'huge'   v)   fɔ̀ŋ́ 'bad
        ii)   àgbò 'big'   vi)   bíbìóó ' small'
        iii)   hèè 'new'   vii)   kpìtíóó 'short'
        iv)   kàkàdáŋ́ŋ́ 'long'   viii) fɛ̀fɛ̀óó 'beautiful

        Singular:

        3a)   Akwele mà tsù **wùlù.**
               Akwele build house huge
               'Akwele built a huge house.'

        Plural:

        3b)   Akwele mà-mɔ̀ tsù-i **wù-jì.**
               Akwele build-ITR house-PL huge-PL[2]
               'Akwele built huge houses.'

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[2] The following abbreviations will be used in the paper. AG SUFF agentive suffix, DEF definite article,HAB habitual marker ITR iterative marker, NOM nominal PST past PERF perfect, PL plural, RED reduplicant, REL relativiser, SG singular, 1PL first person plural,1SG first person singular, 3SG third person singular,

Singular:

4a)   Ajele   jwà   tɔ̀   **hèè** kò.
         Ajele break.PST bottle new certain
         'Adjele broke a new bottle.'

Plural:

4b)   Adjele   jwàrà tɔ̀-ì   **hè-ì**   kòmè-ì
         Adjele break.PL bottle-PL new-PL certain-PL
         'Adjele broke some certain new bottles.'

In (2) above we see some deep level adjectives and in (3) and (4), some of these deep level adjectives as used in constructions. Morphologically, it is seen that the deep level adjective inflects for number through suffixation as in (3b) and (4b) to show agreement with the head noun, and also through reduplication as seen in (5). They can occur after the head noun and can be prefixed with e- to serve as head of the NP in syntactic construction as will be mentioned.

5)   E-hìɛ́ tòí   **wàmàà**.
         3SG-hold ear large.
         'He has a large ear.'

6)   E-hìɛ́ tòí-ì   **wàmà-wámàà.**
         3SG-hold ear-PL large-RED
         'He has large ears.'

In (5) the singular form of the noun *toi* 'ear' agrees with the adjective *wamaa* 'large' and in (6) the agreement is done through suffixation on the noun *toii* 'ears' but by the use of reduplication on the adjective *wàmàwámàà* 'large. Pl'. In (7) below, the adjective *tɔ̀trɔ̀ɔ̀* 'fat in subject position is serving as the head of the NP but is not prefixed with e- to nominalise it, unlike in (8) *ɛkpákpá* where it is prefixed with the e- which is also serving as head and in subject position. This shows that some of the deep level adjectives when nominalized do not occur with the e- prefix.

7)   **Tɔ̀trɔ̀ɔ̀** lɛ́   é -téè.
            Fat   DEF   PERF-go
         'The fat one is gone.'

8)   **É - kpákpá** lɛ́   fɛ́ɛ́   é- tà.
         NOM- good   DEF   all   PERF-finish.
         'All the good ones are finished.'

5.1.2. Derived Adjectives

This section now examines derived adjectives. As mentioned early on, varied sources are used to derive adjectives to add to the stock of membership amongst which are nouns, verbs and adverbs. In this paper, noun sources and verb sources are discussed.

5.1.2.1 Adjectives Derived From Nouns

Adjectives derived from nouns employ suffixation or reduplication or both processes. For example *nu* 'water' results in an adjective through suffixation and reduplication to be *nuinui* 'watery. A noun like *kotsa* 'sponge is reduplicated only to get the adjective form *kotsakotsa* 'spongy'. It must be noted that when these derived adjectives are used with plural nouns as well as singular ones they remain in the same forms with no overt morphological agreement on them. Could it be said that they are pluralized already, as in *nu* is suffixed with the plural marker before reduplicated or because most of them are mass nouns their forms do not change. This may be another whole paper to be written later.

The example in (9) shows the use of an adjective derived from a noun tɛ 'stone' which is suffixed with the plural suffix –i then reduplicated to become an adjective *teíteí* 'stony/rocky' in a construction. In (9) the noun *shìkpɔ́ŋ* 'land' is singular and in (10) the noun is plural *shìkpɔ́ji* 'lands' but the adjective occurs in the same form in both cases.

Singular:

9)   Wɔ̀-tsɔ́   shìkpɔ́ŋ   **teí-teí**   lé   nɔ̀.
        1PL-pass   land   rock-RED   DEF   on
        'We passed on a rocky land.'

Plural:

10)   Wɔ́ -tsɔ́   shìkpɔ́-jì   **teí-teí**   lé   a-nɔ̀.
        1-PL-pass   land -PL   rock-RED   DEF   on
        'We passed on rocky lands.'

These adjectives which are derived from nouns therefore do not inflect for number agreement morphologically but can be reduplicated to show intensity like *nuinuinuinui* 'very watery'

Syntactically, these adjective occur after the head noun and also play the attributive function. In predicative function they remain in the same forms. It must be noted that they occur as heads of NP as well. Below are some illustrations.

11)   a. È-shwè   kókó   **nùìnùì**   lé   pé.
           3SG-left   porridge   watery   DEF   only
           'It is left with the watery porridge only.'

The nominal use of adjective derived from a noun is employed in (11b)

11b).   Hèè   e-shwè   **nùìnùì**   lé   pé.
         Really   3SG-left   watery   DEF   only
         'Really it is left with only the watery one.'

In (11a) the adjective *nuinui* 'watery' occurs after the head noun *koko* 'porridge and plays the attributive role. In (11b) the adjective *nuinui* 'watery' has been nominalized but the prefix e- is not attached but the form remains the same and serves as the head of the NP.

In (12) and (13) below, the adjective derived from nouns **kpɔ́** 'knot' and *shia* 'sand' remain in the same forms in the predicative position. The nouns *kókó* 'porridge and *Òmɔ́* 'rice' in subjects position are mass nouns.

12)   Bàŋkú   lɛ   ́yɛ̀   **kpɔíkpɔí.**
        Banku   DEF   be   lumpy
        'The banku has a lot of lumps in it.'

13)   Òmɔ́   lé   yɛ   ̀   **shíáshíáí**.
        Rice   DEF   be   sandy
        'The rice has some sand in it.'

Apart from PC words playing the attributive and or predicative roles, another function also is that they occur in comparative constructions. This is exemplified in (14) where the derived adjective *ŋòòŋòò*   'salty' occurs in the construction in the same form.

14)   Wónù ǃlɛ   ´ yɛ̀ ` **ŋòò-ŋòò**   fè   wónù   fɛ́ɛ   ´ ní mì -yé.
      Soup DEF   be   salt-RED   surpass   soup   all   REL 1SG-ate
      'This soup is the most salty of all soup that I have eaten.'

Sometimes though the same forms of the adjective can occur in the same forms, verbal equivalents can be employed when available, to be used in a comparative construction as in (16). The adjective in (15) have a verbal equivalent which is an inherent complement verb ***fi kpɔ́*** 'tie knot' and this is what is used in the example (16). It must be noted that from interviews conducted among natives, the verbal equivalents where available, are more preferred than the adjectives derived from the nouns.

15)   Bàǹkú nɛ́ɛ̀ yɛ̀ **kpɔ́íkpɔ́í**   fè   nyɛ̀   bàǹkú   lɛ́
      Banku this be lumpy   surpass   yesterday banku   DEF.
      'This banku has more lumps than yesterday's banku.'

16)   Bàǹkú nɛ̀   lɛ́   **é -fi**   **kpɔ́**   fè   nyɛ̀   bàǹkú.
      Banku   DET DEF   PERF-tie   knot   surpass   yesterday   banku
      'This banku has more lumps in it than yesterday's banku.'

5.1.2.2 Adjectives Derived from Verbs

In Ga the process of deriving adjectives from verbs are of two ways. There are adjectives that are derived through suffixation. The verbs are suffixed with varied allomorphs as exemplified below.

17)   **Verb**   **Affix**   **Adjective**

      i)   gbí   'to dry'   -ŋ   gbíŋ   'dry'
      ii)   dí   'to blacken'   -ŋ   díŋ   'black'
      iii)   yɛ́ 'to whiten'   -ŋ   yɛŋ   'white'
      iv)   shà   'to rot'   -ra   shàrà   'rotten'
      v)   tsù   'to redden'   -ru   tsùrù.   'red'
      vi)   lɛ̀ɛ́ 'to widen'   kɛtɛɛ   lɛ̀kɛtɛɛ̀   'wide'
      vii)   kpɔ̀tɔ́ 'to rot'   -i   kpɔ̀tɔ́í   'rotten'
      viii)   kpɔfu 'to maltreat'   -u   kpɔ̀fùù   'bloated'

The other process involves suffixation and reduplication of the verbs to derive the adjectives. However it must be noted that most of these adjectives are suffixed and then reduplicated, there are a few that is only reduplicated without suffixation. The reduplication is normally total. This is illustrated in example (18) below.

18)   **Verb**   **Adjective**
      i)   nyáŋe 'to be disgusting'   nyáŋèmɔ̀nyáŋèmɔ̀   'disgusting'
      ii) kwɔ̀   'to be deep'   kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ   'deep'
      iii) bóda   'to bend'   bódàìbódàì   'crooked'
      iv) gbá   'to tear'   gbálàìgbálàì   'torn'
      v)   tsírɛ 'to tear '   tsírɛitsìrɛ̀i   'tattered'
      vi) kplɔ̀   'to scrape'   kplɔ̀ìkplɔ̀ì   'untidy'
      vi) sòrò   'to differ'   sòròsòrò   'different'
      vii) nyáfí 'to despise'   nyáfínyáfí   'fretful'
      viii) fítsírí 'pry into'   fítsírífítsírí   ' inquisitive'
      ix) kótó   'bend over   kótókótó   'old and bent'

From the examples in (18) it is observed that in (18i-ii) the verbs are suffixed, then reduplicated and in (18iv) and (18v) the verbs are first suffixed with –la/rɛ, a distributive iterative marker, then it is reduplicated and then suffixed again with –i to obtain the adjective. On the other hand, the examples in (18vii –ix) are simply reduplicated to derive the adjective forms.

Morphologically the adjectives that are derive through suffixation only do inflect for number with the nouns they occur with. They can also be reduplicated to show intensity. Some of those derived only through suffixation process may occur with the e- prefix whiles others may not. This is exemplified below in (19).

19)   E –tsé   àtáde   **tsúrú**   lɛ́.
          3SG-tear dress red   DEF
          'He tore the red dress.'

20)   E-tsé   àtádè-ì   **tsú-ji**   lɛ́.
          3SG-tear   dress-PL red-PL DEF
          'He tore the red dresses.'

In example (19) the noun *atade* 'dress' is singular and the adjective *tsuru* 'red' used is also singular but in (20) the adjective *tsuji'* red. PL' inflects to show number agreement with head noun *atadei* 'dresses'. On the other hand, those adjectives derived from verb sources through the process of suffixation and reduplication do not normally inflect to show number agreement with the head noun. Examine example (21) and (22).

21)   **Bú   kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ** yɛ̀ gbɛ̀ lɛ́ nɔ́.
          Hole deep-RED   be   road DEF on
          'There is a deep hole on the road.'

22)   **Bú -i   kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ** yɛ̀ gbɛ̀ lɛ́   nɔ́.
          Hole-PL deep-RED be road DEF on
          'There are deep holes on the road.'

In the illustration in (21), the noun *bu* 'hole' is in the singular form and the form of the adjective is *kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ* 'deep'. The form of the adjective *kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ* 'deep' remains in the same form when the noun *bui* 'holes' is plural as in (22)

Nominal form of adjective employed in a sentence below:

23)   **Nyáfínyáfí   lɛ́**   e - hò   ékóŋ́ŋ́.
          Fretful-RED   DEF PERF-pass again
          'The fretful one has passed again.'

In example (23) above the adjective derived through only total reduplication *nyáfínyáfí* 'fretful' serves as the head of the NP which is found in subject position. The adjective occurs in the same form with no prefix attached to it as compared those that are derived through suffixation. In (24) and (25) below adjectives derived through the process of suffixation have been employed in the sentences in predicative function

24)   Lòò lɛ́   yɛ̀   **é-gbíŋ**
          Fish DEF   be   NOM-dry.
          'The fish is dry.'

25)   Mámà   lɛ́   yɛ̀   **é -tsùrù**.
          Cloth   DEF   be   NOM-red
          'The cloth is red.'

The adjectives *gbíŋ* 'dry' *and tsùrù* 'red' in predicative function are prefixed with e-, this prefix occurs mostly with adjectives derived from verbs through suffixation whereas adjectives derived through suffixation and total reduplication do not exhibit this trait as observed in (26).

26)   Bú   lɛ́   yɛ̀   **kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ.**
         Pit DEF be   deep.
         'The pit/hole is deep.'

The adjective *kwɔ̀ŋkwɔ̀ŋ* 'deep' in predicative position remains in the same form and has no e- prefix attached as in (26). It is worth mentioning that, though, speakers can use these adjective predicatively, some prefer to use the verbs from which these adjectives are derived from in sentences. This is illustrated below.

27)   Lòò   lɛ́   é - **gbí**
         Fish DEF   PERF-dry
         'The fish is dry.'

The verb *gbi* to be dry' from which the adjective *gbiŋ* 'dry' is derived from is not employed in (27) but the verb is preferred. This verb usage occurs also with adjectives derived from verbs in comparative constructions as well. The verb is used in (28) instead of the adjective form in most instances.

28)   Yòómó   lɛ́   àméò   lɛ́   **e-kpɔ́tɔ́**   fè   yòó   lɛ́   àméò
         Old lady DEF tomatoes DEF PERF-rot surpass woman DEF ameo.
         'The old lady's tomatoes are more rotten than the woman's tomatoes.'

In (28) above the verb form *kpɔtɔ* 'to rot' from which the adjective *kpɔtɔi* 'rotten' is derived has been employed in comparative construction. The adjective form can also be employed to show comparison though speakers prefer the verb form if present.

5.2 Nouns as Property Concept words

Nouns that are used as PCs are of two types, those that precede the head noun (epithet) and those that occur after the head noun (nominal adjectives). The nominal adjectives used are mostly derived from nouns or ICVs whereas the epithets are mainly nouns that modify the head. The epithet usage is exemplified in (29) and the nominal type is exemplified in (30).

29)   **Rɔba**   goga **diŋ.**
         Rubber bucket black
         'A black rubber bucket'.

30)   Nuu **ohia -fo**   lɛ   ba   ŋmɛnɛ.
         Man poor –AG SUF DEF come today
         'The poor man came today.'

In example (29) the epithet is *rɔba* 'rubber/plastic' and in example (30) the nominal adjective is *ohiafo* 'poor person'. The epithet does not inflect to show number agreement as in (31) but the nominal adjective does inflect to show number agreement with the head noun as illustrated in (32).

31)   **Rɔba**   goga-i   **di-ji.**
         Rubber bucket-PL black-PL
          'Black rubber buckets'

32)   Hii   **ohia -fo-i**   lɛ   ba   ŋmɛnɛ
         Man.PL poor -person –PL DEF come today
         'The poor men came today.'

In (31) the epithet has no morphological marking to show number agreement whereas in (32) the nominal adjective 'ohiafo' is suffixed with the –i to show number agreement with the head noun, *hii* 'men'.

Syntactically the epithet plays the attributive role only and cannot be nominalized nor reduplicated. It is noted that the nominal adjective plays the attributive function syntactically but has no predicative function. In predicative function the nominal adjective changes its form. In (33) the nominal adjective *ohiafo* 'poor person serves as the head of the NP.

33**)**   **Ohiafo**   **fɔŋ** lɛ   tee   akrowa lɛ.
         Poor person bad DEF went village DEF
         'The bad poor person went to the village'.

In (33) above whiles the head of the NP is a nominal adjective it can be modified by another PC word and in this instance in (33) it is the adjective *fɔŋ* 'bad'

5.3 Verbs as Property Concept Words

Some verbs in Ga also denote adjectival meanings. These verbs are mostly stative verbs such as *kwa* 'to fade, *hi* 'be good' *joo* 'be bitter' and *ti*' to be thick'. Morphologically, these verbs take inflectional and derivational affixes just like non-PC verbs, they show number agreement with subject and object and are mostly intransitive. For instance the -*lɛ* suffix can be attached to the verb *hi* 'be good' to become a noun *hilɛ* 'goodness' or the -*mɔ* suffixed to *ti* to derive *timɔ* 'thickness'. However, most of PC verbs do not have imperative forms but can be nominalized in most cases. In (34) below a PC verb *da* 'to be big' is used in the construction and has been inflected to show the perfect just like a non-PC verb *ŋmɔ* 'to laugh' which also takes the perfect prefix e-.

34)   Yoo   lɛ   e-**da**   /e-ŋmɔ
         Woman DEF PERF- be big/PERF-laugh
         'The woman has become big'/ has laughed.

PC verbs, syntactically, occur as heads of the VP and can be in the predicate but not function attributively. In example (34) it is observed that that the VP is headed by *da* 'be big and in example (35) the head of the VP is *tsu* 'be red'. Some of the verbs have corresponding adjectives whereas other do not. In example (35) and (36) the verb *tsu* 'to be be red' has a corresponding adjective *tsuru* 'red' respectively. Some PC verbs with their corresponding adjectives is below

Table 1: Verbs with corresponding adjectives

Verb		English	Adjective	English
Tsù		to be red	tsùrù	Red
Yɛ́		to be white	yɛ́ŋ	White
Dí		to be black	diŋ	Black
Dà		to grow big	àgbò	Big
dɔ́		to be hot	klakla	Hot
jɔ̀		to be cold	ŋánìì	Cold

The corresponding adjective of the verb in (35a) is found in (35b).

35)   Mámá lɛ   **tsù**- ɔ
         Cloth-DEF to be red-HAB
         'The cloth is red.'

36)   Mámá   **tsùrù** lɛ nɛ.
         cloth red DEF that
         'That is the red cloth.'

In (35) the verb expressing adjectival meaning is suffixed with the habitual marker. Most verbs that do not have corresponding adjectives can be employed attributively only when they occur in relative clauses as in (37)

37)   Atade ni e-**kwa**   nɛ.
        Dress REL PERF-be fade DEM
        'That is a faded dress'.

In (37) above the verb *kwa* 'to fade' which is denoting the adjectival meaning is employed in a relative clause, the relative clause is introduced by the relativiser *ni* followed by the verb *kwa.* The verb is prefixed with the perfect prefix e- just like a non –PC verbs.

6. Summary

Adjectives, nouns and verbs can be employed as PC words in Ga. The adjective class consisted of both derived and non-derived ones. Suffixation and /or reduplication are the processes used in adding to the stock of the already existing deep level adjectives in Ga. Morphologically, PC words from the adjective class agree with the head nouns most often through affixation or reduplication with the exception of those whose sources are derived from nouns. PC nouns are of two types; epithet and nominal adjectives. The epithet precedes the head noun whereas the nominal adjective occurs after it. Most of the nominal adjectives are derived from Inherent Complement Verbs to occur with the NP. The epithet does not show any agreement with the head noun and it is not reduplicated in any form whereas nominal adjectives show number agreement with the head noun and they are not reduplicated. Verbs employed as PCs were mostly stative verbs and some were change of state ones. PC verbs take both inflectional and derivation affixes like other verbs to show tense or agreement but normally do not appear in the imperative forms. Both non-PC verbs and PC verbs can be nominalized through suffixation.

Syntactically adjectives used as PCs occur in attributive function as well as PC nouns. PC verbs may be used attributively only when available corresponding adjectives are present otherwise they appear in relative clauses to perform the attributive role. PC verbs also occur as heads of VPs and most often have no complements therefore being the sole element in the VP. In terms of predicative function some adjectives remain in the same forms whiles others are prefixed with e- which turns them into nominal. PC nouns mostly do not occur predicatively. PC nouns (nominal adjectives) and adjectives occur as heads of NPs.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, PC words in Ga can be from the adjective, noun, or verb classes. For any of these to inflect to show number agreement with the head noun, the lexical category and the source of the PC word must be examined. All these PC words play attributive role mostly in the same forms but may change or remain the same when used predictively. In their attributive use they all occur after the head noun except the epithet which precedes the noun. In terms of predicative use, the source of the PC word must first be investigated.   The paper has shown that adjectives or words expressing adjectival meanings may vary from language to language as some may not use the same lexical category to denote an adjectival meaning. It is therefore vital for one not to generalize that a particular word which is an adjective is so in all languages. This confirms that a concept in a language may relate to different lexical categories in different languages (Dixon 2004).

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