THE REALIZATION OF INTERROGATIVES
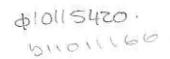
IN ZULU

BY

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THE REALIZATION OF INTERROGATIVES IN ZULU

BY

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MINI-DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF ARTS

IN

AFRICAN LANGUAGES

IN THE

FACULTY OF ARTS

AT

VISTA UNIVERSITY

SUPERVISOR: PROF. L.C. POSTHUMUS

CO-SUPERVISOR: PROF. R.S. CHAPHOLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to:

Prof. L.C. Posthumus, my supervisor, for his positive and goal-directed guidance throughout the years. His remarkable insight into the Zulu language and constructive comments are highly appreciated.

My colleague Mr. T.S. Mvubu, who was always available for consultation on his mother-tongue and whose comments and interpretation were of great assistance during the course of this research.

Mrs. M. T. Nkosi, who spent her valuable time typing the first draft of this dissertation.

My late parents Emely and Phillip, for their unstinting support and words of encouragement.

My wife, Florah and children, for the moral support and understanding.

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this research is fourfold, namely to identify the different types of interrogative sentences used in Zulu; to describe the syntactic-semantic features of interrogative sentences; to point at the semantic interpretation which might be attached to specific syntactic interrogative sentences and to establish the pragmatic use of interrogative sentences. In the course of this study it became evident that the interpretation of interrogative sentences is bound to the pragmatic discourse context. For this reason it is concluded that the discourse context plays an indispensable role in the interpretation of interrogative particles and/or sentences. The following are the main findings:

TYPES OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

The type of interrogative sentences identified are: the yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question type, the 'phi/ni' questions, wh- questions, rhetoric questions, multiple wh-questions and assertive questions. It is concluded that the question tags do not exist in Zulu.

NARROW FOCUSING OF YES/NO 'YEBO/QHA' ANSWER QUESTION TYPES

The copulative prefix ng(i)-/y(i)- is prefixed to the nominal lexical item, or a low tone is inflected on the pre-prefix of the subject noun when it is focused. The object noun may be focused through the use of the emphatic determiner. Predicatives may be focused through infixation of the present tense morpheme -ya-. When locatives/nouns are focused, emphatic determiners are used.

PREPOSING AND POSTPONEMENT OF INTERROGATIVE PARTICLES

The interrogative particle is preposed when the subject noun is questioned while for the questioning of the object noun, postponement is used. When an emotive semantic moment of insistence is conveyed the subject and object may be focused through postponement and preposing respectively.

THE INTERPRETATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

Interpretation of interrogative sentences is complicated by factors such as: mood, modality, the connotative and denotative of lexical items, the type of interrogatives sentences used and the pragmatic discourse context under which such questions are used.

SEMANTIC SHIFT OF CERTAIN LINGUISTIC UNITS DUE TO DISCOURSE CONTEXT

Certain interrogative units undergo a semantic shift as a result of the discourse context in which they are uttered. Such shifts may reveal an erstwhile existence of such a meaning, for example, ulalelani? 'what are you listening at?' acquires the meaning 'why are you sleeping?'.

SAMEVATTING

Die doel van hierdie verhandeling is viervoudig, naamlik om die verskillende tipes vraagsinne wat in Zulu gebruik word om vrae te stel, te identifiseer, om die sintaktiese en semantiese kenmerke van vraagsinne te identifiseer, om die semantiese interpretasie wat aan spesifieke interrogatiewe sinne geheg kan word aan die lig te bring en laastens om die pragmatiese gebruik van vraagsinne te bepaal. Met verloop van hierdie navorsing het dit spoedig geblyk dat die interpretasie van vraagsinne nou verbonde is aan die pragmatiese diskoerskonteks. Om hierdie rede speel die diskoerskonteks 'n onontbeerlike rol in die interpretasie van vraagpartikels en/of vraagsinne. Die volgende is die belangrikste bevindinge:

TIPES INTERROGATIEWE SINNE

Die tipe interrogatiewe sinne wat geïdentifiseer is, is die ja/nee 'yebo/qha' antwoord tipes; die 'phi/ni' vrae; 'w-' vrae; die veelvoudige 'w-' vrae en versekerde vraagtipe. Vraagmerkers kom nooit in Zulu voor nie.

NOUE FOKALISERING VAN JA/NEE 'YEBO.QHA' ANTWOORDVRAAGTIPES

Die kopulatiewe prefiks ng(i)-/y(i)- word geprefigeer by nominale leksikale items, of 'n lae toon word geïnflekteer op die prefiks wanneer die onderwerp gefokaliseer is. Die objek naamwoord word gefokaliseer deur objek voorplasing of die gebruik van emfatiese bepalers. Predikate word gefokaliseer deur middel van die infigering van die teenwoordige tydsmorfeem -ya-. Wanneer lokatiewe beklemtoon word, word die emfatiese bepalers gebruik.

VOORPLASING EN NAPLASING VAN INTERROGATIEWE PARTIKELS

Interrogatiewe partikels word voorgeplaas wanneer die onderwerpsnaamwoord bevraag word, terwyl vir emfase van die voorwerpsnaamwoord, naplasing gebruik word. Wanneer die emotiewe semantiese betekenismoment van herhaling aangetoon word, word die onderwerp en voorwerp beklemtoon deur naplasing en voorplasing van die vraagpartikels respektiewelik.

INTERPRETASIE VAN INTERROGATIEWE SINNE

Die interpretasie van interrogatiewe sinne word bemoeilik deur faktore soos: modus, modaliteit, konotatiewe en detonotatiewe betekenis van leksikale items, die tipe interrogatiewe sinne wat gebruik word en die pragmatiese diskoerskonteks waarin sulke vrae voorkom.

SEMANTIESE VERSKUIWING VAN SEKERE TAALELEMENTE AS GEVOLG VAN DISKOERSKONTEKS

Sekere interrogatiewe elemente ondergaan 'n semantiese verskuiwing as gevolg van die diskoerskonteks waarin hulle optree. Sulke verskuiwings vergestalt soms die oorspronklike betekenisse byvoorbeeld, ulalelani? 'waarvan luister u?' verkry die betekenis 'waarom slaap u?'.

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CHAPTER 1

RESEARCH PROBLEM AND RESEARCH DESIGN

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Lyons as quoted by Palmer (1986:23) argues that:

> "there are three basic sentence types to be found in languages:
> 'declarative', 'interrogatives' and 'imperatives'."

This study is concerned with the second type of sentences, namely interrogatives. The focus of this research is specifically on: The realization of interrogatives in Zulu. This mini-dissertation comprises of five chapters where each chapter deals with various aspects of interrogatives. In terms of meaning these chapters are interdependent since meaning is realised within syntax. The discourse context necessitates specific type(s) of question(s) and finally the syntactic-semantic features are realised within a recognisable language typology.

1.2 THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

On the whole, the purpose of this study is fourfold, namely: to identify the different types of interrogative sentences found in Zulu; to describe the syntactic-semantic features of these interrogative sentences; to point out the semantic interpretation which might be attached to specific syntactic interrogative sentences; and finally to establish the pragmatic use of interrogatives.

1.2.1 DIFFERENT TYPES OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

The different types of interrogative sentences identified are:

1.2.1.1 Interrogative sentences which require a yes/no 'yebo/qha' response. These interrogative sentences are realised by means of voice inflection, the inclusion of the insistent interrogative particle na? or a declaration followed by a yes/no 'yebo/qha' tag.

1.2.1.2 The -phi/-ni questions which are generally known as Wh-questions in English linguistic circles.

1.2.1.3 the assertive questions which require the addressee to confirm the speaker's view point over the subject under discussion.

1.2.1.4 Rhetoric questions which are confirmatory in nature, since the answer is already known by both speaker and addressee.

1.2.1.5 Multiple Wh-questions. These question types are heavily bound to the discourse context.

1.2.1.6 The 'fill-in-the-blank' question type.

1.2.1.7 Various strategies used as questions, for example the less direct means and the question tags. (These types of interrogative sentences are not found in Zulu)

1.2.2 THE SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

Interrogative particles may take up different positions within interrogative sentences.

1.2.2.1 THE PRE-VERBAL POSITION

The interrogative particle may appear in the pre-verbal position only when:

(i) The subject of the declarative sentence is questioned, the predicate of the interrogative sentence obligatorily takes a relative agreement morpheme of the antecedent subject noun, e.g.:

1 (a) Declarative: Ubaba ubiza umama.
'Father calls mother.'

1 (b) Question: Ubani obiza umama?
'Who calls mother?/Who is calling mother?'

(ii) the passivised interrogative sentence is used to question the object of the declarative sentence in question. In such a syntactic usage, it is a mechanism to convey an emotive semantic moment of emphasis/insistence. The verb of the interrogative sentence takes the passive infix -iw-/-w-. For example:

2 (a) Declarative: Ubaba udla inyama.
'Father eats meat'.

Question: Yini edliwa ngababa?
'What is eaten by father?'

2(b) Declerative: Ubaba abhala iculo
'Father writes a song.'

Question: Yini ebhalwa ngubaba?
'What is written by father?'

1.2.2.2. THE POST-VERBAL POSITION

The interrogative particle may appear in the post-verbal position when:

(i) the object of the declarative sentence is questioned. The verb obligatorily takes the indicative agreement morpheme.

For example:

3(a) Declarative: Ubaba udla inyama.

'Father eats meat.'

(b) Question: Ubaba udlani/udla ini?

'What does father eat?'

(ii) the subject of the declarative sentence is questioned insistently. In such a case the verb of the interrogative sentence obligatory takes a passive infix -iw-/-w- and the interrogative word appears in a copulative form, for example:

4(a) Declerative: Umandla ushaya uLindi

'Mandla beats Lindi.'

(b) Question: Ulindi ushaywa (ng) ubani?

'"Lindi is beaten by whom?'

1.2.3 SEMANTIC INTERPRETATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

The interpretation of interrogative sentences is bound to the discourse context under which such a question is asked. To interpret the question in 5 below for example, it is required that the addressee be in the speech context:

5. Ulalelani?

'What are you listening at?'

or

Ulalelani?

'Why are you sleeping?'

1.2.4 TYPE OF STUDY

This study is by nature descriptive, basic and applied. It is geared to:

i. describe the syntactic behaviour of interrogative particles so as to provide a competence to mother tongue speakers and performance ability to non-mother tongue speakers.

ii.   provide a basis for future research on interrogatives in Zulu.

iii.   provide valid examples on how interrogatives may be realised in order to
       utilise them effectively to elicit the desired information.

1.3 CONSEPTUALIZATION

The following concepts will be used throughout this research report:

1.3.1 TYPOLOGY

Palmer (1986 : 2) identifies two steps which a typological study must be
involved with.

> 'Firstly, the identification of some grammatical categories
> in different languages and secondly, the identification of
> these categories as being the same across languages.'

Palmer gives a description of what typology is. He says (1986 : 3):

> 'the ultimate definition of a typological category is, then, in terms of
> meaning, though it may not always be possible to give a precise definition.'

1.3.2 DECLARATIVES

Declaratives are what is generally known as 'statements'. Statements can be
true or false impressions, hence the use of the term declarative, which
Palmer (1986 : 26) describes as follows:

> 'It is undoubtedly the case that most, perhaps all languages have a clear way of
> indicating that **the speaker is making a statement that he believes to be true**.'
>
> (emphasize by NFM)

1.3.3 DETERMINERS

This is a contemporary linguistic term for what Doke (1973) called
'pronouns' in African languages. Lyons (1977 : 452) identifies pronouns
within what he calls determiners and says:

> 'Determiners is currently used by linguists to label a class of words which
> includes the definite and indefinite articles, the demonstrative adjectives
> and a variety of other words that have much the same distribution as a

definite article in sentence of English and certain other languages.'

1.3.4 EMPHASIS

Within the determiners, emphasis occur when such determiners appear in pre-nominal position. Palmer (1986 : 92) says regarding emphasis:

'In a similar way, emphatic affirmation may be treated
either as a matter of discourse or a kind of strong epistemic
modality expressing complete confidence in, or knowledge
of, what is being said.'

1.3.5 MOOD

Mood is a verbal category which Taljaard et al. (1991 : 189) defines as:

'a means of intimating (i.e giving a hint of) the speaker's
view or conception of the relation of the process
(or action or state) expressed by the verb to reality.'

The following distinctions can be made emanating from the definition:

- the speaker makes an indication of the attitude he takes up when saying something through the use of verbs.
- the truth is weighed against reality and this necessitates the use of a particular mood, for example if the speaker what he says, he regards it as reality, the verb in the indicative mood is used.

1.3.6 MODALITY

Modality according to Louwrens (1991 : 33) is a much more abstract concept, which should not be associated with verbal morphology. The modality of an utterance reflects indefinable illusive attitude of the speaker. He further adds on that notions, such as necessity, possibility and impossibility are central. Included under modality are:

a) Epistemic modalities i.e. those that signal the degree of commitment the speaker has to the truth of the proposition ranging from certainty to probability to possibility.

b) Deontic modalities concerned with the necessity or possibility of acts performed by responsible agents.

Louwrens (1991 :34) over-simplifies the relationship between epistemic and deontic modality as being concerned with the utterance of declarative statements and giving commands to be duly performed by responsible agent/s respectively.

1.4 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

For this study on: The realization of interrogatives in Zulu, discussions were firstly considered after investigating different sources on interrogativity, views of grammarians were consulted extracting syntactic and semantic structure similar to those found in Zulu.

Examples relating to interrogativety were collected from Zulu literature texts: *UKUFA KUKASHAKA* (The death of King Shaka) by Elliot Zondi and *NEGENZENI* (What have I done?/What must I do?) by L.J.J. Mncwango. Examples collected were presented to mother-tongue speakers for interpretation. Such interpretations were considered from the background of their unique discourse factors, which have a bearing on the realization of interrogatives in Zulu.

In instances where examples could not be found in Zulu literature, examples were taken from discourse. Those examples selected, were presented to mother-tongue speakers who commented on the grammaticality and possibility of such examples in Zulu interrogative inventory.

Some interrogative structures were singled out from conversation with mother-tongue speakers and analysed against the background of authoritative theoretical views.

The rest of this study consists of four chapters which deal with:

i. The different interrogative sentences found in Zulu, with the denotative and connotative meaning attached.
ii. The syntactic-semantic features of the interrogatives
iii. The semantic interpretation of interrogatives, and
iv. Pragmatic use of interrogatives.

CHAPTER 2

THE DIFFERENT INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Interrogativity represents a fundamental property of the human mind. Only human beings appear to understand such networks of linguistic relationships. Non-human creatures can seek information, but generally as it is known, they are unable to do so by means and use of language. The interpretation of any interrogative proposition is complicated by among other factors; the type of question, mood, modality, the denotative and connotative meaning and the pragmatic context under which such a proposition occurs. These factors are discussed below, they are mutually inclusive for any semantic realisation.

2.2 THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF QUESTIONS FOUND IN ZULU

The following different types of questions are found in Zulu:

2.2.1 THE YES/NO 'YEBO/QHA' ANSWER QUESTION TYPE

Idealised yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question types in Zulu signify that the speaker is merely asking for factual information, which would be responded to positively or negatively with a yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer. There are three possibilities offered to pose these types of questions, namely:

Firstly, this category of question does not require any interrogative particle, since voice inflection marks their nature clearly by posing a paraphonological tone towards the contour; for example:

1 (a) Declarative: Manje seniyakholwa.

'Now you believe'

1 (b) Question: Manje seniyakholwa?

'Do you now believe?'

A second strategy offered, is that of including the interrogative particle <u>na</u>?
Which does not imply that a negative answer is expected, for example:

2(a) Declarative: Ukhetho lwaseNingizimu Afrika lwalungo-April 1994?

'The South African elections were in April 1994?'

2(b) Question: Ukhetho lwase Ningizimu Afrika lwalungo-April 1994?

'Were the South African elections in April 1994?'

A third strategy is that of using a declarative followed by a yes/no 'yebo/qha'
tag, which is often referred to as a confirmatory tag, which according to
Chisholm (1984 : 134) is more of cognitive import, consider:

3. Umhlambanyathi ugola izintethe, yebo noma qha?

'The Buffalo Spruit River is in flood, yes or no?'

The different strategies for posing yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question types
trigger a question as to which lexical item under the scope of the yes/no
'yebo/qha' answer question proposition is focused (topicalised) to be
responded to by a yes/no 'yebo/qha'. This problem receives attention below.

2.2.1.1 NARROW FOCUS OF YES/NO 'YEBO/QHA' ANSWER QUESTION TYPE

Suppose a speaker puts a proposition containing a subject, predicate,
object and adverb, under the scope of yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer
question type. The speaker is presumed to be in doubt as to whether
the proposition is true or false. Under such doubt the speaker may be
probably holding a certain biased attitude favouring the affirmative,

as illustrated by the example below:

> 4. Akazukufika uMandla esikoleni kusasa?
> 'Won't Mandla come to school tomorrow?'

When the bias attitude is favouring the negative, the predicate appears in the positive, for example:

> 5. Uzofika uMandla esikoleni kusasa?
> 'Will Mandla come to school tomorrow?

Examples 4 and 5 invalidates Chisholm's (1984 : 220) logical claim, suggesting that yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question types are most commonly not neutral i.e. they contain the speaker's attitude and cannot be represented by the formula:

Given proposition P. tell me whether it is true or false.

Consider the following declarative sentence with its yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question counterpart (where D stands for declarative and Q. for question).

> 6(a) D. Umphemba ufundisa isiZulu e-Unisa.
> (Mphemba (subj.) teaches (pred.) Zulu (object)
> at (prep.) Unisa (loc.))
> 'Mphemba teaches Zulu at Unisa.'

> 6(b) Q. Umphemba ufundisa isiZulu e-Unisa?
> 'Does Mphemba teach Zulu at Unisa?'

The above question in 6(b) contains some ambiguity as to which lexical item is to be responded to with a yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer, hence narrowing the focused lexical item in Zulu is brought about by: prefixation, preposing and infixation.

A. PREFIXATION

When a subject is focused, it may be emphasized by prefixing the identificative copulative prefix ng-, when its prefix is: a-, o-, or u-. Alternatively the subject may be emphasized by a low tone on the prefix, as illustrated by the examples below:

   7 (a) NguMphemba ofundisa isiZulu e-Unisa?
          'Is it Mphemba who teaches Zulu at Unisa?'

   7(b) Umphemba ofundisa isiZulu e-Unisa?
         'Is it Mphemba who teaches Zulu at Unisa?'

When the subject noun has i- as pre-prefix, the identificative copulative prefix y-(i) is prefixed or alternatively a low tone on the pre-prefix i- is inflected:

          8(a) Yingane efike izolo?
                'Is it he child who arrived yesterday?'

          8(b) Ingane efike izolo?
                'Is it the child who arrived yesterday?'

B PREPOSING

The object noun phrase or locative may be preposed when they are questioned. They are usually preceded by an emphatic determiner, compare:

          9(a) Sona isiZulu uyasifundisa uMphemba e-Unisa?
                'Does Mphemba teach Zulu at Unisa?'

          9(b) Khona e-Unisa uMphemba uyasifundisa IsiZulu?
                'Does Mphemba teach Zulu at Unisa?'

Preposing may be used to question the verb:

10. <u>Uyasifundisa</u> Umphemba isiZulu e-unisa?

'Does Mphemba <u>teach</u> Zulu at Unisa?'

C. INFIXATION

i. Infixation of the present tense morpheme <u>ya</u>

The present tense morpheme <u>-ya-</u> is infixed to question the predicate, for example:

11. Umphemba <u>uyasifundisa</u> isiZulu e-Unisa?

'Does Mphemba <u>teach</u> Zulu at Unisa?'

ii. Infixation of the emphatic determiner

The emphatic determiner is used to question the object noun or the locative, e.g.:

12 (a) Focus on the object noun — Umphemba ufunidsa sona <u>isiZulu</u> e-Unisa?

'Does Mphemba teach <u>Zulu</u> at Unisa?'

12 (b) Focus on the locative: — Umphemba ufundisa isiZulu khona e-Unisa?

'Does Mphemba teach Zulu at <u>Unisa</u>?'

2.2.2 THE 'PHI/NI' QUESTIONS

The 'phi/ni' questions is a coined Zulu term for what is generally known as the WH-question. (i.e. what, who, when, etc.) in English linguistic circles. The WH-questions are realised as yini/ni 'what', ubani 'who', kuphi/-phi 'where. Nini 'when, kanjani 'how' and ngakhi/ngakanani 'how many' in Zulu. Some of these interrogative particles have class referential properties in the form of a preprefix. Consider the example below where the preprefix u- refers to a class of

[+human,+name, and +singular].

13. Ubani?
'Who'

2.2.3 THE ASSERTIVE QUESTIONS 'TELL ME TRULY'

The interpretation of 'tell me truly' questions make reference to a set of possible answers to the question, which could be either positive or negative. These questions are closely linked to modality and could either be epistemic or deontic, compare:

19(a) Uyethemba uMandla uphumelele ohloweni?
'Do you hope Mandla has passed the exams?'

19(b) UMandla akaphumelele ohlolweni?
'Hasn't Mandla passed the exams?'

The word uyethemba 'do you hope' in 19(a) above, signals an epistemic modality, while akaphumelele 'hasn't he passed' signals a deontic modality, an attitudinal state of affair attributed to Mandla in both sentences. These modalities which are on diametrically opposed poles on the continuum can be realized with interrogative propositions expressing an attitudinal mood from the speaker, requiring the addressee to assert the speaker as either being true or false.

2.2.4 RHETORIC QUESTIONS

Comrie (1984 : 34) regards a rhetoric question as a question which represents an interrogative with purpose of eliciting information from the addressee. This is due to the fact that the answer is already known to both speaker and addressee. Consider the scene where Shaka is being stabbed and utters a series of rhetoric questions:

20. 'Yini Dingane?....Hawu, uwe Mbopha?.....Ningibulalela ubukhosi?'
    'It's you and company Dingane?..Oh it's you Mbopha?'
    You are killing me for the kingship?
    Zondi (1979 : 52)

This strategy leads the audience to a clear cut situation, where a negative response is not even implied, making Doke's (1973 : 348) view of the interrogative particle more acceptable that it should be understood adverbially as an emphatic way of posing direct questions. Questions inciting a positive implication can be conveyed by means of a pherephrastic constructions with the hortative ake as contained in 21 (b). Compare:

21(a) Awuzizwa usuqoshanyisiwe? Awuzizwa nesikhumba senkomo
      sikubandisa ngegazi?
      'Don't you feel crowned? Don't you feel the cow's skin cooling you
      with blood?'

21(b) Ake usho kawuzizwa usuqoshanyisiwe?
      'Tell me really, don't you feel crowned?'

2.2.5 MULTIPLE WH-QUESTIONS

Engdahl (1986 : 78) argues convincingly that the multiple Wh-questions appearing in the relative mood, exhibit a feature which, apart from the initial dislocated Wh-question phrase, can be one or more occurrence of an unmoved Wh-phrase in the sentence. Such questions are often answered by providing a list or a pair (triplicate etc.) answer. These questions may not be employed outside context, e.g.:
    22. Who has obtained which degrees?
        'Obani abazuze yiphi iminyezane?'

23. Supposed answer: Umandla uzuze i B.Sc, uDoris i B.A.
        'Mandla obtained a B.Sc and Doris
        obtained a B.A. degree.'

2.2.6 THE FILL-IN THE BLANK QUESTION TYPE

These questions are used when completing questionnaires. For example:

24 Ubulili ....?   Ubudala.....?   Igama ....?
  Your sex ......? Your age......? Your name.......?

2.2.7. VARIOUS STRATEGIES MAY BE USED AS QUESTIONS

Various strategies may be used to formulate questions for example: the less direct means and the question tags.

2.2.7.1 LESS DIRECT MEANS

Though not very common in Zulu, it is possible to elicit information by less direct means, for instance:

25. Ngicela ukubuza, ubani inkosi yamaNdwandwe okwamanje?
 'May I please ask, who is the chief of the Ndwandwe tribe
 right now?'

In instances such as 25 above, the questioner indicates explicitly that he is going to ask a question and then continues to ask it.

2.2.7.2 QUESTION TAGS

This strategy involves giving a statement and then appending a yes/no 'yebo/qha' phrase. It is generally

used to seek for the assessment of the statement rather than to draw information from the addressee as it is evident from example 26 below.

> 26. Ujack ufike ngesikhathi esiqokiwe emgidweni.
> Yebo noma qha?
> 'Jack arrived on the scheduled time at the party.
> Yes or no?'

The English tag questions are coded by means of a positive statement, followed by a negative question tag or vice versa. These forms are, however, not found in Zulu, compare:

> 27(a) Father has gone to town. Hasn't he?
> *'Ubaba uye edolobheni. Akayanga?'

> 27(b) We shall not have dinner at 19:00 today. Shall we?
> *'Asizukubanakho ukudla kwakusihlwa ngo-19:00.Sizakubanakho?

Though in Zulu sentences 27 (a) and 27 (b) are syntactically acceptable, they are not found in Zulu. Question tags depend heavily on the pragmatic and intuitive knowledge of both speaker and addressee, for example:

> 28(a) P.......akahambi?
> 'P........Is he not going?'

> 28(b) P.........Sizobanakho?
> 'P..........Shall we have dinner?'

(P stands for the pragmatic and intuitive knowledge of both speaker and addressee.)

2.3. SUMMARY

From the different types of questions discussed above, the following conclusions can be inferred:

- There are different types of interrogative sentences used to solicit information, for example: The yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question type, the phi/ni question, assertive questions 'tell me truly' rhetoric questions, multiple Wh-questions, fill-in the blank question type and various strategies used as questions.

- The yes/no 'yebo/qha' question types are used to ask for factual information, which is to be responded to by a yes/no answer. Such questions can be coded by a phonological change from the declarative to a question or through the use of the interrogative particle <u>na</u>? in the sentence final position or incorporating the yes/no 'yebo/qha' tag in the sentence final position.

- The yebo/qha 'yes/no' answer question type has some limitations of not highlighting the focused lexical item which may be minimised through:

  - infixing the present tense morpheme -ya- when the predicate is in focus.
  - the identificative prefix ng(i)-/y(i)- or a low tone on the prefix when the subject nominal phrase is focused.
  - the use of determiners to highlight the object nominal phrase or locative when it is focused.

- The phi/ni questions is a coined Zulu term for what is generally known as the Wh-question in English linguistic circles and is generally realized as ubani? 'who', kuphi-phi? 'where', nini? 'when', kanjani? 'how', ngaki/ngakanani? how many'.

- The different types of questions and their interpretations are brought about by their syntactic character, which will be considered in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 3

THE SYNTACTIC-SEMANTIC FEATURE OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Grammatical agreement is an obligatory feature of the African languages. Several agreement morphemes are distinguished in Zulu which have a morpho-syntactic function, for example the subject and object agreement morphemes, and pronominal agreement morphemes. These morphemes are syntactically exclusive, i.e. they appear in certain restricted and fixed positions within the word.

3.2 THE AGREEMENT MORPHEMES

Bosch (1985 :1) indicates clearly that agreement implies the copying of the nominal class features onto the predictive, qualificative and also onto the interrogative particle. These agreement morphemes are discussed below.

3.2.1 DEFINITE AGREEMENT MORPHEMES

Definite agreement morphemes are those morphemes which agree with their relevant subject or object noun, e.g.:

CLASS	NOUN	FULL CLASS PREFIX	AGREEMENT MORPHEMES
1	umuntu 'a person'	umu-	u - (<umu)
2	abafana 'boys'	aba-	ba -(<aba-)
3	ilizwe 'country'	ili-	li -(<ili-)
4	inkomo 'cow'	ini-	i. - (<ini-)

Most grammarians pronounce that agreement morphemes in nasal classes are derived by eliding the prefix and the nasal element. In non-nasal classes only the prefix is elided as evident from the examples above.

The definite agreement morpheme has a unique and class referential property as exemplified below:

1(a) Declarative: Umalume uhlala edolobheni.
'Uncle stays in town'

1(b) Question: Uhlala kuphi uMalume?
'Where does uncle stay?'

The underlined agreement morpheme u- in both the declarative and question sentence in 1 above, refers to the noun umalume 'uncle' in class 1(a). It has both number and class referential properties.

3.2.2 INDEFINITE AGREEMENT MORPHEMES

These morphemes have no unique and class referential properties. According to Bosch (1985 : 93 - 103) the indefinite morpheme ku-/-ku- is a mechanism to resolve the gender conflict where conjoined nouns act as subject/object, for example:

2 (a) As subject:
Umkhumbimkhathi nendiza kubonakele ngaseNingizimu neTheku.
'The space-craft and the aircraft were seen over the south of Durban.'

2 (b) As object:
Ngakubona imbongolo nehhashi kukhabana.
'I saw a donkey and a horse kicking each other.'

According to Wilkes (1992 : 40 - 43) the indefinite morpheme may be used to refer to a newly established referent, giving the sentence an indefinite reading which is realised by an 'a' in the English equivalent, illustrated by example 3(a). Compare with it's definite counterpart in 3(b). For example:

> 3(a) Kufike intombazane.
> 'A girl arrived!'

> 3(b) Intombazane ifikile.
> 'The girl arrived.'

The use of the indefinite prefix ku- in an interrogative sentence can be explained in terms of the following pair of interrogative sentences:

> 4(a) Ubani ofikile?
> 'Who came?'

> 4(b) Kufike ubani?
> 'Who is the person who came?'

Sentence in 4(a) by implication means; you may know the person who was suppose to come, but you are not sure and you want to verify who the person is, as is evident in example 3(b) conveying a definite meaning. The sentence is quoted here for convenience sake:

> 5. Intombazane ifikile.
> 'The girl arrived!'

Sentence 4(b) by implication means that you might not even know the person who has arrived as is evident in example 3(a) conveying an indefinite meaning repeated here for convenience sake:

> 6. Kufike intombazane.
> 'A girl arrived!'

3.2.1 THE RELATIVE AGREEMENT MORPHEMES

Relativisation entails the coalescence of the relative 'a' and the subject agreement morpheme as in the example in 7(b) below:

> 7(a) Declarative: Ujack ubona uLindi.
>
> 'Jack sees Lindi'

> 7(b) Question: Ubani obona u Lindi?
>
> 'Who sees Lindi?'

The relative 'o-' of obona 'who sees' in 7(b) has been derived by the relative 'a' and the subject agreement morpheme 'u-' of the questioned noun uLindi 'Lindi' which coalesced to 'o-'. In a question sentence the relative morpheme is used when the subject of the declarative is questioned.

3.3 THE SYNTACTIC-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF UNMARKED INTERROGATIVES

Unmarked interrogative sentences are characterized by the absence of the phi/ni interrogative particles (i.e. ubani 'who', kanjani 'how, kuphi 'where', nini 'when, the interrogative suffix -ni, etc.). Unmarked interrogative sentences are phonologically marked by changing the phonological pattern of the declarative sentence. Unmarked interrogative sentences can be realised through the yebo/qha 'yes/no' answer question type, the infinitive question type and the fill-in type of questions. The syntactic features of these questions are discussed below:

3.3.1 THE SYNTACTIC FEATURE OF THE YEBO/QHA 'YES/NO ANSWER QUESTION TYPES

There are two outstanding syntactic features of the yebo/qha 'yes/no' answer question types:

Firstly, the declarative sentence is changed phonologically to form an interrogative sentence, as realized in example 8(b) below.

8(a) Declarative: UJosiah Thugwane ubemele iNingizimu Afrika emidlalweni yomhlaba e-Atlanta.
'Josiah Thugwane represented South Africa in the world games in Atlanta.'

8(b) Question: Uosiah Thugwane ubemele iNingizimu Afrika emidlalweni yomhlaba e-Atlanta ?
'Did Josiah Thugwane represent South Africa in the world games in Atlanta?'

Secondly, the unmarked questions can be realized syntactically by a declarative sentence followed by a yes/no 'yebo/qha' question tag. These questions can be regarded as marked, because of the tag which signals a marked feature. On the other hand, it would seem more acceptable to regard the yebo/qha 'yes/no' tag, as a frame of reference from which the addressee has to choose his response, for example:

9(a) Ubaba uthandana nezimayini. Yebo noma qha?
'Father is habitually inclined to work in mines. Yes or no?'

9(b) Ubaba akadli inyama. Yebo noma qha?
'Father does not eat meat. Yes or no?'

In examples 9(a) and 9(b), the declarative are coded towards the positive and negative respectively. This supports Posthumus's (1993 : 7) view that through modality a speaker may express some degree of doubt or certainty being epistemic or deonic, respectively.

3.3.2 THE TELL ME TRULY QUESTIONS

The tell me truly type of questions, just like the yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question types are realized from declaratives by a phonological change into questions. With the tell me truly question type, when the positive assertion is intended, the verb is given in the negative whereas if the

negative assertion is intended the verb is given in the positive. For example:

> 10(a) Kanethembi ukuthi singaba nazo izimvula nonyaka?
>   'Don't you believe that we may have rain this year?'
> (In this case a positive assertion is intended/expected.)

> 10(b) Uthi uMandla usephesheya?
>   'Do you mean Mandla is still aboard?'
> (In this case a negative assertion is intended/expected.)

3.3.3 INFINITIVE QUESTIONS

Infinitive question types form part of the unmarked question types, since they are realized without the use of an interrogative particle, for example:

> 11(a) UMandla uthanda ukuhamba nezingane.
>   'Mandla like to travel with children.'

> 11(b) Umandla uthanda ukuhamba nezingane.
>   'Does Mandla like to travel with children?'

3.3.4 THE FILL-IN TYPE OF QUESTIONS

The fill-in type of questions are constituted to a large extent by nouns and not verbs. These nouns are inflected phonologically to realize interrogative sentences. Sentence 12(b) is ungrammatical due to the fact that verbs are not used in this question type:

> 12(a) Igama:........   Isibongo: ....
>   'Name:.......   Surname:.........'

> 12(b) *Sebenza: .....   *Gijima: ....
>   'Work ....   Run:...........'

3.4 THE SYNTACTIC-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF MARKED INTERROGATIVES

The phi/ni 'wh' question types, i.e. kanjani 'how', ngakanani 'how many' etc., and those with the particle na? constitute the marked interrogative sentences. These types of questions are elaborated on below.

3.4.1 MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF INTERROGATIVE WORDS AND PARTICLES

The interrogative word ubani is characterized by a class pre-prefix and an interrogative root. For example:

```
13 Ubani =    u-    >    subject concord of class 1 a
   'Who'                 indicative mood (positive)
             bani?  >    interrogative root questioning 'who?'
```

In example 13 above it is evident that the particle is [-meaning] the only meaning is loaded within the pre-prefix which has a class referential properties.

3.4.2 SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

Regarding the predicative phrase as a pivot, there are two syntactic positions in which the interrogative particle may occur, namely, the pre-verbal or post-verbal position.

3.4.2.1 THE PRE-VERBAL POSITION OF THE PHI/NI PARTICLE

When the particle occurs in the pre-verbal position, it is used to question the subject. In such an instance the verb obligatorily takes a relative agreement morpheme, as is evident in 14(b) below:

14(a) Declarative: Ubaba ubona uLindi.
'Father sees Lindi.'

14(b) Question: Ubani obona uLindi?
'Who sees Lindi?'

When the questioned subject is within or not within the discourse context, the interrogative ubani? 'who' is used to question either a unique or general referent respectively, for example:

15(a) Question: Ubani odlula lapha?
                                          'Who passes here?'

15(b) Supposed answers: UMandla.
                                          'It's Mandla.'
                                          (Ng)umfana.
                                          'It's a boy.'

According to Wilkes (1992 : 289) the interrogative word may appear together with the object noun. In such instances it appears in a copulative form conveying the semantic meaning of 'which' , e.g.:

16. Yiziphi izintombi ezifunwayo?
    'It is which girl who is wanted?'

Yini? May assume different semantic meanings regardless of the fact that it appears in the same pre-verbal position, as illustrated in the following examples where; D stands for the declarative and Q for the interrogative sentence:

17 (a) D: Umfana ukhahlela ibhola.
            'The boy kicks the ball.'
17 (b) Q: Yini ekhahlelwa ngumfana?
            'What is kicked by the boy?'
18 (a) D: Umfana uyakhala.
            'The boy cries.'
18 (b) Q: Yini umfana ekhala?
            'Why is the boy crying?'

From the examples above it is to be realized that yini? May convey the meaning of what? As in 17(b) or why? As in 18(b). A hypothetical conclusion which can be inferred, is that:

i. From the declarative sentence in 17(a) the object noun, ibhola 'ball' is questioned in the interrogative sentence in 17(b).

ii. The course for the action portrayed by the verb uyakhala 'he is crying' is questioned in 18(b)

The conclusion reached is that:

- When a [-human] object noun is questioned yini conveys the meaning of 'what'.

- When the reason for the occurrence of the action conveyed by the verb is questioned, yini has the meaning of 'why'.

3.4.2.2. THE POST-VERBAL POSITION OF THE PHI/NI PARTICLES

a) the particle -phi?

When the interrogative particle -phi? is suffixed to the verb, the verb obligatorily takes the verb stem -ya- 'go'. In such instances it translates as 'where?', for example:

> 19. Uyaphi?
> 'Where are you going?'

-phi? may act as identificative interrogative 'pronoun' when the noun phrase is old information in the discourse. It is used to request the addressee to identify a unique referent and translates as 'which', for instance:

> 20. Ozifunayo (izincwadi) yiziphi?
> 'Which ones (books) do you want?'

b) The auxiliary verb -be- and the -phi-? interrogative particle.

- According to Wilkes (1992 : 223) in the case of the second person singular (subject), the vowel of the auxiliary verb stem -be is elided and its place taken by the agreement morpheme that

follows on it e.g.:

> 21. Ubukuphi (< ube ukuphi) izolo?
> 'Where were you yesterday?'

- The subject agreement preceding the auxiliary verb stem -be is elided when the interrogative sentence appears in the past tense, for example:

> 22. Belikuphi (libelikuphi)?
> 'Where was it (horse)?'

- In the case of second person singular, the consonant of the auxiliary verb stem -be is elided and a glide is infixed when the interrogative sentence appears in the remote past tense of the situative mood, for example:

> 23. Wayekuphi? (<za-be-zikuphi?)
> 'Where was he?'

- When the subject agreement morpheme of class 9 configures with the auxiliary verb stem -be in the remote past tense, the auxiliary is elided, for example:

> 24. Zazikuphi? (<za-be-zikuphi?)
> 'Where were they?'

c) The particle -ni?

- The particle -ni? May be suffixed to a noun and in such instances it translates as 'what kind of?', for example:

> 25. Ufuna (i.) nkomoni?
> 'What kind of cow do you want?'

- -ni? May co-feature with an object noun and always act as a contrastive determiner, as realized in 26 (a) below:

> 26 (a) Ufuna msebenzi muni?
> 'What kind of work do you want?'
> 26 (b)* Ufuna muni msebenzi?
> 'You want which work?'

- -ni? May be used to question the object noun. In such instances it appears in the sentence final position, where it takes the object agreement morpheme, for instance:

> 27. Ufuna ubani?
>
> 'Whom do you want?'

- -ni? May appear immediately after the auxiliary verb. The interrogative particle has the semantic meaning of 'really' in English. For example:

> 28. Uyathanda yini ukudla?
>
> 'Do you really like to eat?'

d)   The word -nini? 'when'

-nini? 'when' in opposition to -ni? Is restricted exclusively to the position immediately after the verb or copulative, as illustrated in 29 (a). -ni? On the other hand, may be suffix to the verb, conveying the meaning of 'what?' as illustrated in 29(b).

> 29 (a)   Ungumuntu nini?
>
>   'When is he a person?'
>
> 29 (b)   Idlani?
>
>   'What is it eating?'

e)   The word kanjani/njani 'how'

The word kanjani/njani? 'how' is exclusively restricted to the position immediately after the verb. It is used to question the 'how' of the predicate. Compare the two examples in 30 below:

> 30 (a)   Idlale njani iSundowns?
>
>   'How did Sundowns play?'
>
> 30 (b)   Idlale kanjani iSundowns?
>
>   'How did Sundowns play?'

Hypothetically sentence

- 30 (a) with njani may be used without any preconceived knowledge of Sundown's performance.

- 30 (b) with kanjani may be used to indicate the speaker's preconception i.e. say in the previous game, Sundowns lost the game and now the speaker wants to confirm as to whether Sundowns has lost the game again.

3.4.3 INTERROGATIVE WORD USED IN ISOLATION

Interrogative words may be used in isolation, depending on whether the topic under discussion is old information. For example to interpret ubani 'who', the addressee will understand it only if he knows that, say he came to report that Mandla stole his pen would mean 'who is the person's name who stole your pen', as illustrated in 31 below:

    31. ubani...?   Kuphi .....?   kanjani.....?
        'who...?   Where...?   How....?'

3.4.4 THE CO-OCCURRENCE OF PHI/NI 'WH-' QUESTION PARTICLES WITH <u>NA</u>?

Lombard (1985 : 174) argues that the interrogative particle na? signals an interrogative sentence. The above argument implies:

- all sentences with the particle <u>na</u>? are interrogative sentences.
- all interrogative sentences should have a particle <u>na</u>?

On close examination of the examples illustrated in 32 (b) and 32 (c) the correct inference would be: all sentences containing the particle <u>na</u> are interrogative sentences and not all interrogative sentences should contain <u>na</u>?:

32 (a) Declarative: Ubaba uyahamba.
                       'Father is going.'
32 (b) Question: Ubani ohambayo?
                       'Who is going?'
32 (c.) Question: Ubani ohambayo na?
                       'Who is going?'

The conclusion drawn is that the particle na? conveys an emotive meaning of insistence to the addressee to respond to the question.

3.5 THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECT

Bokamba (1976 : 155-156) argues convincingly that the indirect object always precedes the direct object, for example:

33 (a)   Ubaba ushaya uMandla ikhanda.
          'Father strikes Mandla on the head.'
33 (b)*   Ubaba ushaya ikanda uMandla.
          'Father strikes the head of Mandla.'

He further states that in the realization of an interrogative sentence, questioning the direct object, the rightward wh- question movement is employed, for instance, the question for sentence 33(a) would be:

34.   Ubaba ushaya uMandla ini?
       'Father strikes Mandla on what?'

When the indirect object is questioned, the interrogative word takes the position before the direct object. In the questioning of the direct object, the interrogative sentence would be:

35. Ubaba uhaya ubani ikhanda?
    'Who is father striking on the head?'

3.6 MOOD AS A FACTOR AFFECTING THE SYNTAX OF INTERROGATIVES

Various grammarians acknowledge the existence of the infinitive, subjunctive, situative, indicative, relative and the imperative as moods found in Zulu, except where Wilkes (1990 : 61) and Posthumus (1990 : 91) however hold different views on the status of the consecutive mood in Zulu. Before dealing with the complications caused by moods, when interrogative propositions are realised, let us return to authoritative sources on what mood is.

Palmer (1986 : 5) when drawing a distinction between mood and modality, says:

'inflectional mood is a very clear example of grammatical marking, but the markers of modality may be modal verbs, clitics or particles. Whether these are grammatical or not, can only be decided in terms of the degree to which they have syntactic restrictions and the extent to which they can be defined as a limited rather than open-end system of items.'
(Underlining by NFM.)

Palmer (1986 : 7) further on specifies the distinction that needs to be drawn between mood and modality. He states:

'The terms 'mood' and 'modality' have been used. It might seem prima facie to be very desirable to make a clear distinction between these two terms, exactly paralleling the distinction between tense and time, number and enumeration, gender and sex, the one being grammatical, the other notional or semantic.'

3.6.1 THE INFINITIVE MOOD

Questioning of the infinitive verb just like yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question types, seem to have developed from declaratives whereby the speaker is asking for factual information and/or a response which contains a yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer, compare:

36 (a)   Declarative: Ukufundisa isiZulu uNani uyakuthanda
'To teach Zulu, Nani likes it.'

36 (b)   Question: Ukufundisa isiZulu uNani uyakuthanda?
'To teach Zulu, Nani likes it?'

The above argument relating to the infinitive mood can equally suite different interrogative propositions appealing in different moods, for example:

3.6.2 THE SITUATIVE MOOD

37 (a)	Declarative:	Umandla umbone egiyima.
		'You saw Mandla running.'
37 (b)	Question:	Umandla umbone egijima?
		'Did you see Mandla running?'

3.6.3 THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

38 (a)	Declarative:	Ingane idla ilale.
		'The child eats and thereafter sleeps.'
38 (b)	Question:	Ingane idla ilale
		'Does the child eat and thereafter sleep?'

3.6.2 THE INDICATIVE MOOD

39 (a)	Delarative:	Ubaba uyahamba.
		'Father is going.'
39 (b)	Question:	Ubaba uyahamba (na)?
		'Is father going?'

3.6.3 THE RELATIVE MOOD

40 (a)	Declarative:	Umlungu ufuna umfana ongagibela ihhashi.
		'A white man is looking for a boy who can ride a horse.'
40 (b)	Question:	Umlungu ufuna umfana ongagibela ihhashi?
		'Is the white man looking for a boy who can ride a horse?'

3.7 SUMMARY

From the preceding discussion the following conclusions can be inferred:

- Interrogative words have unique and class referential properties e.g. obani 'who' (in the plural) demands, reference to unique people, thus [+human] answers.

- When the subject noun is questioned and the interrogative words appearing in the sentence initial position, the verb obligatorily takes the relative agreement morpheme.

- Unmarked interrogative sentences are realised by means of tonal inflection. The yebo/qha slot is used to provide the addressee with a frame of reference from which to choose his answer.

- The syntactic feature of 'tell me truly' questions is that the interrogative sentence is always coded towards the opposite of the expected answer.

- Infinitive questions are employed and focused by means of the present tense morpheme -ya- infixed to the auxiliary verb.

- To form the fill-in types of interrogative sentences, nouns are used.

Within the marked interrogative sentence types, the interrogative word may appear preferably or in post verbal position.

- Pre-verbal position
    - When -phi appears next to the object noun , it translates as 'what' or 'why', depending on whether the object noun is questioned or the reason for the action conveyed by the verb respectively is questioned.
    - The interrogative particle -ni? may be suffixed to the object noun translated as 'what kind of X'.
    - The auxiliary verb stem-be, may be elided, or its vowel, or its consonant when infixed to the verb.

- Post verbal position
    - Nini/ is restricted exclusively to the position immediately after the verb phrase and translate as 'when'.
    - Kanjani/njani the 'how' words are restricted to the posittion immediately after the verb phrase.

- Interrogative words may be used in isolation.

- The interrogative particle na? may be used together with other interrogative particles where na? conveys an emotive meaning.

- The interrogative sentences where the interrogative words is in a copulative form and occupies the sentence initial position, are used as echo questions.

CHAPTER 4

SEMANTIC INTERPRETATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Semantics pertain to the realization of coding and decoding of meaning without which language would be degraded into meaningless experience. Meaning characterize human language and the meaning of language finds its expression in human interaction.

The analysis of questions impose some obligations which a particular interrogative proposition should meet. Engdahl (1986 : 9) identified the following requirements:

- Questions should enable us to talk about the denotation of a given in order to individuate questions in away that corresponds to how speakers of a language differentiate between distinct questions.

- The compositionally requirement i.e. the meaning of a complex expression (interrogative question should be the function of the meaning of its lexical items and the way in which they are functioning syntactically.

- The semantic characterization of questions should be compatible with an analysis of the illocutionary speech act of questioning.

The semantic interpretation of questions is done in view of:

- The above-mentioned criteria
- The different types of questions featuring in the:
  - indicative mood, and
  - other moods containing the potential morpheme -nga-

4.2 CRITERIA FOR FORMULATING QUESTION SENTENCES ·

4.2.1 INDIVIDUATING QUESTIONS

When we adopt the assumption that the meaning of a question is determined by its possible answer, we are relying on the notion of answer as criteria. No mother-tongue speaker will recognize the following question-answer pairs as well-formed (Q. stands for question and A. for the possible answer).

1* (a)   Q.   Ufikile uMandla?
               'Did Mandla come?'

          A.   Ntambama.
               'In the afternoon'

1* (b)   Q.   Ubani obeshayela iloli?
               'Who was driving the lorry?'

          A.   Yebo.
               'Yes'

1* (c.) Q.   Ufike nini?
               'When did he arrive?'

          A.   Umandla.
               '(It's) Mandla.'

Intuitively it would be accepted that the answers are of the wrong type to provide to the preceding question, although they may be good answers to other questions.

It is through this intuitive knowledge about what the possible answers to a question is, that we can determine what the meaning of a question is, for example:

2 (a)   Ubani othandana noMaDlamini?

'Who is in love with lady Dlamini?

2 (b)   Umbonile uMaqanda edlula izolo?

'Did you see Maqanda passing- yesterday?'

The examples 2(a) and 2(b) above have the following meaning:

-     Question 2(a) is interpreted as 'X is in love with lady Dlamini' where X is the person and a name of a person.

-     Question 2(b) is understood to mean a set of true propositions which are to be responded to either by yebo 'yes' or qha 'no'.

We are now in a better position to understand the semantic content of the questions 2(a) and 2(b) after having individuated them as:

2(a)   A specific question referring to a specific person, and

2(b)   A question which need to be responded to with a yebo 'yes' or qha 'no' answer.

4.2.2 THE COMPOSITIONALITY ASPECT

When considering constituent questions against relevant declarative sentences, we immediately realise that they are syntactically and semantically related to each other, as depicted in the following range of data: (D. stands for declarative sentence and Q. for a Question.)

3. D.   OkaShenge ungqongqoshe wezangaphakathi eRepublic yase-Ningizimu Afrika.

'The son of Shenge is the minister of internal affairs in the R.S.A.'

Q.   Ubani ungqongqoshe wezangaphakathi eRepublic yase-Ningizimu Afrika?

'Who is the minister of internal affairs in the R.S.A?'

The declarative and question in 3 above, have the same morphological categorization properties. In 3 Ushenge 'Shenge' has an agreement

morpheme 'U-' which is also contained as pre-prefix of the interrogative word ubani? 'who?'.

The meaning of the interrogative sentence is also interpreted in relation to the syntactic features, which receive special attention in 5.3.1, specifically example 6.

4.2.3 SEMANTIC CHARACTERIZATION OF QUESTIONS

Searle (1969 : 42-50) puts it convincingly that when a speaker says something and means it, it is closely related to produce certain effects on the hearer, an act of engaging a hearer in physical or verbal interaction. Such an interaction is determined by whether the hearer understands the question and knows its meaning. The meaning of the words (constituents) is given as a function of the meaning of its parts and the way they are put together. The meaning of the interrogative constituents are investigated below.

4.2.4 SEMANTICS OF INTERROGATIVES FROM A WORD BASE

The semantic interpretation of interrogative sentences will be considered from the word base. A distinction is drawn between interrogative sentences without an interrogative particle constituted by yes/no 'yebo/qha' answer question type, and those with the interrogative particle.

4.2.4.1 THE 'YEBO/QHA' ANSWER QUESTION TYPE

These question types do not have an interrogative particle. The meaning of the question is conveyed by the whole interrogative sentence, for example:

    4. Umbonile uSipho?

      'Did you see Sipho?'

will be understood in terms of the whole sentence.

4.2.4.2 INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE MARKED BY THE INTERROGATIVE PARTICLES

Interrogatives are formed by means of enumerative and/or adverbial particles, which display the following semantic load:

a. -phi?

i. When -phi is used as an adverbial root, it has the semantic meaning of 'where'. For example:

5. Icashephi indoda eqole abantu imali?
   'Where is the man hiding who crooked the people with money?'

ii. When used as enumerative root it has the semantic meaning of 'which'. For example:

6. Usho muphi umfazi?
   'Which woman do you mean?'

b. -ni?

i. When -ni? Is used as an enumerative root it means 'what?' or 'why?' as illustrated by the example below:

7. Ningibulalelani bafowethu?
   'For what/why are you killing me, my brothers?'

ii. When used with the [+human] prefix, it conveys the meaning of 'who?' For example:

8. Ubani ozohamba?
   'Who will go?

There are different semantic moments realised due to the syntactic feature of interrogative particles. They are treated in detail in chapter 3.

4.2.5 SEMANTICS OF INTERROGATIVES FROM THE SENTENCE BASE

4.2.5.1 ATTITUDE - A FACT OR FICTION IN INTERROGATIVES

It has been argued convincingly by Doherty in Keifer (1980 : 15) that the phonological and syntactic devices which characterize a question, serve as means to express attitudes. He identifies a set of lexemes such as: negation devices, sentence adverbs, modal verbs of thinking, question as, contrastive stress and particles, all of which contribute to the expression of meaning. The question is, which linguistic means help to express which attitude in sentences such as those in 9 and 10 below:

> 9. Uyacabanga ukuthi uMary uphumele?
>   'Do you think that Mary has passed?'
> 10. Uyacabanga ukuthi mhlawumbe ezinye izitshudeni eziyisikhombisa zingaba seziqedile umsebenzi wazo wokucwaninga?
>   'Do you think that probably the other seven students might have completed their research?'

On close examination we realize that the sentences above express an epistemic attitude. The relevant linguistic units helping to achieve that in 9 is Ucabanga ukuthi 'you think that' and in 10 uyacabanga ukuthi mhlawumbe ....zinga 'you think that probably...they might'. The intersection between these two sentences above, is that they both express the attitudinal view which the speaker holds concerning the addressee with regard to his potential in answering the question. The interrogative sentences 9 and 10 express a positive attitude which the speaker holds that, uMary uphumelele 'Mary has passed' and ezinye izitshudeni seziqedile umsebenzi wazo wokucwaninga 'the other students have completed their

research', including the speaker's reservation as to its validity. Consider the negative counterparts of the sentences above.

> 11. Awucabangi ukuthi uMary uphumelele?
>
> ('Don't you think Mary has passed?')
>
> 'Mary hasn't passed, has she?'

The verb awucabangi? 'don't you think?' is coded towards the negative indicating a negative assertion by the speaker.

4.2.5.2 THE SEMANTIC INTERPRETATION OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES IN THE INDICATIVE MOOD

The indicative mood is generally interpreted as describing a state, action or situation in question, for example:

> 12. Ubaba uyahamba.
>
> 'Father is going.'

This statement can be transposed to an assertive question by imposing a rising tone. For example:

> 13. Ubaba uyahamba?
>
> 'Is father going?'

The interpretation of the sentence above is that the attitude of the speaker is added to the meaning of the sentence, and the phonological means points to the assertive nature of the interrogative sentence in 13 above.

4.2.5.3 THE POTENTIAL -NGA- AND IT'S FEATURANCE IN THE DIFFERENT MOODS

The potential -nga- can be interpreted to mean: ' in a position to do X' where X is the action denoted by the predicate, expressing the potential which father can have to carry out the action of preaching, as illustrated by example 14:

> 14. Ubaba angashumayela.
>
> 'Father can preach.'

i. Situative mood (practical mood)

The situative mood has the semantic interpretation that one

action is coinciding with another action in terms of time or put different that two actions are taking place simultaneously. For example:

> 15. Uma uSuzan efika mtshele abulale ingulube.
>
> 'If suzan comes, tell her to slaughter the pig.'

The sentence in 15 can be transposed into an interrogative sentence with a potential -nga-. Compare 16 below which is an alternative of 15:

> 16. Uma uSuzan engafika ngimtshele abulale ingulube?
>
> 'If Suzan does come must I tell her to slaughter the pig?'

The use of -nga- has shifted the meaning of the participial to an emotive meaning of a probability.

ii. Indicative mood

The indicative mood describes a situation as already discussed in 4.2.5.2 above. When it features with the potential -nga-, as in example 17, it is interpreted as a semantic moment ncluding some 'doubt' on the part of the speaker that he may like to do so, but he may not, due to conditions prevailing. Consider the example below:

> 17. Ungathanda ukuzophuza nathi?
>
> 'Would you like to come and drink with us?'

4.2.5.4 GENERAL SEMANTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE DIFFERENT QUESTION TYPES

Different interrogative sentences have different spesific semantic loads, which are understood differently per individual question type.

i. Peripheral questions

These question types are usually used for instance in a situation where the questioner has to fill in a form, and

express a fill-in-the-blank. They are inquiry questions on a predetermined issue.

> 18. Igama...? Isibongo.....?　　Idilesi....?
>
> Umfula...?
>
> 'Your name...?　　Your surname...?
>
> The address....?　　The river......?

These types of questions are attributed to European influence and have become part of the African languages inventory due to social contact.

ii.　　The negative yes/no answer question types

These question types are interpreted as polite requests for factual information, signalling a lower certainty on the part of the speaker in relation to the hearer pertaining to the subject of discussion.

> 19. Kawuthintene nokunyamalala kwababili?
>
> 'Are you not connected with the going of the two?'

iii　　Questions with the verb 'getting' may be sometimes used to phrase questions. For example:

> 20. Singathola wena usifundele incwadi?
>
> 'Can we have you to do a scripture reading?'

Here the speaker is not merely asking the hearer to respond by 'yes' or 'no', but making a request to him to have the scripture read.

iv.　　The WH- questions can be interpreted as requests for information (knowledge);

> 21. Ubani oshayelwe imoto?
>
> 'Who was punished (for using the car) for the car?'
>
> 22. Kunyathele bani lapha?
>
> 'Who tramped here?'

The speaker in 21 is requesting information knowing/

anticipating that the respondent must know the person in question whereas in 22 the speaker request information on the basis that the respondent should guess.

v. The assertive questions

These questions are often call the 'tell me truly' questions. They are understood to be requesting the respondent to assess the speaker's pre-conceptions. They are often coded in the positive.

> 23. Itholakele inqola ibitshontshiwe?
> 'Has the wagon been retrieved which was stolen?'

vi. Rhetoric questions

These question types are not questions per se, but linguistic devices to spark on further discussion.

> 24. Hawu! Ucebile ngoba uqole injinga uMaponya?
> 'You are rich because you crooked a millionaire Mr Maponya?'

In the question above the respondent will continue with the discussion for or against the declarative 'uqole uMaponya' you crooked Mr Maponya!

vii. Multiple questions

Multiple questions are devices used to get more information on a rumoured topic.

> 25. Ubani okhushuliwe, kusiphi isikhundla?
> 'Who is promoted, to which position?'

The speaker might have heard rumously that there is

somebody who has been promoted, but who is the person and to which position, he does not know. Now he uses a multiple question to solicit the information.

viii   Ironic questions

Semantically ironic questions are not questions but declarations of some sort. These questions are to be understood ironically. The speaker may be understood to be meaning this, when he means the direct opposite.

> 26. Sekuyabanda lapha?
>> 'Is it getting cold here?'

The interrogative sentence in 26 at face value is asking as to whether is it cold. Ironically (in a particular context) it may be meaning 'why are you buttoning the jacket' or 'why are you starting to wear warm clothes?'

ix.   Metaphoric questions

In a metaphor the speaker's utterance meaning and the sentence meaning come apart in various ways (i.e. meaning something more than what is literary understood).

> 27(a)   Uyagula?
>> 'Are you sick?'
>
> 27(b)   Ngiphakamise izinyawo?
>> (Must I pick up my feet?)
>> 'Must I hurry up?'

On face-value sentence 27(a) means what has been interpreted, but metaphorically it means 'Why are you behaving unbecomingly?' 'Kungani uziphathe kanjena?' metaphorically question 27(b) asks 'Must I hurry up?' not 'Must I pick up my feet?'

4.3 SUMMARY

- Communication is a purposeful conveyance of massages between two individuals or groups i.e. the initiator and the receiver.
- One of the means to communicate messages is through questioning, which is rule-governed.
- In order to equate the art of questioning with meaning we need to:
  - o know the individual questions and the way in which they should be responded to.
    - characterise the questions into those which portray the attitude of the

      speaker towards the respondent.

- The semantic meaning of questions is determined by the syntax and the context under which such utterances are made. The context determine which question types to use.
- Syntactically, the general meaning of an interrogative sentence may be shifted when different syntactic structures are employed.

CHAPTER 5

THE PRAGMATIC USE OF INTERROGATIVE PARTICLES SENTENCES AND
THE AGREEMENT O-

5.1   INTRODUCTION
Language is a tool by means of which communication is achieved. It consists
of grammar; the employed linguistic units as a result of performance and
competence abilities, and the pragmatic study of meaning in relation to a given
speech situation.

To interpret interrogative sentences correctly, we need linguistic factors rooted
in the 'real world', in which communication takes place. These linguistic
factors include:
- the indefinite -ku- agreement morpheme
- the pragmatic use of the interrogative particle na? and yini?
- the shift from semantic load of units to discourse bound interpretation
- Ulalelani X *Ulalelani
- the 'O-' prefix

These factors receive attention below.

5.2 THE INDEFINITE AGREEMENT MORPHEME

5.2.1 THE BASIC SENTENCES STRUCTURE IN ZULU
The basic sentence structure in Zulu in SVO, where S stands for the
subject nominal phrase, V for the predicative phrase, and O for the

object nominal phrase as in the example; 1(a) below.

1(a)   S   V   O

        Ubaba   ufundisa isiZulu

1(b)   S   V   O

        Ubaba   ufundisa isiZulu

        'Does father teach Zulu?'

5.2.2 THE PRAGMATIC FUNCTION OF THE INDEFINITE AGREEMENT MORPHEME KU-

According to Bosch (1985 : 103) the indefinite morpheme KU- is used to resolve class gender conflict where more than one noun class act as subject or object of a sentence as illustrated in the example below:

2. Amakati nezinja sekuxolelene.

      6   10

   'Cats and dogs have forgiven each other.'

Ku-/ku- may be used to signal an affective meaning associated with either derogation or sympathy/endearment as argued by Wilkes (1992 : 95-96) as per example 3 respectively:

3(a)   Derogation:

        Okuyizinyane akusalaleli imiyalo yabazali.

        'The good-for-nothing children no more listen to their parents' advice.'

3(b)   Sympathy/endearment:

        umama uyakuthanda okunguThoko.

        'Mother likes poor little Thoko'

Ku-/ku- is used to give a sentence an indefinite reading which is conveyed by the use of 'a' in English, as illustrated by example 4.

4. Kufike umfana izolo.

   'A boy arrived yesterday.'

The semantic distinction between the interrogative sentence with or without

ku- illustrated in 5 is reconsidered below:

> 5.(a) Ngubani/ubani ofike izolo?
>
> 'Who is the one who arrived yesterday?'
>
> 5(b) Kufike (u)bani izolo?
>
> Who arrived yesterday?

Question 5(a) may be interpreted as: I know that you know the person who arrived yesterday, tell me. In such questions there is a semantic moment of expectation. The use of the indefinite agreement morpheme ku- in 5(b) conveys the meaning that the addressee has no idea but that he should guess as to who the person is who arrived yesterday.

5.3 THE PRAGMATIC USE OF THE INTERROGATIVE PARTICLE NA? AND YINI?

Traditionally the particles na? and -ni? Have been generally accepted to signal interrogative questions devoid of any affective meaning because they were considered outside the discourse context. The discourse functions of na? is reconsidered in the following paragraphs.

5.3.1 THE PRAGMATIC DISCOURSE FUNCTION OF NA?

Consider the following citation from Mncwango (1982 : 19) where Menziwa orders Sibiya to drink beer.

> 6. Menziwa: Ngithi phuza, Sibiya
>
> Sibiya: Bayede Ngonyama Wena...
>
> Menziwa: Awuzwanga ngithi phuza Sibiya na?

Questions to be raised are:

i. Firstly, how can a language use two strategies, that of transposing a declarative sentence to an interrogative sentence with or without the particle and still convey the same meaning as is evident from question 7(a) and 7(c) which have been both derived from 7(b)?

ii. Secondly, what type of affective meaning does <u>na</u>? convey?

With regard to the first question raised, consider the following example:

7(a)	Declarative:	Awuzwanga ngithi phuza Sibiya?
		'Didn't you hear I say drink, Sibiya?'
7(b)	Question:	Awuzwanga ngithi phuza Sibiya?
		'Didn't you hear I say drink, Sibiya?'
7(c)	Question:	Awuzwanga ngithi phuza Sibiya?
		'Didn't you hear I said drink, Sibiya?'

The answer to the question raised earlier, lies in the discourse context within which such utterances are made. Consider the dialogue below from Mncwango (1982 : 19)

8. Menziwa: Phuza! 1
   Sibiya: Ngonyama!
   Menziwa: Phuza! 2
   Sibiya: Wena weSilo ! Ngonyama!
   Menziwa: Phuza! 3
   Sibiya: Wena weNdlovu enamandla, bayede Ngonyama!
   Menziwa: Ngithe phuza, Sibiya 4
   Sibiya: Bayede! Ngonyama! Wena...
   Menziwa: Awuzwanga ngithi phuza Sibiya na? 5

   Menziwa: Drink! 1
   Sibiya: My worship!
   Menziwa: Drink! 2
   Sibiya: His majesty; my worship!
   Menziwa: Drink! 3
   Sibiya: His majesty; my worship!
   Menziwa: I said drink, Sibiya! 4
   Sibiya: His majesty, the honoured! you...
   Menziwa: Didn't you hear, I said drink Sibiya? 5

In the preceding dialogue, Menziwa's instance is repeated in 1 - 5 respectively.

It is to be realized that Sibiya has failed to comply with the king's instruction and now through the use of interrogative particle 'na?' in 5, an effective implication is put across.

The second question that of what type of effective meaning does 'na?' convey, it is now here below reconsidered:
The interrogative 'na?' aquires what Leech (1975 : 18) calls affective meaning i.e. meaning which reflects the personal feelings or emotions of the speaker towards the person he is communicating with. It is an affective meaning of insistence which is conveyed by 'na?' that Sibiya has to comply with his (Menziwa's) instruction.

5.3.2 THE PRAGMATIC DISCOURSE FUNCTION OF YINI?

Botha (1988 : 204-208) identifies five types of semantic moments, lexical, interrogatives, deities, grammatical and emotive. The interrogatives are represented by "?" plus the relevant semantic meaning as illustrated in 9 below:

9. Yini?= "?"
    ' what/why'

The semantic meaning conveyed by yini? At a given contextual point is reconsidered below:

10.(a)   Yini ebonwa uVusi?
          'What is seen by Vusi?'

10(b)   Yini uVusi engafikanga?
          'Why didn'd Vusi come?'

From the example given in 10 above, it is evident that when yini? Is complemented by a positive predicative phrase, it conveys the meaning of 'what/" to identify the object noun. The negative predicative phrase as

contained in example 10(b) above, questions 'why' or 'why not?'; a reason as to why action X did/did not take place.

5.4 SHIFT FROM SEMANTIC LOAD OF UNITS TO DISCOURSE BOUND INTERPRETATION

Any referent (sign or object) has linguistic units (words) which are phonetically and semantically loaded. The significantum (word) has an exclusive abstract notion to which it refers. The concept 'ubani' who? Has the following conceptual meaning:

$$11. \text{Ubani?} = \begin{bmatrix} + & \text{question} \\ + & \text{human} \\ + & \text{name} \\ + & \text{singular} \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\text{'Who'}$$

Khumalo, Wikes and Posthumus (1989 : 13-31) when discussing meaning, puts it convincingly that any semantic property which does not meet the specification as per example of ubani? 'who?' above, will be understood when there is a change in meaning to a mediating concept due to spatial, temporal or casual relationship between the two significatum. This shift will be evident in the examples in 5.4.1 and in 5.4.2 below.

5.4.1 ULALELANI 'WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING AT' X *ULALELANI 'WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING?'

The linguistic unit ulalelani? Its morphological analysis supports the interpretation to be understood as meaning what are you listening at, for example:

12 Ulalelani? =

u-   >Subject agreement morpheme, class1   indicative mood

-lalel- >Verb root 'to listen'

-a-   >categorical final morpheme

-ni   >interrogative enclitic

Mother tongue speakers accept the interpretation of 'why are you sleeping?' which could be understood to be a result of : idiomatic usage and contextual meaning and economic principal.

i. IDIOMATIC USAGE

Ulalelani ? 'Why are you sleeping?' should be understood idiomatically since the addressee cannot be in a position to hear and reply when he is in a real state of sleeping. The action of say for example, lying on the bed may be regarded as the sleeping.

ii CONTEXTUAL MEANING

The interpretation of 'why are you sleeping?' can be understood within a particular context, say for example somebody is busy dozing or lying on a bed.

iii ECONOMIC PRINCIPAL

The -be- in u-be-ulalelani? Which conveys the meaning of an action which had just be completed, may be regarded as being dropped due to the economic principle, still depending on the context and idiomatic expression that the addressee will still understand to mean ulalelani? With the meaning of: 'why are you sleeping?'

5.4.2 THE 'O-' PREFIX

Subject agreement morphemes are obligatory in Zulu in order to:

- minimize ambiguity i.e. when it co-refers to the subject noun it acts as definitizer.

- give a sentence an indefinite reading in terms of the subject.

- serve as pronoun of the omitted/deleted noun in the nominal phrase.

The semantic load of o- as argued by van Wyk (1987 : 35) (the equivalent of the bo- in Northern Sotho) could be exemplified

as:

botate 'obaba' + 'fathers/father and his associates.

From the cited example above, the pragmatic function of O- in the interrogative in 13 below can now be interpreted.

> 13. "Ushaka: Baphi oZwide? Baphi oPhakathwayo?'
>
> Shaka: 'Where are the Zwides? Where are the Phakathwayos?'
>
> Zondi: (1970 : 5)

The reference to 'oZwide and oPhakathwayo should be interpreted as meaning:

> 'Zwide and his associates; and Phakathwayo and his associates!'

The prefix o- of class 2a may be thus denotes an associative plural.

5.5 INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES COMMONLY USED IN EVERYDAY CONVERSATION

In everyday conversation, interrogative questions are often used to question, among others:

Information regarding time, for example:

> 14. Ufike nini uJane?
>
> 'When did Jane arrive?'

Prices on commodities/goods, for example:

> 15. Siyimalini isinkwa?
>
> 'What is the price of bread?'

Information regarding the place of birth, for example:

> 16. Ungowokuzalwa maphi ne Mpumalanga?
>
> 'What is your birth origin in Mpumalanga Province?'

Information about the weather, for example:

> 17. Lijani (izulu) namhlanje?
>
> 'How is the weather (condition) today?'

Information regarding the age, for example:

> 18. Mdala ngakanani umkhulu wakho?
>
> 'How old is your grandfather?'

Information regarding the days of the week, for example:

> 19. Ulwesingaki namhla?
>
> 'What day of the week is it today?'

5.6 SUMMARY

In summary it is realized from the discussion raised that:

- Agreement morphemes give a sentence a definite reading only when such an agreement morpheme refers to an unique subject/object noun. A sentence acquires an indefinite reading when ku-/-ku- acts as an agreement morpheme.

- In interrogative sentences the indefinite agreement morpheme ku-/-ku- is used to convey the meaning that the speaker is acknowledging the fact that the addressee has no idea to what the answer is to the question.

- The definite agreement morpheme conveys the semantic moment of expectation that the addressee should be in the know.

- Yini? When complemented by a positive predicative phrase, yini? Conveys the meaning of 'what?', the reason as to 'why/' is questioned when yini? is complemented by a negative predicative phrase.

- The interpretation of linguistic units, may be correctly done when the discourse context, idiomatic and economic principles are taken into consideration for example ulalelani? May either mean 'what are you listening at?' or 'why are you sleeping?' depending on the discourse context.

- The O- in oboba 'fathers' apart from indicating the plural, it may convey the meaning of 'X' and associates.

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