

## Relative Clause Deletion in Igbo

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### ABSTRACT

*Deletion is a syntactic rule where a piece of syntactic structure is removed, under specified conditions. Relative clause deletion is a syntactic rule which elides relative clause, under specified conditions. This paper examines relative clause in Igbo with special focus on relative clause deletion. The findings of this paper reveal that relative clause deletion in Igbo is possible in coordinate, comparative, reconstruction structures and sloppy reading expressions when the structures meet the identical and parallelism conditions. This paper further revealed that other modifiers such as adnominal adjective and expressions with inverse linking interpretations can be deleted in the same way in which relative clauses are deleted in Igbo. Finally, this paper established the structure of relative clause in Igbo using a modified version of the head raising analysis by Kayne (1994:90) and Collins (2015:67).*

**Keywords:** Clause, Igbo.

### Introduction

Deletion is a syntactic rule where a piece of syntactic structure is removed, under specified conditions. Chomsky (1965) undertook a study in deletion. Relative clauses that modify a noun or noun phrase use some grammatical devices to indicate that one of the arguments within the relative clause has the same referent as that noun or noun phrase. In Igbo relative clauses are usually attached to an antecedent by a relative element *n̄ke* for singular and *ndi* for plural glossed as ‘who’, ‘which’ or ‘that’. Igbo like every other natural language has in its grammar devices which allow the reduction of the redundancy in surface structure. That is, it allows the surface structure to contain far fewer redundant constituents than their underlying deep structures. Every reduction of redundancy necessarily involves the deletion of redundant constituents. It is precisely in order to allow reduction of redundancy that it necessary to have deletion among permissible elementary transformations.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the relative clause deletion in Igbo. It aims at unraveling the sources of relative clause deletion in Igbo language, which consists of an enclosed string which is syntactic but not pronounced and the deleted relative is usually syntactically identical to its antecedent. Examples of relative clause deletion in Igbo are demonstrated in sentences (1)

1. N' èmème, Ezè hùrù umùnwokē ato nkè o màrà nà otù nwanwànyị

At party Eze see-pst men three who 3sg know and child girl

‘At the party, Eze saw three men who I know and one girl’.

On one interpretation, we propose that (1) has the following structure.

2.N' èmème, Ezè hùrù umùnwokē ato nkè o màrà nà otù nwanwànyị nwaanyi < nkè o màrà >

At party Eze see.PST boys three who 3sg know and child gi

‘At the party, Ezesaw three boys who he knows and one girl <who I know>’

The enclosed string is present syntactically but not pronounced Collins (2015)

This paper is organized as follows: section 1 is the introduction while section 2 discusses the objectives of the paper. Section 3 is the significance of the study and section 4 is the methodology. In section 5, we discuss the various types of constructions in which relative clause can be deleted in Igbo. In section 6, we discuss the syntactic structure of relative clause in Igbo. Section 7 is the summary and conclusion

## Objectives

The objective of this paper is to:

- Identify various types of constructions in which relative clause deletion can occur in Igbo
- Provide a syntactic structure of relative clause in Igbo

## Significance of the study

This paper provides insight to the study of the relative clause. This work is useful for cross-linguistic and comparative syntax purposes. For instance, it helps to ascertain whether the Igbo case of relative clause deletion is similar to what obtains in related languages.

## Methodology

The researcher employed a descriptive survey method in order to elicit data from the native speakers. The researcher used face-to-face interview in asking the native speakers

questions and recording their responses. Therefore, the research was qualitative in nature. The population of the study are the native speakers of the Igbo. The researcher used 20 adult native speakers to carry out this research; ten male and ten female. Interview was conducted and the responses of the respondents were recorded and then properly analyzed.

### **Construction that Allow Relative Clause Deletion in Igbo**

The following are some of the constructions in Igbo in which relative clause can be deleted in Igbo

#### **Relative Clause Deletion in Coordinate Structure**

Relative clauses can be deleted in coordinate structure in Igbo. Instances of such are given sentences (3a-b).

3a. A hùrù m̩ ùmùnwokē ise ndi m̩ mm̩a nà ùmùnwaànyị ò àbuo#  
<ndi m̩ mm̩a>

Pre seePST 1sg children men five that 1sg know and children woman two

'I saw five men that I Know and two women

b. A hùrù m̩ ùmùnwokē i̩se ndi m̩ mm̩a nà ùmùnwaànyị ò àbuo#

Pre see-pst 1sg children man five Rel 1sg know and children woman two

<ndi m̩ mm̩a>

<Rel 1sg know>

'I saw five men that I know and two women< that I know>'

From the data in (3a-b), we have illustrated that the modifier of *umu nwanyi abuo* 'two women' which is the relative clause *ndi m̩ mma* 'that I know' is deleted.

#### **Relative Clause Deletion in Comparatives in Igbo**

This phenomenon can also emanate from comparatives possessing some ambiguity in Igbo.

4a. N' ahia, enwèrè ùmùnwaànyị ò ndi m̩ nà-èkèle karia  
umùnwokē

Prep market impers-have-pres children woman Rel 1sg Prog-greet than more children man

'In the market, there are more women who I greet than men'

b. N' ahia, enwèrè umùnwaànyi Ì ndi m nà-èkèlè karia umùnwokè

prep market Impers have-pres children woman Rel 1sg Prog-greet more than children  
man

< ndi m na-enye ekele>

<Rel 1SG Prog-greet>

'In the market, there are more women who I greet than men < who I greet >'

5a. N'ulò m, enwèrè umùnwokē ndi na-eri gàri karia umùnwaànyi

Prep house 1sg pref-havep-st men Rel Hab-eat garri than more children woman

'In my house there are men who eat garri than women'

b. N'ulò m, enwèrè umùnwokē ndi na-eri gari karia umùnwaànyi∃ <ndi na-eri gari>

Prep house 1sg pref-have-pst men      Rel Hab-eat garri than woman      <Rel Hab-eat garri>

'In my house, there are men who eat garri than women <who eat garri>'.

We observe from sentences (4-5) that the relative clauses are deleted in comparative structures as shown in (4b and 5b) respectively.

## Identity and Parallelism and the Relative Clause in Igbo

In all cases we have discussed so far, the deleted relative clause is syntactically identical to its antecedent. Following Collins (2015), a relative clause in Igbo is deleted under syntactic identity with an antecedent relative clause.

## Syntactic Identity and the Relative Clause Deletion

6. A relative clause R is deleted under syntactic identity with an antecedent relative clause Collins (2015). Syntactic identity accounts for the following contrast in Igbo:

7a. Enwèrè umùnwaànyi Ị Igbo ndi luru di karia  
umùnwokē Igbo

Impers have.pres children woman Igbo rel-pl marry-pst husband more than children  
man Igbo

‘There are more Igbo women who are married than Igbo men’

b. Enwèrè umùnwaànyịᅚ Igbo ndi nwere di karia  
umùnwokē Igbo

Imper-have-pres children woman Igbo rel-pl have-pst husband more than children  
man Igbo

‘There are more Igbo women who have a husband than Igbo men

The relative clause deletion in (7a) can mean that *E nwere umunwanyị Igbo ndi luru di karia umunwoke Igbo ndi luru* ‘There are more married Igbo women than married Igbo men. However, (7b) does not have the interpretation *karia umunwoke Igbo ndi nwere nwanyị* “than Igbo men who have a wife”, even though it is the DP we can compare with *umunwanyị Igbo ndi nwere di* ‘Igbo women who have a husband’. Such interpretation is ruled out by the identity condition in the since the relative clause *ndi nwere di* “who have a husband” is not identical to *ndi nwere nwanyị* “who have a wife”. Rather, (7b) either means that:

i Enwèrè umùnwaànyịᅚ Igbo ndi nwere di karia umùnwokē  
Igbo nile

Imper-have-pres children woman Igbo Rel-pl have-pres husband more than children man  
Igbo all

‘There are more Igbo women who have a husband than Igbo men altogether’  
(no relative clause deletion); or

ii. E nwèrè umùnwaànyịᅚ Igbo ndi nwere di karia umùnwokē  
Igbo

imper-have-pres children woman Igbo rel-pl have-pres husband more than children  
man Igbo

ndi nwere di

Rel-pl have-pres husband

‘There are more Igbo women who have a husband than Igbo men who have a husband’.

(relative clause deletion).

There is a problem in accepting sentence (6bi). This is because it does not obey the rule of syntactic identity and in addition, the rule of parallelism, which states that the deleted relative clause must be in parallelism with its antecedent and must be found in the same syntactic environment Collins (2015).

### Parallelism and the Relative Clause

Collins (2015), states that relative clause deletion can only take place in the following structure:

8. [XPi.....[ head 1 antecedent].....] and/than [ XP2.....[head 2<relative clause>].....]

where head 2 is focused and XP1 is a member of F(XP2), the focus value of XP2.

He notes that the two XPs in (8) differ in the NP head of their respective relative clauses

### Deletion of other Modifiers in Igbo

Although the focus of this paper is on relative clause deletion, we also show that other modifiers can be deleted in Igbo in the same way. Put differently, apart from relative clause deletion, other modifiers can be deleted from the sentence in the same way. For instance:

(9) Otù nwatakiri nwokē n'ulò akwukwo nilē na-agu akwukwo Igbo mà otù  
 one child man prep house book every prog-read book Igbo and one  
 nwakiriEnwanyi sò kwà  
 child woman does too

‘One boy from every school reads law books and some girl does too’.

Following Collins (2015), we assume that the first conjunct in (9) can have an inverse linking reading, which shows that for *each school*, there is *one boy who reads Igbo books*. This is to say that, if the first conjunct has an inverse linking, we also assume that the second conjunct has inverse linking interpretation. The presence of an inverse linking interpretation for the second conjunct as observed in suggests the following underlying representation (10).

(10) ...mà otù nwatakiri nwaaanyiEnwanyi <n'ulò akwukwo nile> sò < agà akwukwo  
 Igbo> kwa  
 Conj one child woman do-pres pref-read  
 too

‘...and one girl< from every school> does <read Igbo books> too’.

### **Deletion of Adnominal Adjectives in Igbo**

In Igbo, adnominal adjective can be deleted. This is illustrated in the examples in (11-12)

12a. Ha nwèrè umù ewu# oji# karia umù aturu# <oji#> n’ ulò  
ha

3pl have-pst children goat black more than children sheep <black> prep house 3pl

‘They have more black goats than <black> sheep in their house’

b.?? Umù ewu# oji nà-èrì nri karia umù aturu#<oji>

children goat black eat-pres food more than children sheep

‘Black goats eat more than the black sheep

c.\* Ezè hùrù umù ewu oji# abuo na otù aturu# <oji#>

Eze see-pst children goat black two and one sheep

\* ‘Eze saw two black goats and one sheep’

(12) a. Ezè kùziirì umùnwaànyịị mkpumkpu ihe karia umùnwokē

Eze teach-pst children woman short thing more than children man

‘Eze taught more short women than men’

b. ??Umùnwokē mkpumkpu nwèrè ego karia umùnwaànyịị <mkpumkpu >

children man short have money more than children woman

‘The short men have more money than <short> women’

c.\*N’ulò ha, ahùrù m otù nwoke# mkpumkpu na umùnwaànyịị ato  
<mkpumkpu >

Prep house 3pl pref see-pst 1sg one man short and children three

‘In their house, I saw one short man and two women’

From the Igbo data in (11-12), we observe that the modifier interpretation is possible in (11a and 12a) sentences, difficult (11b and 12 b) sentences and impossible in (11c and 12c) sentences

### Definite Determiners and Relative Clause Deletion in Igbo

In Igbo, relative clause deletion is also possible with definite DPs. This means the DPs that have referents and senses identifiable in a given context. An example of definite DP in Igbo is *ahu* which can be glossed as ‘the’ or ‘that’. Relative clause deletion can be demonstrated in examples (13a -d).

(13a.) Ahùrù m nwanwokē ahù n̄ke m kèlèrè nà nwanwaànyị ahù kwa

pref-see-pst 1sg child boy Rel 1sg greetpst conj child woman too

‘I saw the boy who I greeted and the girl too’

b. A hùrù m otù nwanwokē ahù nke m kelere na nwanwànyị àto ahù kwa

pref-see-pst 1sg one child boy def-det rel 1sg greet-pst and child woman three def-det too

I saw the one boy who I greeted and the three girls too

c. Ahùrù m nwanwokē ahù n̄ke m kèlèrè n'Āba na nwanwaànyị ahù

pref-see-pst 1sg child boy def-det Rel 1sg greetpst prep Aba conj child woman def-det

< n̄ke m kèlèrè n'Āba > kwa

<Rel 1sg greetpst prep Aba> too

‘I saw the boy who I greeted in Aba, and the girl too’.

d. Ahùrù m nwanwokē ahù n̄ke m kèlèrè n'Āba mànà o bughị nwanwanyị ahù

pref-see-pst 1sg child boy def-det rel 1sg greet-pst prep Aba but 3sg be-neg child girl def-det

< nke m kèlèrè n'Aba >

rel 1sg greet-pst prep Aba

‘I saw the boy who I greeted in Aba, but not the girl who I greeted in Aba’.



The instance in (13d) is derived from (14) by deleting relative clause *nke m kelere n'Aba* 'who I greeted in Aba' which is following the conjunction 'but'. Thus:

(14) Ahùrù m nwanwokē ahù n̄ke m kèlèrè n'Aba mànà ahughì  
nwanwaànyị ahù

Pref-seepst 1sg child boy def-det Rel 1sg greetpst prep Aba but pref-see-neg child girl  
dem

n̄ke m kèlèrè n'Aba.

Rel 1sg greet-pst prep Aba

'I saw the girl who I greeted in Aba, but I didn't see the girl who I greeted in Aba'.

In some cases involving a definite determiner *ahu* 'the' or 'that' it is unclear whether there is relative clause deletion, or a semantic process of domain restriction. For example:

15. A hùrù m nwanwokē nà nwanwaànyị n'Aba. Nwanwaànyị ahù bu onye nkuzi

Pref-see-pst 1sg child boy conj child girl prep Aba child girl det be person teaching

'I saw a boy and a girl in Aba. The girl is a teacher'.

In the instance above, the DP *nwanwaànyị ahù* 'the girl' in (15) looks as if it has a contextually specified domain narrowing of the set of *nwanwanyị nile* 'all girls' (the denotation of girl) to the set containing just *Nwanwanyị ahu nke m hùrù n'Aba* 'the girl who I saw in Aba'. But the domain narrowing appears to be a semantic process which is usually different from the syntactic process of relative clause deletion. However, if we assume that it is domain narrowing which is mainly semantic, this means that it does not involve the deleted of relative clause. Therefore, if we use the domain narrowing approach to sentence (15) we assume that it does not involve, relative clause deletion even (13).

Another way to interpret sentence (15) is to assume that it involves relative clause deletion. So that the underlying structure of (15) is really:

16. Ahùrù m nwanwokē nà nwanwaànyị n'Aba. Nwanwaànyị <n̄ke m hùrù n'Aba> bu

Pre-seepst 1sg childboy conj child girl prep Aba. Child girl rel 1sg see-pst prep  
Aba be

onye nkuzi

teacher

On the relative clause analysis above, the deleted relative clause does not have a syntactically identical antecedent, since there is no previous relative clause of the form (*nke m huru n'Aba* 'who I saw in Aba'). For the same reason, the deletion in (16) would violate the parallelism condition (8). A related fact is that relative clause deletion readings are much easier with definite determiners in sentences like (17 a-b) above:

17a. Otù nwokē ahù nēke m hùrù sòrò umunwaànyị atò ahù nà-àkpà nkàta

Det man det Rel 1sg see-pst follow-pst children girl three det prog-discuss talk

This sentence easily admits the following interpretation.

Otu nwokē ahù nēke m hùrù sòrò umunwaànyị atò ahu ndi m hùrù nà-àkpà nkàta

One man det Rel 1sg see-pst follow children woman three det who-pl 1sg see-pst prog-talk talk

One way to account for these data is to assume that there is a semantic process of domain narrowing (different from the syntactic process of relative clause deletion) found with definite DPs. (see Collins 2015 for similar proposal) Secondly, we may assume that it may be the case that the conditions in (6) and (8) do not hold for relative clause deletion with definite DPs.

### Relative Clause Deletion in Reconstruction

There are evidences of relative clause deletion in reconstruction in Igbo. This is demonstrated in sentences (18a).

18a. Fòto ònwe ya n' ihu ulò nēke Aēda sèrè kà nma karia fòto onwe ya n'azu ulò

Picture herself prep front house Rel Ada take-pst is better than picture herself prepbck house

'The picture of herself in front the house which Ada took is better than the picture of herself' at the back of the house

Basing on the copy theory of movement, as demonstrated in (19a) following Collins (2015) we assume that operator (OP) is the covert equivalent of the relative element *nke* 'which'. As demonstrated in section 6, CP is dominated by another projection RelP ( into which the NP in *Foto onwe ya* 'picture of himself' raises). In (19b), we show that there is restriction of the higher copy which is being deleted, and the OP of the lower copy is deleted and replaced by a variable (Chomsky 1995, Collins 2015).

19a. [CP[OP Fòto ònwe ya<sub>1</sub>] n̄ke Aɛda<sub>1</sub> sèrè [OP fòto ònwe ya<sub>1</sub>]]

picture of herself which Ada took picture of herself

b. [CP OP<sub>x</sub> n̄ke Aɛda<sub>1</sub> sèrè [<sub>x</sub> fòto ònwe ya]

which Ada took picture of herself

In the logical form (LF) of (b), the lower copy contains the reflexive *onwe ya*<sub>1</sub> ‘himself’, which is bound by the subject *Ada*. However, by the same reasoning, the NP *foto onwe ya n’ihu ulo* in (18) must also be modified by a covert relative clause allowing for reconstruction ( see Collins 2015:62) for similar analysis. A similar instance constructed based on bound variable pronominal element is given below:

20. Ahùrù m fòto nnà ya n̄ke nwokē òbulà wèrèla, màrà ò bughì fòto

pref-see-pst 1sg picture father 3sg Rel man every take-perfect, but 3sg is-neg picture

nne ya

mother 3sg

‘I saw the picture of his father that every man took, but not the picture of his mother’

In (20) the pronoun *ya* ‘his’ in *foto nna ya* ‘picture of his father’ is interpreted as a variable bound by *nwoke obula* ‘every man’. We could also assume that that *I saw several pictures*, one from each man. Such entailment suggest that *nwoke obula* ‘every man’ undergoes quantifier raising (QR) out of the finite relative clause (Collins 2015 from Hudsey and Sanerland 2006: 132). But quantifier raising (QR) of *nwoke obula* ‘every man’ over the head of the relative clause *foto nna ya* ‘picture of his father’ would yield a weak crossover effect (WCO) violation. WCO describes a syntactic configuration where pronouns cannot be interpreted as co-construed with certain kinds of displaced or quantified antecedent. Such examples, according to Hudsey and Sanerland (2005: 134) in Collins (2015:63) involve reconstruction of the head of the relative clause. The following construction can be represented as in (21):

[[nwoke òbulà]<sub>y</sub> [ m hùrù [CP OP<sub>x</sub> [ n̄ke<sub>y</sub> wèrèla [<sub>x</sub> fòto nnà ya]]]]

Man every 3sg see-pst Rel take-pst picture father 3sg

Since, we have shown that the pronominal element *ya* in *foto nna ya* ‘picture of his father’ in (20) is interpreted as a bound variable, by reasoning we can as well assume that *foto nne ya* ‘picture of his mother’ should also undergo reconstruction into a relative

clause, out of which QR has taken place. The outcome of this modification would be: *foto nne* ya ‘picture of his mother’ <*nke nwoke obula werela*> ‘that every man took’. as in (21)

### Relative Clause Deletion in Strict and Sloppy Readings

This phenomenon is observed in pronouns occurring in an elided VP that involves an ambiguity that arises from the interpretation of the pronoun. An example of the distinction between strict and sloppy interpretation of a pronoun in an elided VP is illustrated in Igbo below.

21. Chikē nà-èkèlè nnà ya, mà Eɛmekà na -eme otua

Chike prog-greet father 3sg and Emeka prog-do too

‘Chike greets his father and Emeka does too’

Sloppy: Eɛmekà nà-èkèlè nnà Eɛmekà

Emeka prog-greet father Emeka

‘Emeka greets Emeka father’

Strict: Eɛmekà nà-èkèlè nnà Chikē

Emeka prog-greet father chike

‘Emeka greets Chike’s father’.

The following instance illustrates sloppy interpretations in the case of relative clause deletion in Igbo.

23a. Aɛda hùrù umùnwaànyịɛ àtò ndi guru akwukwo ha nà umùnwokē àbuo#

Ada see-pst children woman three Rel read-pst book 3pl and children man two

‘Ada saw three women who read their book and two men’

b. Aɛda hùrù umùnwaànyịɛ ndi guru akwukwo ha karia umùnwokē

Ada see-pst children woman Rel read-pst book 3pl more than children man

‘Ada saw women who read their books more than men’

c. Umùnwaànyịɛ ndi guru akwukwo ha gà-afè ule karia umùnwokē

children woman Rel read-pst book 3pl will-pass exam more than children man

‘The women who read their books are more likely to pass exam than the men’

All of these sentences in (23) admit relative clause deletion with a sloppy interpretation of the deleted pronoun. For example, the relevant set of *umunwoke* men in (23b) are those who read their books

Other examples show strict interpretations:

24. Ahùrù m fòto Chikē n̄ke di n'elu oche nnà ya, màrà ò bughi# fòto  
n̄ke Uche

Pref-see-pst 1sg picture Chike Rel is prep up table father 3sg but 3sg is-neg picture of Uche

'I saw the picture of Chike that is on his father's table, but not the picture of Uche'  
The most natural interpretation of (24) is the following:

25. Ahùrù m fòto Chikē n̄ke di n'elu oche nnà ya, màrà àhughi m  
foto

Pref-see-pst 1sg picture Chike Rel is prep up table father 3sg but pref-see-neg 1sg picture

n̄ke Uche di n̄ke di n'elu oche nna Chike  
of Uche which is on the table father Chikē

'I saw the picture of Chike that was on Chike's father's table, but I did not see the picture of Uche that was on Chike's father's table'.

Basing on the identity condition on relative clause deletion in (6) with the exception of some examples in section (5.6) involving definites, such a condition handles all the data given in the paper so far. For instance, (23b) will have the following analysis:

26b. Ada huru umùnwaànyị ndi guru akwukwo ha karia umùnwokē

Ada see-pst children woman Rel read-pst book 3pl more than children man

<ndi guru akwukwo ha>

Rel read-pst book

Since the second relative clause is syntactically identical to the first, it can be deleted. The indices in (26) are not interpreted in terms of coreference, but rather variable binding (*ndi* 'who' binds *ha* 'their' syntactically). For similar analysis see Collins (2015).

An example, where the antecedent of the pronoun is not contained within the deleted relative clause is demonstrated below. In this instance, Chima and Uche are hunters who hunt wild animals and kill them for consumption. Thus, one can report on their activities by saying:

(27) Chima gbùrù otu<sub>1</sub> ele ahù n<sub>1</sub>ke<sub>1</sub> o ji<sub>1</sub>de<sub>1</sub>re<sub>1</sub> n'aba<sub>1</sub>li<sub>1</sub> mà Uchè  
gbùrù nkitaohia àbuo

Chima kill-pst one antelope Det Rel 3sg catch-pst prep night and Uche kill-pst fox two

The following interpretations can be true if both *Chima* and *Uche* saw many *ele* 'antelope' and *nkitaohia* 'foxes' but only few of them were actually killed. On one interpretation, there is relative clause deletion, represented in (29), (the verb *gburu* 'killed' is deleted by gapping).

29. Chima gbùrù otu<sub>1</sub> ele ahù n<sub>1</sub>ke<sub>1</sub> o<sub>1</sub> ji<sub>1</sub>de<sub>1</sub>re<sub>1</sub> n'aba<sub>1</sub>li<sub>1</sub> mà  
Uchè<sub>2</sub><gbùrù>nkitaohia

Chima kill-pst one antelope Det Rel 3sg catch-pst prep night and Uche <kill-pst> fox two

abuo <nke o<sub>2</sub> ji<sub>2</sub>de<sub>2</sub>re<sub>2</sub> n'aba<sub>2</sub>li<sub>2</sub> >

two <Rel 3sg catch-pst prep night>

We observe from the data in (29), that the index of the pronoun *o* 'he' in the deleted relative is not the same with the index of the pronoun in the non-deleted relative. Thus, sentences (29) looks as if it violates syntactic identity condition which we stated earlier in (6) that the relative clause deletion must have. We follow Fiengo and May (1994;95) and Collins (2015;64) to propose the syntactic notion of i-copy. Notion of i-copy is a situation where the dependency in the first clause is identical to the dependency in the second clause, even though the indices are different.

### The Structure of Relative Clauses in Igbo

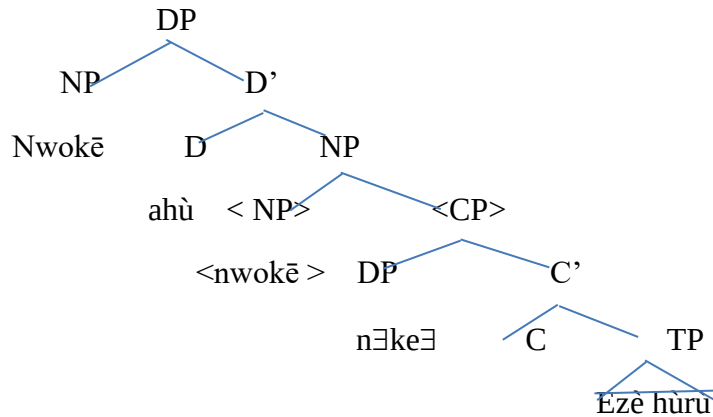
Here, we provide the structure of relative clause in Igbo. In doing this, we consider the consequences of relative clause deletion for the structure of relative clauses in Igbo. We start by providing the traditional approach, where a relative clause modifies an NP. The structure of the relative clause in Igbo using traditional approach is demonstrated in structure (30).

(30) ...nwokē ahù n<sub>1</sub>ke<sub>1</sub> Ezè hùrù

Man the Rel Eze see-pst

'The man who I saw'

b.



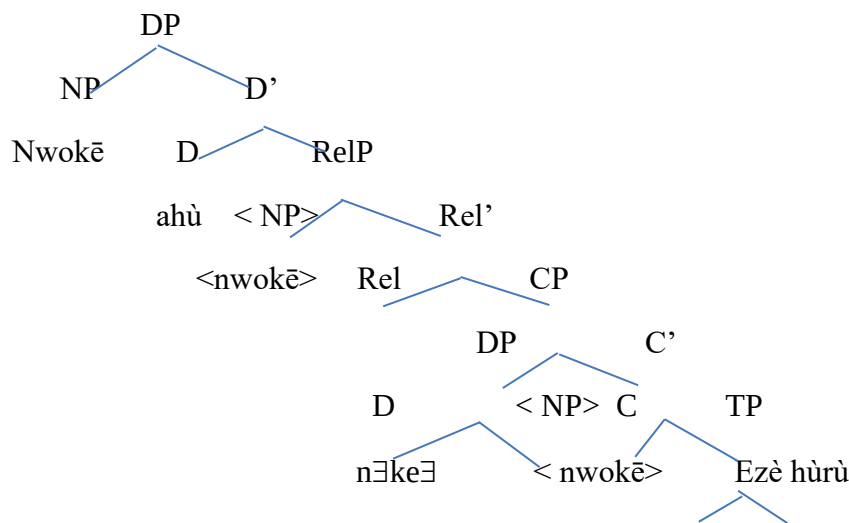
The structure in (30b) shows that relative clause deletion is just the deletion of the CP. But this structure poses a challenge to the formulation of relative clause deletion within the head raising analysis proposed by Kayne 1994.

Following Kayne (1994:90) and Collins (2015:67), we propose a head raising account which shows that relative clause in Igbo can be deleted without deleting the entire CP. This is illustrated in structure (31b)

(31) ...nwokē ahù nēkeē Eze hùrù

Man the Rel Eze see-pst

‘The man who I saw’



We have shown that the NP *nwoke* moves from Spec CP into Spec RelP and from Spec RelP into Spec of the highest DP.

### Summary and Conclusion

In this paper we have examined relative clause deletion in Igbo. We have noted that relative clauses can be deleted in coordinate and comparative structures. We also identified relative clause deletion in reconstruction and sloppy reading expressions in Igbo. We also observe that other modifiers in Igbo such as adnominal modifier, and modifier that have inverse linking interpretation can also be deleted. Bases on the identity condition on relative clause deletion which we noted in example (6) with the exception of some examples in section (5.6) involving definites, we observed that such a condition handled all the data presented in this paper. We also propose a head raising structure of the relative clause and this allows only the CP to be deleted without the raised noun *nwokē* ‘man’. We noted that this paper is in line with Collins (2015)

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