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## Linguistic Features Observed in Hausa Spoken by Karai-Karai in Kukar Gadu and Its Environs

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### Abstract:

The purpose of the paper is to examine the linguistic features in Hausa spoken by Karai-Karai living in Kukar-Gadu and its environs. The study presents 4 features which are so peculiar. They are insertion of velar ejective voiceless /q/ consonant sound such as qaayaa as in ayaa 'tiger nut', qaaree as in auree etc. ii. De-bilabialisation of the bilabial, nasal, plosive, voiced /m/ sound with alveolar nasal voiced /ŋ/ phoneme as in atamfaa becomes atanfaa 'wrapper', damshi becomes danshi 'moisture etc. iii. Deletion of velar, ejective, voiceless /q/ consonant sound as in qaaragoo becomes 'araagoo 'groundnut cake' and qafa becomes 'afaa. iv. Substitution of alveolar lateral voiced /l/ sound with labio velar, approximant voiced /w/ sound as in lokaci becomes wokaci 'time' and low vowel /a/ substituted high back vowel /u/ respectively. The paper adopted Donegen, S.S. (1979) theory of natural phonology. Unstructured interview and native speaker intuition was employed in making inferences in the study. The findings reveal that not only the Karai-Karai, Fulani but also the Ngamos among others that lives in the area that the said features can be observed in their speeches while pronouncing some names in respective of age or gender and the meaning of the word remains unchanged. Lastly, the paper discovered some sounds which appeared neither in word initial, medial nor word-final position but are not incorporated into Karai-Karai alphabets. They are /mb/ as in mbûxu 'mold', mbandi 'things', /kw/ as in talakwa 'tuesday' bunkwu 'hide', /o/ as in ôyum 'money', oci 'goat' etc.

**Keywords:** Deletion, insertion, sound, Hausa and Karai-Karai language

### 1. Introduction

Karai-Karai is one of the Chadic Languages of West –A Sub-branch of Afro-Asiatic (Greenberg, 1963). Also, one of the seven languages of the Chadi family indigenous to Yobe State, others being Duwai, Bade, Bole, Ngamo, Ngizim etc. (Schurh, 1982). The dialects include Birkai, Jalam, Karata, Mataci etc. Hausa on the other hand is a Chadic Language of West –A Sub-branch of the Afro-Asiatic phylum, other Chadic languages include Byabus, Mwaghavul, Terua, Tangale, Karai-Karai, Bole, Sayawa, Bwatiye, Ngas, Bade, Pati, Higi, Ronn, Duhwa, Margi, Kilba, Duwai etc (Newman, 1977). With the largest number of speakers. Abubakar, (2001: xii-xiv) has this to say:

'Apart from Swahili, Hausa is the most widely spoken African language. It is one of the three languages of Nigeria accorded the status major, the other two being Igbo and Yoruba. Nigeria is undoubtedly the home of Hausa language although there are pockets of Hausa communities in Cameroon, Ghana, Sudan, Tripoli and Alexandria with a sizeable population in Niger. Hausa is being taught in some foreign universities and broadcast by many radio stations. Among the foreign universities which include Hausa Language in their degree programme are the University of London, Indiana University, Humbert University, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Warsaw University, University of Ceipzig, Sabbah University, Libya and Ghana University. Of the radio stations which broadcast in Hausa, the following need to be mentioned BBC London, Voice of American, Radio Beijing, Radio Koln, Radio Moscow, Radio Cairo, Radio Ghana, Radio Cameroon and Radio Niger'.

The language Karai-Karai was spoken in Northern Nigeria and found in Borno, Yobe and Bauchi State respectively. In Yobe, the language is spoken in Fune, Nangere, Potiskum and Fika local government. Kukar-Gadu and its environs are part of the villages in Fika Local Government Area of Yobe State that when one comes will easily notice the deletion, insertion, substitution and de-bilabialation of some sounds among others in their speeches while pronouncing some names which is so apparent to language students, researchers and those who are able to speak Hausa fluent. Hausa was the preferred language by Karai-Karai apart from their native language (Karai-Karai L1).

However, the term 'phonology' According to Denham, (2010, p. 104), refers to the study of sound system and the unconscious system underlying speech. Phonology as a branch of linguistics deals with the ways in which the sound of a language works in that particular language (Sani, 1989, p. vii). Whereas Fagge, (2004, p. 1) view phonology as 'concerned with the ways in which the sound of a particular language function'. What happens when a group of speakers begins learning another language is well observed. It would appear likely, then, that further along in the contact history, in the process of acquiring bilingual competence, the version of the second language spoken by such people would still contain many phonological features derivable from their native language, i.e. substratum phonological influence such a

development constitutes a long-term linguistics influence only in so far as the descendants of these people have acquired and carried forward the substratum-influenced version of their parents, perhaps even transmitting it or of its features, to descendants of the native speakers (Sankoff, ..).

Similarly, Mannen, (2006) added that phonological influence between two languages comprise mainly of introducing certain phonemes which may or may not be sounds in one language (into another) in which they do not exist at all or may exist as allophone of a second language. The influence of one language into the other. Sapir, (1921) as cited in Tela et al, (2015, p. 48-56) says: The English language itself is spreading because the English have colonized immense territories. But there is nothing to show that it is anywhere entering into the lexical heart of other languages as French has colored the English complexion or as Arabic has permeated Persian and 'Turkish'.

In view of the above therefore, one may understand that contact between two or more languages influence changed by the native language (L1). Tela, et al (2015, p.48-56) pointed out that delateralization and denasalization are some of the factors that influence Hausa on Bade language phonologically. While Abubakar, et-al (2019, p.53-62) demonstrated delateralization and vowel insertion as some of the factors that influence Hausa on Ngizim language.

### 1.1. Contact between the Karai-Karai and Hausa

The contact between the Hausa and Karai-Karai both are Chadic languages and they share many common feature; such features contributed as genetically, because of having same proto language, culturally, typologically as well as commercial activities.

### 1.2. Objectives of the Paper

The objectives of the paper are to

- Examine the linguistics features in Hausa spoken by Karai-Karai living at Kukar-Gadu, Chana, Siminti and Male village.
- Serves as a means of preserving the language since not much was written on the language.

### 1.3. Methodology

The source of data for this study is from numerous unstructured interviews conducted with some Karai-Karai based on random sampling and native speaker intuition employed in making inferences in the study. Linguistic parameters are employed to establish neither there are similarities between the cognates nor not, meaning the analysis is based on phonological and semantics. The paper adopted

The data is solely drawn from the core or basic vocabulary which is obtainable in every language.

### 1.4. Population of the Study

The population of the study constitutes 20 respondents as the target population from the 4 villages of Fika Local Government Area of Yobs State. The villages are: KukarGadu, Chana, Siminti and Male village, 5 respondents from each village. The reason for the selection is that, that was the form of Hausa spoken in the whole area in respective of age or gender.

### 1.5. Significance of the Study

The study will provide much needed contribution to the field of phonology and semantics, it will also contribute to the field of comparative linguistics more particularly on Karai-Karai that has less linguistics research. It is beneficial to Karai-Karai leaders (those who bear title or office under the language umbrella). It serves as a resource material to any interested who wish to work on both the two languages. It will as well encourage other similar researches on Chadic language.

The study is limited to Kukar-Gadu, Siminti, Chana and Male village.

## 2. Hausa and Karai-Karai Sounds

### 2.1. Hausa Sounds

Sani, (2009, p.12-14) pointed out that Standard Hausa (SH) has 34 consonantal sounds. They are: / b, v, m, φ, φj, t, d, d', l, r, ɾ, n, ɲ, s, f, z, ts, c, j, k, ƙ, g, gɟ, kɟ, ƙw, kw, gw, w, h, j, ' , 'j / . And 14 vowels, they are / a, aa, i, ii, u, uu, o, oo, e, ee, ai, au, ui and ɛ / (Saai, 2011).

### 2.2. Karai-Karai Sounds

The Karai-Karai language has twenty-eight (28) consonantal sounds. They are / b, v, c, d, dl, d', f, g, h, hn, j, k, l, m, n, p, r/ɾ, s, sh, t, tl, w, 'w, 'y, y, z, zh/. And six (6) vowels. They are /ə, a, e, i, o, u / (Schuh, (ed) 2004, p. vii).

### 2.3. Differences in Hausa and Karai-Karai Sounds

In standard Hausa, researched reveals that there are a total number of thirty-four (34) consonantal sounds, they are /b, v, m, n, f, fy, t, d, d', l, r, s, z, ts, c, j, sh, r, y, k, ƙ, g, gy, ky, ƙy, kw, ƙw, gw, w, ' , h, 'y, ɲ, ɳ / (Sani, 2009 p. 12-13, 2011 p. 12-14). And fourteen (14) vowels, ten (10) of which 5 are short vowel while 5 are long, 3 of them were independent while 1 stand for /i/, sometimes /u/ in some places. In a nutshell, Hausa have 48 alphabets whereas Karai-Karai has 34 alphabets. In Karai-Karai long vowels have a macron above the vowel, short vowel has no marking for length. More

importantly, Hausa have 7 sounds which are not common in Karai-Karai while Karai-Karai has 6 sounds which are not common in Hausa language.

### 3. Discussion

The discussion of the paper is based on the following headings: (i) Insertion of velar, ejective voiceless (/k/) sound. (ii) De-bilabialisation of bilabial nasal voiced /m/ phoneme and (iii) deletion of /q/ consonants sound. (iv) Substitution of

#### 3.1. Insertion of Velar, Ejective, Voiceless /K/ Consonant Sound

Insertion is a process in which a syllable or phoneme is added to a word. Here, most of the Karai-Karai if not all people under the study area inserted Hausa velar, ejective, voiceless /k/ consonant sound while pronouncing some names. Below are some examples

	Hausa	Karai-Karai	Gloss
1.	ayaa	kaayaa	tiger nuts
2.	auʔee	kaʔee	marriage etc.

Table 1: Consonant Insertion /k/.

From the above examples, one may agree that velar, ejective, voiceless /k/ sound was inserted before a word would be pronounced by the people under the study area. By that I mean, the Fulani's and Ngamo's that lives in the area.

#### 3.2. De-bilabial. /m/ → /n/

De-bilabial is a process in which a bilabial sound is not bilabialized. Here, most of the Karai-Karai's or people that lives in the area de-bilabialized the nasal, plosive, voiced /m/ sound with alveolar, nasal, voiced /n/ sound phonologically, despite the /m/ sound which is not absent in the speaker's language. For instance,

	Hausa	Karai-Karai	Gloss
1.	tambayaa	tanbaayaa	question
2.	atamfaa	atanfaa	wrapper
3.	amsaa	ansa	answer
4.	damshii	danshii	moisture
5.	kamshii	anshii	saint etc.
6.	hamza	hanza	proper name etc.

Table 2: De-bilabialisation

In view of the above therefore, it is clearly understood that the phoneme /m/ which is bilabial, nasal, plosive voiced is realized as alveolar, nasal, voiced /n/. Despite the phonological changes, the meaning remains unchanged. When asked why? One respondent added that they learned to speak from their parents and people outside house.

#### 3.3. Deletion

Deletion is the removal or elimination of a particular phoneme in either word initial, medial or final position. Mathews, (1997) is of the view that deletion is the loss of vowel or syllable at the beginning of a word. Here, most of the people in the study area deleted velar, ejective, voiceless /k/ sound in articulation of some names. Below are examples.

	Hausa	Karai-Karai	Gloss
1.	kauyee	ʔaʔyee	village
2.	kashii	ʔashii	bone
3.	kanzoo	ʔanzoo	burned crust of food inside pot
4.	kaaragoo	ʔaraagoo	groundnut cake
5.	kaʔaa	ʔaʔaa	migration
6.	kanʔaraa	ʔanʔaraa	snow, hail
7.	danʔoo	danʔʔoo	rubber
8.	wukaa	wuʔaa/waʔaa	knife
9.	kadangaree	ʔadangaree	lizard
10.	kaayaa	ʔayaa	thorn
11.	kiʔaa	ʔiʔaa	call
12.	kugiyaa	ʔugiyaa	hook
13.	kaʔee	ʔaʔee	iron etc.

Table 3: Deletion of Consonant /Q/ Sound

Looking at the above instances, it is strongly agreed that the Karai-Karai among others deleted velar, ejective, voiceless /k/ sound in the production of some names. As said earlier, the meaning remains unchanged. This means any name that involves velar, ejective, voiceless /k/ sound is deleted in their speeches. It has also been observed that even the literate ones if they grow up in the village the influence may be noticed. Additionally, the case may also be found among Karai-Karai speakers living in towns and cities of the neighboring local government i.e., Potiskum, Nangere, Fune and Damagum respectively. Another example that is not cited above is the deletion of glottal, fricatives voiceless sound /h/ as in haihuwa becomes 'ʔaifuwa' 'giving birth'

### 3.4. Substitution

This is another feature examined. Most Karai-Karai, Ngamos, Fulanisetc especially in the study area substitute alveolar, lateral, voiced /l/ sound with labio velar, approximant, voiced /w/ sound. For instance,

	Hausa	Karai-Karai	Gloss
1.	lokaci	wokaci	time
2.			

Table 4: Substitution of Alveolar, Lateral, Voiced /L/ Phoneme /l/ → /w/.e.g.

Another example is the substitution of high back vowel /u/ with low vowel /a/ sound. E.g.

	Hausa	Karai-Karai	Gloss
1.	Wulaqanci	walaʔanci	contempt
2.	Wuqa	waʔa	knife

Table 5: Substitution of High Back Vowel /u/. /u/ → /a/

Looking at the above table, it is quite interesting and understanding that the alveolar, lateral, voiced /l/ consonant and high back vowel /u/ has been substituted.

	Hausa	Karai-Karai	Gloss
1.	gyaxaa	jaxaa	groundnut
2.	gyaaraa	jaaraa r	epair

Table 6: Substitution of Palatalized Velar Plosive Voiced /Gi/ Sound with Post Alveolar Affricative Voiced /dʒ/ sound. /gi/ → /dʒ/. For example

From the above examples, it is clearly showed that the Karai-Karai among others substituted palatalized velar plosive voiced /dz/ with post alveolar affricative voiced /gy/ phoneme respectively.

The paper also found some sounds or phonemes which appeared in neither initial, medial nor word final position but are not incorporated into Karai-Karai alphabets. They are:

	<b>Karai-Karai</b>	<b>Hausa</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
1. /mb/	mbùxu mbandi	cura abubuwa	mold things
2. /nd/	ndâgâyâ boka ndirâmâ boka ndâgai	female soothsayer soothsayer bikin bautar tsafi -	
3. /ng/	ngâdâri nguza nguzamu ngôniyô danya	qarya qaura mushe tree with plum like fruit	lie migrate dead animal
4. /ny/	nyâmùx citta	ginger	
5. /kw/	bùnkwu vuya kwâncâr fara kwâbô	hide locust gajimare cloud	
6. /ky/	kyâlXu	tiqa	chew cud
7. /gw/	kyâlkyâl faqo gwâdô gwado gwadagori gwâbô gora gwâdalâ zazzabi gwândigô	plain blanket kunkuru tortoise large round gourd fever gafiya	giant rat etc.
8. /ai/	gwaigwai barkatai amsa amo kancalai ‘ mângwai âwâi	aljani amsa amo ciwo/wuya kyanwa	spirit idiophone difficulty/pain cat etc.
9. /au/	âuyakù kurege Âuyâku taure	squirrel astrated goat	
10./o/	òci -waci òntum –wantin hanci/majina òsu –wasu òyum	akuya qashi kuxi	goat nose/mucous bone money

Table 7

#### 4. Findings

The findings of the study reveals that the Karai-Karai among others inserted velar ejective voiceless /q/ consonant sound as in auree becomes qauree ‘marriage’, ayaa becomes qaayaa ‘tiger nut’ etc and de-bilabialised the bilabial nasal, plosive voided /m/ sound with nasal, alveolar voiced /ŋ/ sound as in atamfa becomes atanfa ‘wrapper’, damsshi becomes danshi ‘moisture’ etc. Deletion of velar ejective voiceless /q/ phonemes in qaaraagoo becomes araagoo ‘ground cake’, baaqii becomes baa?ii ‘black’ respectively. The paper also noticed that the sound /q/ consonant is not common in the speaker’s language (Karai-Karai). The Substitution of high back vowel /u/ with low vowel /a/ as in wulakanci becomes wala?anci ‘contempt’ etc was observed. So also, the paper discovered the appearance of some sounds which are not incorporated into the language Karai-Karai sounds.

#### 5. Conclusion

Summarily, four linguistic features are identified in Hausa spoken by Karai-Karai among others that lives in Kukar-Gadu and its environs. They are insertion of velar ejective voiceless /k/ sound, de-bilabialisation of bilabial nasal voiced /m/ sound with alveolar nasal voiced /n/ sound. Deletion of velar ejective voiceless /k/ sound and substitution of some phoneme. Most of the Karai-Karai inserted alveolar, voiceless ejective /k/ sound as in auree becomes kauree ‘marriage, ayaa becomes kaayaa ‘tiger nuts’ etc. On the de-bilabial part, alveolar, nasal, plosive voiced /ŋ/ sound was realised as bilabial, nasal, voiced /m/ sound as in atanfaa ‘wrapper’, taŋbayaa ‘question’, danshii ‘moisture’ respectively. Also velar, ejective, voiceless /k/ sound was deleted as in kauɾaa ‘migration’, wukaa ‘knife’, kaɾagoo ‘groundnut cake’ etc. Despite the linguistic changes, the meaning remain unchanged. Since this is the form of Hausa spoken in the whole area in respective of age or gender researchers are welcome to the study area that this is just an introduction. The paper also observed some sounds which appeared in neither word initial, medial nor word-final position but are not incorporated into Karai-Karai sounds. They are /mb/, /ng/, /au/, /kw/, /ai/, /gw/ /o/ etc.

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