

Questionnaire for connectives

LiSU team

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Language: Igbo

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Contexts

A. Conjunctive contexts

A1. No contrast

- 1) *Context (stative)*: Susie works as a doctor in a hospital. In her spare time, she gives classes at the local college.

Target sentences:

Susie is a doctor and she is a teacher.

Susie bu dokita o bu-**kwa** onyenkuzi

S cop doctor 3sg cop-KWA teacher

Lit: "S. is a doctor, she is also a teacher."

NP conjunction:

Susie bu dokita **na** onyenkuzi

S cop doctor NA teacher

Comments:

- no real "and" for clausal connectives
- the first sentence would be preferred in natural speech
- the second structure would be more natural in a sentence like "For breakfast Susie had bread and eggs."

Susie is a doctor; she is a teacher. (check of whether juxtaposition is possible)

- No, only in an enumeration where there is a 3rd conjunct

- 2) *Context (eventive)*: Paul needs to do some ironing, but he finds it boring, so he turns on the TV to watch his favourite program while he irons.

Target sentences:

Paul is watching TV and he is ironing his shirts.

Paul na-ene TV na-edekwa akwa.

P ipfv-look tv ipfv-iron-KWA cloth

Paul is watching TV; he is ironing his shirts. (juxtaposition)

P na-ene TV na-edekwa.

Comment: this is fine, but there is a prosodic break after “TV”

A2. Contrast

- 3) *Context (stative)*: You live in a place where doctors are wealthy. Susie works as a doctor. She mainly treats patients who cannot pay for their treatment, so Susie earns much less money than other doctors do. You tell your friend about Susie:

Target sentence: Susie is a doctor but she is poor.

Susie bu dokita **mana** o nwe-ghi ego

S cop doctor MANA she have-neg money

- 4) *Context (episodic)*: Jen bought a big ice cream cone. Instead of eating it herself though, she gave it to a sad-looking stranger who was sitting by himself on a bench.

Target sentence: Jen bought ice cream but she bought it for a stranger.

J zu-ru icecream **mana** o zu-nye-re S

J buy-rV i MANA she buy-give-rV S

Comment: What the “rV” morpheme does is debatable. Might be a TAM marker or polarity-related.

A3. Contrast - negated conjunct

- 5) *Context*: Paul told his grandmother that he works in a hospital and now his grandma tells everyone that Paul is a doctor. But this is not true, Paul actually works at the reception!

Target sentence: Paul is not a doctor but he is a receptionist.

Paul abu-ghi dokita **mana** o bu R.
P cop-neg doctor MANA he cop R

Comment:

- “mana” can be left out here
- but it is not possible to just connect NPs (*Paul is not a doctor but a receptionist)

- 6) *Context*: Jen was planning to buy herself some ice cream after work, but the store was all out of ice cream! So Jen decided to buy some chocolate instead.

Target sentence: Jen didn’t buy ice cream but she bought chocolate.

J azu-ghi icecream **mana** o zu-ru chocolate.
J buy-neg ice-cream MANA she buy-rV chocolate

Comment: again, NP conjunction not possible

B. Disjunctive contexts

B1. With speaker knowledge about which clause is true

- 7) *Context*: On a multiple choice maths test, it asks “5x5” and lists two options (A) 24 and (B) 25. The teacher says to the student:

Target sentence: (Either) the answer to the question is A or the answer to the question is B.

Aziza ajuju ahu **nwe-re ike** i-bu A **ma o bu** B
Answer question det have-rV strength inf-cop A disj it cop B

Comment:

- Just saying “ma B” would be additive, in the construction with “ma o bu” it has the disjunctive meaning

Notes :

- maybe check with plural disjuncts (suggestion from Mary)
- The modal ("nwere ike") seems to play a role here, "ma" itself does not seem to have a genuinely disjunctive meaning

8) *Context:* You and your friend are playing a game guessing the jobs of Paul and John. She can't think of the answer, and she asks you for a hint. You know that Paul is a doctor, and that John used to be a doctor but is not anymore. So you say:

Target sentence: (Either) Paul is a doctor or John is a doctor.

O **nwe-re ike** bu-ru na Paul bu dokita **ma o bu** John bu dokita.

It have-rv strength cop-rv that Paul cop doctor MA O BU John cop doctor

B2. Without speaker knowledge about which clause is true

B2-1. Within a statement

B2-1.1 exclusive/unspecified

9) *Context:* You have lost your phone. You remember it at your work office desk before cycling home.

Target sentence: I left my phone at work or I dropped it on my way home.

O **nwe-re ike** bu-ru na m hapu-ru fonu m na oru **ma o bu** na m tufu-ru ya n' uzo

It have-rv strength that I leave-rv phone my at work MA O BU that i lose-rV at way

Comment: Without the *nwere ike* it would sound more like a conditional clause

10) *Context:* Your friend asks you what John's job is. As far as you know, John might be a doctor. You're not sure, though. It's also possible that he's a writer.

Target sentence: John is a doctor or he is a writer.

John **nwe-re ike** bu-ru dokita **ma o bu** bu-ru ode akwukwo

John have-rV strength cop-rv doctor MA O BU cop-rv writer book

B2-1.2 inclusive

- 11) Context: Your friend asks you what John's job is. You're not sure: he might be a doctor, he might be a writer, he might also be both. You say:

Target sentence: John is a doctor or he is a writer (maybe both).

John **nwe-re ike** bu-ru dokita,
John have-rv strength cop-rv doctor

o **nwe-re ike** bu-ru ode akwukwo **ma o bu** bu-ru ha abuo.
he have-rv strength cop-rv write book MA O BU cop-rv they two

Examples of "ma" in additive use:

John nwe-re akwukwo **ma** nwe-**kwa** ego.
John have-rv book MA have-KWA money
"John has a book and (has) money."

John kpo-ro **ma** Paul.
John call-rv ma Paul
"John also called Paul."

John kpo-**kwa**-ra **ma** Paul
John call-ADD-rv MA Paul
"John also called Paul."

B2-2. Within a question

- 12) Context: You come home from work and realise that you have lost your phone. You tell your friend, whom you called from your office right before you left work. Your friend asks you:

Target sentence: Did you leave your phone at work or did you leave it on the bus?

I hapu-ru fonu gi n' oru **ka o bu** na i hapu-ru ya n'ime ugbo.
you.Q leave-rv phone your prep-work KA O BU that you.Q leave-rv it P-inside vehicle

Comment: pronouns ("i") have a different tone in the polar question

- 13) Context: You really want a particular brand of sauce for something you plan on cooking later, but you're not sure which supermarket would sell it. You ask your housemate:

Target sentence: Would Shop A sell this brand or would Shop B sell this brand?

Shop A o ga-ere brand a **ka o bu** Shop B (o ga-ere ya)

Shop A 3sg.Q FUT-sell brand this KA O BU Shop B 3sg.Q FUT-sell it

Comment: in the polar question the pronoun has to be there to carry the Q-tone

C. Others

C1. Both clauses are false

- 14) *Context (stative):* Paul works in a hospital. He is not a doctor and he is not a nurse. He works at the reception.

Target sentence: Paul is neither a doctor nor is he a nurse.

Paul abu-**ghi** dokita, o bu-**ghi-kwa** nursi

Paul cop-neg doctor he cop-neg-KWA nurse

- 15) *Context (episodic):* Mike's mother told him to go to the supermarket to buy some ice cream for his sister, but Mike stole it instead and ate it himself.

Target sentence: Mike didn't buy ice cream nor did he give it to his sister.

Mike azu-**ghi** icecream, o nye-**ghi-kwa** ya nwanne ya nwaanyi

Mike buy-neg icecream he give-neg-KWA it sibling his woman

C2. Free choice

- 16) *Context:* There are two sweets on the table. A cupcake and a cookie. Paul can choose either one of them but not both. You don't care which one he chooses.

Target sentence: Paul can eat a cupcake or he can eat a cookie.

Paul **nwe-re ike** i-ri cupcake **ma o bu** o rie cookie

Paul have-rV strength eat cupcake MA O BU he eat cookie

C3. Disjunction under negation

– can be skipped if 14)/15) elicit explicit/separate negation (rather than a dedicated connective)

17) *Context*: Susie always wanted to be a doctor, and she always loved running.
When she was a kid, she dreamt of a double-career as a doctor and a professional runner. Unfortunately for Susie, neither of these plans worked out. She works a job she doesn't like and she has no time for running.

Target sentence: Susie isn't a doctor or a runner.
(= It's not the case that Susie is a doctor or that Susie is a runner.)

Susie abu-**ghi** dokita, o bu-**ghi-kwa** onyeogbooso
Susie cop-neg doctor she cop-neg-KWA runner

Comment: "abu" and "bu" are different forms of the same copular

Context	Coordinator(s) elicited
A1 Conjunctive, no contrast	-kwa na [only NP conjunction?]
A2 Conjunctive, contrast	mana
A3 Conjunctive, contrast, negated conjunct	mana
B1 Disjunctive, with speaker knowledge	nwere ike ... ma o bu [nwere ike = possibility, ma = additive?]
B2-1.1 Disjunctive w/o speaker knowledge, statement, exclusive/unspecified	nwere ike ... ma o bu
B2-1.2 Disjunctive w/o speaker knowledge, statement, inclusive	nwere ike ... nwere ike ... ma o bu
B2-2 Disjunctive w/o speaker knowledge, question	ka o bu
C1 both clauses false	-ghi ... -ghi-kwa [ghi = negation]
C2 free choice	nwere ike ... ma o bu
C3 negation	same as in C1