



## NOMINALIZATION PROCESS IN FANTE (AKAN)

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### **Abstract:**

The paper relied on primary and secondary Fante intuitive data to explore the morphophonological processes by which nouns are formed and the product of these processes in Fante adopting autosegmental theory as underpinning theory. This is what is referred to as 'nominalization'. Appah (2003) used nominal derivation for nominalization and described it as the process by which word forms, as well as phrases and clauses, are converted into nouns. With this in mind, nominal derivation and nominalization are used interchangeably in this research paper. The paper revealed that segments which are put together to form nominal words in Fante are discovered at the level of both affixation and compounding. The paper concluded that affixation and compounding are the most dominant ways of deriving nouns in Akan Fante.

**Keywords:** autosegmental, nominal, derivation, nominalization, morphological, affixation, compounding, agentive, patient, noun, verb, feminine, location, diminutive, assimilatory processes, advanced tongue root

### **1. Introduction**

Fante is a dialect of Akan spoken in Ghana. It belongs to the Kwa family of languages. According to Agyekum (2006), the Akans form the largest ethnic group in Ghana. Akan as a language is spoken by about 49.1% of the population of Ghana and about 44% speak the language as a second language (Owu-Ewie, 2004). The Fantes, also known as Mfantsefo, occupy the coastal region between the Gas of the Greater Accra Region and the Nzemas of the Western Region of Ghana. It is spoken in the whole of the Central Region and part of the Western Region, with a population of about 1,170,000 speakers. According to Abakah (2004), Fante has three main subdialects, with the Iguae dialect as the reference point. The other two sub-dialects are Anee and Boka to the west and east of Iguae respectively. Some Fante towns include Oguaa (Cape Coast), Akyemfo (Saltpond), Edina (Elmina), Yamoransa, Mankesem, Kɔmantse, Otuam, Akaa, Dewurampɔn and Anomabo.

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## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Autosegmental Theory

Autosegmental phonology was developed within the tradition of classical Generative phonological theory of Chomsky and Halle (1968), following the works of Williams (1971) and Leben (1973) on tone systems in West African languages such as Margi, Igbo and Mende. The principal and remarkable innovations of autosegmental phonology are exemplified in Goldsmith (1976) in his dissertation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Autosegmental phonology is not a departure from the principles of Generative phonology codified in Chomsky and Halle's *Sound Pattern of English (SPE)* in 1968. It is a Non-linear version of the phonological analysis of Generative phonology, while SPE is a linear version of phonological analysis (Nerius, 2013).

Indeed, Goldsmith (1990:1) confesses that autosegmental phonology is a "*direct continuation of the transitional works in generative phonology codified in Chomsky and Halle's Sound Pattern of English in 1968*". The only difference between the SPE and autosegmental theory is "the development of a multi-linear phonological analysis in which different features may be placed on separate tiers, and in which the various tiers are organized by 'association lines' in autosegmental Phonology (Goldsmith, 1979:202). It can, therefore, best be viewed as an attempt to supply a more adequate understanding of the phonetic side of linguistic representation (Goldsmith, 1976:16).

Goldsmith (1976:16) further explains that autosegmental phonology is a "*theory of how various components of the articulatory apparatus, i.e. the tongue, the lips, the larynx and the velum are coordinated*" in the process of sound production. It, therefore, implies that phonological features lead their own independent lives and are not grouped together in unordered bundles (segments) as it is made to believe in generative phonology.

In this vein, therefore, autosegmental phonology places segments and suprasegmentals (especially tone and other prosodic features) on different tiers parallel to each other, with the suprasegmentals being linked to the segments by association lines. Every segment on each tier is specified for a set of features specific and unique to that tier, and segments on each tier are associated with segments on the other tiers by association lines. Association lines in the derived or phonetic representation indicate a relationship of simultaneity, while at deeper levels of representation, they specify a more abstract relationship among the segments on the separate tiers (Nerius, 2013).

### 2.2 Definition of Nominalization

There are various definitions of the term **nominalization** in the literature. In classical generative grammar, it referred to the derivation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause like; our coming here ...from we came here, (Crystal, 1991). In recent times, however, it has come to refer to the derivation of nouns from other word classes, mostly adjective and verbs (Appah, 2003). The following sample of definitions will serve to elucidate the point better. Nominalization refers to the process of forming a noun from some other word class, for example, red + -ness = redness (Chomsky, 1970).

Nominalization is a process which involves the formation of nouns from verbs and adjectives, for example, *zo* – ‘run’, *zoou/zoobu* – ‘the act of running’, *faa* – ‘bad’, *faalong* – ‘bad deed/evil’, (Bodomo1997:217).

Nominalization is the process or result of forming nouns from some other part of speech by the use of an appropriate derivational affix e.g. *green* + *ness* – *greenness*, *odd* + *ity* – *oddity*, (Crystal, 1991).

Nominalizations are derivational processes that produce nouns from verbs or adjectives (Fabregas & Scalise, 2012).

Nominalization is the process or result of using a noun phrase instead of a verbal construction or a subordinate clause. For example, the acceptance of the proposal is the first requirement. It is firstly required that you accept what scholars have proposed here (Hartmann & Stork, 1972).

The definition will then be similar to nominal derivation as used in Akanlig-Pare (1999) and defined as the conversion process of word forms into nominals, though he does not mention phrases and clauses, for both category-changing derivations, like those that involve verbs and adjectives and non-category-changing derivations, like the derivation of nouns from other nouns.

Bodomo (1997a) was specific on the categories from which nominals can be formed in Dagaare by defining nominalization as “*a process which involves the formation of nouns from verbs and adjectives*”. Bodomo (idem.) also fails to tell us how the formation takes place and also limits the word classes from which nominals are derived to only verbs and adjectives. Appah (2003) expands the categories mentioned by Bodomo by defining nominal derivation as “*the process or result of forming a noun from words (verbs, adjectives, and other nouns), phrases or clauses*”, factoring in how the phenomenon is observed in Akan. According to Appah (2003), one truism that runs through the above definitions of nominalization is that it results in category change. However, a critical look at these various definitions indicates a clear restriction of the triggers of the nominalization process only to segments or morphemes, such as affixes, while they remain silent on the role that supra-segmentals, such as tone, can play in changing the category of a lexical item, as is observed in tone languages such as Fante. For example, in Fante, a noun like *pàpà* ‘father’ is nominalized by changing the tonal pattern, as in *pàpà* ‘fun’. Therefore, there is a need to widen the domain within which nominals can be formed in our definition of the process. Appah (2003) proposed a more holistic definition of the subject to capture both segmental (affixation) and suprasegmentals (tone) nominalization of lexical items, especially in tone languages and build on the last definition by suggesting that nominalization in Akan can be defined as the process by which nominals are derived from lexical items such as verbs, adjectives and other nouns usually by way of affixation or by tonal marking.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Research Design

This study employs morphophonological and qualitative design to research in the bid to explore the processes of nominalization in Fante. The data presentation is exploratory in nature due to

the process involved in autosegmental theory which is the underpinning framework of the study.

### **3.2 Data and Data Source**

A blend of primary and secondary Fante intuitive data was relied on to achieve the objectives of this paper. Primary source data was collected from Undergraduate students majoring in Ghanaian language (Fante) Education at the University of Education, Winneba and examination scripts of College of Education Students whereas the secondary data were drawn from (Odoom, 2003).

### **3.3 Sample and Sampling**

The study adopted a purposive sampling technique in selecting two undergraduate units from the University of Education, Winneba, majoring in Ghanaian language Education, and engaged each unit in focus group discussion as well as randomly sampling from College Fante examination scripts, which helped the researcher to come up with Fante intuitive primary data. The secondary data was purposively drawn from (Odoom, 2003).

### **3.4 Data Presentation and Analysis**

Primary source data was transcribed into written text, and the secondary data from books and scripts adapted by the researcher were appropriately segmented according to the process involved in the autosegmental theory and presented in tables for exploratory analysis.

#### **3.4.1 Analysis of Nominalization Process in Fante**

In Fante, nouns are derived through several processes. Among these processes are affixation, compounding, reduplication, conversion, borrowing, nasalization and tone. With the nature of this study and the time factor, the research is limited to affixation and compounding. This is because affixation and compounding are empirically said to be the two dominant ways of arriving at nominal derivation in Fante.

## **4. Findings and Analysis**

### **4.1 Affixation**

This is a process which involves the addition of a nominalizing affix (prefix or suffix or both) to the structure that enters the derivation process, that is, the root or stem to be nominalized (Appah, 2003). In Fante [o-,e-,ɔ-,m-,n-,fo-,nyi-,nom-,wa-,ba] are the common affixes used to derive nouns from other word classes such as verbs, nouns and adjectives. It has been noted in the literature that when these above-mentioned affixes are attached to verbs, nouns, and adjectives, various nominalization strategies that differ functionally according to the resulting noun's semantic relationship to the original words are realized. Among these nominalization strategies are action nominalization, stative nominalization and participant nominalization (agent, patient, instrument, location, manner, product, diminutive, feminine, nationality, identification, clan nouns, etc).

### 4.1.1 Action Nominalization

Action nominals are derived from action verbs and may refer to the action (usually in the abstract), process or occurrence designated by the verb (Appah, 2003). Table 1 below explains the process of action nominalization.

**Table 1**

<b>Nominal prefix</b>		<b>stem</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>nominalized word</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>phonetic transcription</b>
a-	+	dɔw	‘weed’	adɔw	‘weeding’	[adɔw]
e-	+	guar	‘bath’	eguar	‘bathing’	[eguar]
n-	+	hyira	‘bless’	nhyira	‘blessing’	[neira]
e-	+	dzidzi	‘eat’	edzidzi	‘eating’	[edzidzi]
a-	+	saw	‘dance’	asaw	‘dancing’	[asaw]
a-	+	kenkan	‘read’	akenkan	‘reading’	[akɪŋkan]
ɔ-	+	man	‘branch’	ɔman	‘town’	[ɔman]
m-	+	boa	‘to help’	mboa	‘help’	[mbua]

### 4.1.2 Participant Nominalization

Participant nominalization is, in fact, a term that covers a bundle of nominalization strategies, as the introduction to this subsection shows. According to Payne (1997), it is a verb-based nominalization strategy that results in a noun that refers to one of the participants in the event designated by the verb root. With this view, Payne only restricted the derivation processes to the verb stem, but in my view, nouns are included. According to Payne, cited in Appah (2003) languages typically make use of various participant nominalization strategies, and the difference among the various participant nominalization strategies often, but not always, has to do with which participant is referred to. The following are subcategories of participant nominalization.

### 4.1.3 Agentive Nominalization

Arthur (2017) says, in Fante, the nominal prefix (vowel or homorganic nasal) and the suffix (-nyi) and (-fo) are attached to nouns and verbs to refer to the agent or actor in the action or process designated by the verb and represent the agent of the activity named by the noun stem. The output of this nominalization becomes the performer of the action or the activity named by the nouns. Examples of agentive nominalization in Fante are illustrated in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

nominal prefix	stem	gloss	nominal suffix	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
ɔ-	kyerɛw	'write'	-fo	ɔkyerɛwfo	'writer'	[ɔtɛɪɛfɔ]
ɔ-	bow	'drink'	-fo	ɔbowfo	'drunkard'	[ɔbɔwɔfɔ]
o-	kua	'farming'	-fo	okuafo	'farmer'	[okuaɔfɔ]
	sika	'money'	-nyi	sikanyi	'wealthy person'	[sikani]
	kuna	'widowhood'	-nyi	kunanyi	'widower'	[kunani]
o-	sua	'learn'	-nyi	osuanyi	'learner'	[osuani]

#### 4.1.4 Patient Nominalization

This is a nominalization strategy that results in a noun that refers to the patient, which is designated by the verb and the noun. In Fante, patient nominalization takes the same way as agent nominalization. Find examples of patient nominalization in Fante in Table 3 below.

**Table 3**

nominal prefix	stem	gloss	nominal suffix	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
ɔ-	soma	'send'	-fo	ɔsomafo	'a messenger'	[ɔsɔmaɔfɔ]
o-	wu	'to die'	-fo	owufo	'the dead'	[owuɔfɔ]
o-	kuna	'widowhood'	-fo	okunafo	'a widow'	[okunaɔfɔ]

#### 4.1.4 Location Nominalization

This is a nominalization strategy that results in a noun that refers to a location where the activity designated by the verb tends to occur (Appah, 2003). In Fante the prefix (a,-e-) and the suffix (-e) are used to derive location nominalization by attaching it to a verb stem to show where the action of the verb is taking place. Examples of location nouns are illustrated in Table 4 below.

**Table 4**

nominal prefix	stem	gloss	nominal suffix	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
a-	soɛ	'put down'	-e	asoɛe	'a resting place'	[asɔɛɪ]
a-	hyehyɛ	'to arrange'	-e	ahyehyɛe	'parking place'	[aɛɪɛɪ]
e-	guar	'to bath'	-e	eguaree	'bathroom'	[eguani]

#### 4.1.5 Diminutive Nominalization

Diminutive nominalizations are nouns that are derived from nouns to show the minute form of the noun. In Fante, the suffix (-wa,-ba) are used to derive diminutive nouns from nouns. Examples of such nouns are found in Table 5 below.

**Table 5**

stem	gloss	nominal suffix	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
hen	'vehicle'	-ba	hɛmba	'canoe'	[hɛmba]
sikan	'cutlass'	-ba	sikamba	'knife'	[sikamba]
boredze	'plantain'	-wa	boredzeba	'plantain sucker'	[bʊrɛdzɪba]
akataasia	'lady'	-ba	akataasiaba	'young lady'	[akataasiaba]

#### 4.1.6 Feminine Nominalization

As it is in every language, Fante also has a way of deriving feminine names from masculine names. Mostly, the suffix *-bea* and *-wa* are attached to masculine names to derive the feminine form of a word. Examples are illustrated below in Table 6.

**Table 6**

musculine	suffix	feminine	phonetic transcription
Ofori	-wa	Oforiwa	[oforiwa]
Tekyi	-wa	Tekyiwa	[teteiwa]
Ado	-bea	Adobea	[adɔbɪa]
Pentsir	-wa	Pentsiwa	[pentsiwa]
ɔpare	-bea	ɔparebea	[ɔparɪbɪa]
Asan	-wa	Asanwa	[asanwa]

#### 4.1.7 Nationality Nouns

The suffix, *'-nyi'* and its plural counterparts *'-fo'* are affixed to place names to derive nationality nouns. 'Nationality', here, is used as a cover term for any kind of definable geographical location including countries (Appah, 2005). It is also a way of indicating ethnic identity. Examples are illustrated in Table 7.

**Table 7**

Geog.	+	Loc Nat.	Affix Nat.	Noun Gloss	phonetic transcription
Ghana	+	-nyi	Ghananyi	'Ghanaian'	[ghanaian]
Akan	+	-fo	Akamfo	'Akans'	[akans]
Mfanste	+	-nyi	Mfantsenyi	'A Fante'	[fante]
Esuantse	+	-nyi	Esuantsenyi	'An Ashanti'	[ashanti]

#### 4.1.8 Identification Nouns

Identification nouns are formed from the suffixation of the dominant affix *'-nyi'* and the related one *'-fo'*, to certain nouns. The noun so formed will refer to a quality that the named entity possesses or a physical possession (or the lack it), but one that identifies the named entity. The

suffix 'o- and 'ɔ- are also attached to the stem to derive the underlying noun. Examples are illustrated in Table 8.

**Table 8**

nominal prefix	stem	gloss	nominal suffix	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
ɔ-	kɔm	'coming'	-fo	ɔkɔmfo	'a fetish priest'	[ɔkɔmfɔ]
ɔ-	tan	'to hate'	-fo	ɔtamfo	'hater'	[ɔtamfɔ]
o-	hia	'need'	-nyi	ohianyɪ	'poor person'	[ohiɒni]
o-	sika	'money'	-nyi	osikanyɪ	'wealthy person'	[osikɒni]

3

## 4.2 Compounding

Compounding simply involves the creation of a word by putting two or more free/root morphemes together (Issah & Adomako, 2011). Compound words are words that consist of either two or more elements that are independent words, combining or putting together old words (roots/morphemes). In Fante, most nouns are derived from compounding by combining noun + noun, noun + adjective, noun + verb, verb + noun and adjective + noun.

### 4.2.1 Noun + Noun Compounding

These are mostly two heads of nouns that are concatenated to derive a noun. Examples are illustrated below in Table 9.

**Table 9**

Noun	gloss	noun	gloss	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
asem	'issue' +	dua	'tree'	asendua	'cross'	[asendua]
ɔhen	'chief' +	fie	'house'	ahemfie	'palace'	[ahɪmfie]
nyimpa	'human' +	dua	'tree'	nyimpadua	'human structure'	[ɲɪmpadua]
ɔman	'town' +	ɔhen	'chief'	ɔmanhen	'paramount chief'	[ɔmanhɪn]
egyanka	'orphan' +	ɔba	'child'	egyankaba	'an orphan'	[edzɒŋkaba]
sika	'money' +	edur	'medicine'	sikadur	'blood money'	[sikedur]
eburow	'corn' +	isiam	'flour'	eburosiam	'corn flour'	[eburosiam]
nokwar	'true' +	asem	'issue'	nokwasem	'true matter'	[nokwasem]
detse	'sand' +	ɔdan	'house'	deteda	'mud-house'	[detsɪdan]

### 4.2.2 Noun + Adjective Compounding

This involves the combination of a noun stem and an adjectival stem to derive a noun. Table 10 below illustrates Noun + Adjective compounding in Fante.



**Table 10**

<b>Noun</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>adjective</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>nominalized word</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>phonetic transcription</b>
ɔbra	'life'	+ pa	'good'	ɔbrapa	'good life'	[ɔbrapa]
sika	'money'	+ ntsem	'quick'	sikantsem	'quick money'	[sikantsem]
nam	'fish'	+ pa	'good'	nampa	'good fish'	[nampa]
sika	'money'	+ kɔkɔ	'red'	sikakɔkɔ	'gold'	[sikakɔkɔ]

### 4.2.3 Noun + Verb Compounding

This involves the combination of a noun stem and a verb stem to derive a noun. Table 11 below gives an illustration of noun + verb compounding in Fante.

**Table 11**

<b>Noun</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>verb</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>nominalized word</b>	<b>gloss</b>	<b>phonetic transcription</b>
mfonyin	'picture'	+ twa	'capture'	mfonyintwa	'photography'	[mfonyintwa]
ɔbra	'life'	+ bɔ	'to play'	abrabɔ	'life'	[abrabɔ]
adze	'thing'	+ sua	'learn'	adzesua	'learning'	[adzɪsua]
ɔhen	'chief'	+ tu	'uproot'	ahentu	'destoolment'	[ahɪntu]
fun	'corpse'	+ sie	'hide'	funsie	'burial'	[funsie]
ɔkwan	'way'	+ tu	'uproot'	akwantu	'traveling'	[akwantu]
asem	'matter'	+ ka	'say'	asenska	'evangelism'	[asɛŋka]
aman	'nation'	+ bu	'break'	amambu	'ruling'	[amambu]

### 4.2.3 Verb + Noun Compounding

It basically involves the combination of a verb stem and a noun stem to derive a noun. This is illustrated in Table 12 below.

**Table 12**

Verb	gloss		noun	gloss	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
gye	'collect'	+	nkwa	'life'	agyenkwa	'saviour'	[adzɪŋkwa]
dzi	'eat'	+	bea	'place'	dzibea	'stature'	[dzibra]
to	'throw'	+	mboa	'help'	ntoboa	'contribution'	[ntubva]
fintsiw	'stumble'	+	dua	'tree'	fintsidua	'temptation'	[fintsidua]
nyim	'know'	+	adze	'thing'	nyimdzee	'knowledge'	[nimdzɪ]

#### 4.2.4 Adjective + Noun Compounding

This involves adjective and noun stem words that are concatenated to derive a noun. Table 13 below illustrates adjective + noun compounding in Fante.

**Table 13**

Adjective	gloss		noun	gloss	nominalized word	gloss	phonetic transcription
akese	'big'	+	asem	'matter'	akesesem	'big things'	[akesisem]
ebufuw	'anger'	+	asem	'matter'	ebufusem	'nonsense'	[ebufusem]
akohwi	'lies'	+	asem	'matter'	akohwisem	'lies'	[akɔɛvisem]
afɛɛfɛ	'beautiful'	+	adze	'thing'	afɛɛdɛdze	'beautiful thing'	[afɛɛfɛdzɪ]

### 4.3 Phonological Processes in Fante Nominalization with Autosegmental Representation

Phonological processes refer to the changes that take place in sounds when segments are juxtaposed (Nerius, 2003). According to Wolfgang (1984:31), "*phonological processes serve the communicative function of language by serving their proper functions: pronounceability and perceptibility.*"

Phonological processes are universal and phonetically motivated based on articulatory and auditory systems. Though these universal processes may apply in all languages, each linguistic community 'selects a set of processes. Thus, this part of the work discusses the phonological processes that are specific to Fante, a dialect of the Akan language. It discusses only assimilatory processes and formalizes the various phonological processes within autosegmental representation.

#### 4.3.1 Assimilatory Processes

A phonological process is called assimilation if, as a result of its application, two or more segments in form agree in their value for some phonological feature(s) or feature class (es) (Akovi, 2007:335). Katamba (1989: 80) further explains that assimilation is the modification of a

sound in order to make it more similar to some other sound in its neighborhood, with the aim of making a smoother, more effortless, more economical transition from one sound to another. When a sound is modified to look more like the sound that precedes it, the assimilation is in a progressive/preservative direction. On the other hand, when the sound is modified to look more like the sound that follows it, the assimilation is in a regressive/anticipatory direction. In autosegmental phonology, assimilation is construed as an autosegmental spreading along with a hierarchical feature representation. Adherents of autosegmental phonology, such as Sagey (1986), advocate that autosegmental spreading is a better representation of the process of assimilation than the linear phonology representation of assimilation as a changing individual feature in feature matrix because of the relative simplicity of describing the derivations of the assimilation processes to reflect their relative naturalness (Sagey, *ibid*: 10). The directions of the autosegmental spreading are described, as left to right spreading and right to left spreading, in tandem with the progressive/preservative and regressive/anticipatory directions, respectively in linear phonology.

The assimilatory processes realized in this work include vowel harmony, syllable structure processes, and homorganic nasal assimilation. These processes are discussed below.

#### 4.3.2 Vowel Harmony

The phenomenon of vowel harmony has been explained by various linguists from the individual perspective. According to Goldsmith (1990:304), a vowel harmony system is one in which the vowels of a language are divided into two (or more) (possibly overlapping) subsets with the condition that all vowels in a given word (or domain, generally) must come from a single subset. Kenstowicz (1994) also explains that vowel harmony is a phonological state in which the vowels in a given domain share or harmonize for a particular feature and emphatically states that vowel harmony as a phonological process “*differs from other processes affecting adjacent vowels in that, typically all of the vowels within the language participate in the harmonic constraint*” (Kenstowicz, *ibid*: 347).

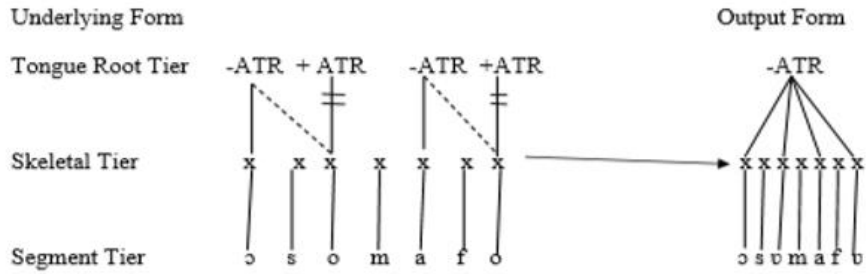
Clements (1976:57) further says that vowel harmony consists of a co-occurrence restriction upon the vowels that may occur in a word. In other words, all the vowels in a word must be drawn from one or another of two mutually exclusive sets.

Fante is a natural control-ground, following the definitions or explanations given above, for the confirmation of the phenomenon of vowel harmony (Arthur, 2017). All the ten vowels are sub-categorized into two distinct sets based on the position of the tongue root during their product, and there is a strict co-occurrence restriction of the two sets of vowels in mono-syllabic or simple multi-syllabic, non-compound words. The set A [i,e,u,o,æ] are the +ATR vowels and set B [a,ɔ,i,ɛ,v,] are the –ATR vowels in Fante. Fante vowel harmony does not depend on tongue root alone; it also considers lip rounding. The rounding of the lips gives two distinct vowels, which are - Round vowels [i,i,e,ɛ,a,æ] and the +Round vowels [u,v,o,ɔ]. An illustration of the autosegmental representations of this naturalness of the assimilatory process in vowel harmony is illustrated below in Excerpts 7.

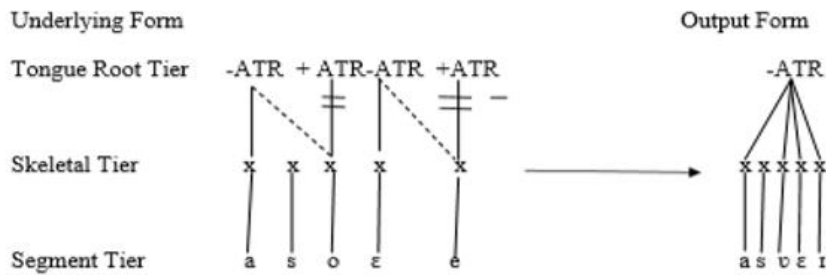
**Excerpts 7.**

**Vowel harmony**

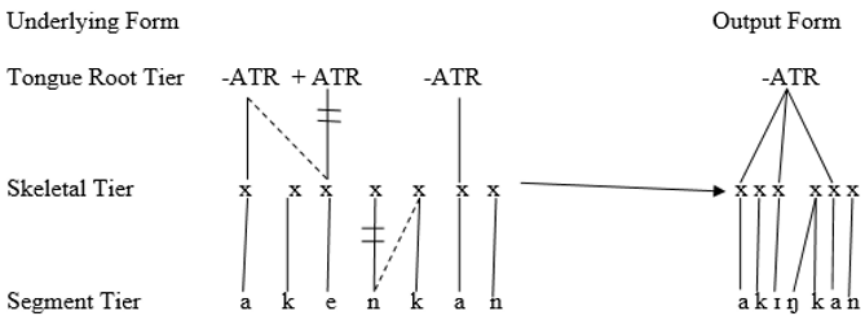
a.  $\text{ɔ} + \text{soma} + \text{fo} \longrightarrow [\text{ɔsumafɔ}]$   
 'Nom. pref' 'send' 'Nom. suff' 'messenger'



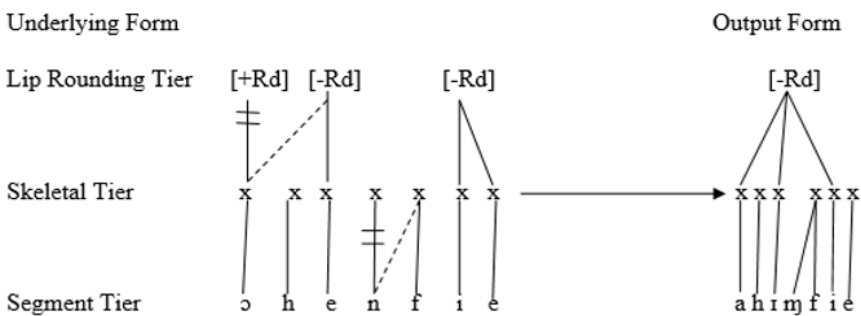
b.  $\text{a} + \text{soɛ} + \text{e} \longrightarrow [\text{asvɛɪ}]$   
 'nom. pref' 'to put down' 'nom. suff.' 'a resting place'



c.  $\text{a} + \text{kenkan} \longrightarrow [\text{akɪŋkan}]$   
 'Nom. pref' 'to read' 'reading'



d.  $\text{ɔhen} + \text{fie} \longrightarrow [\text{ahɪŋfie}]$   
 'chief' 'house' 'palace'

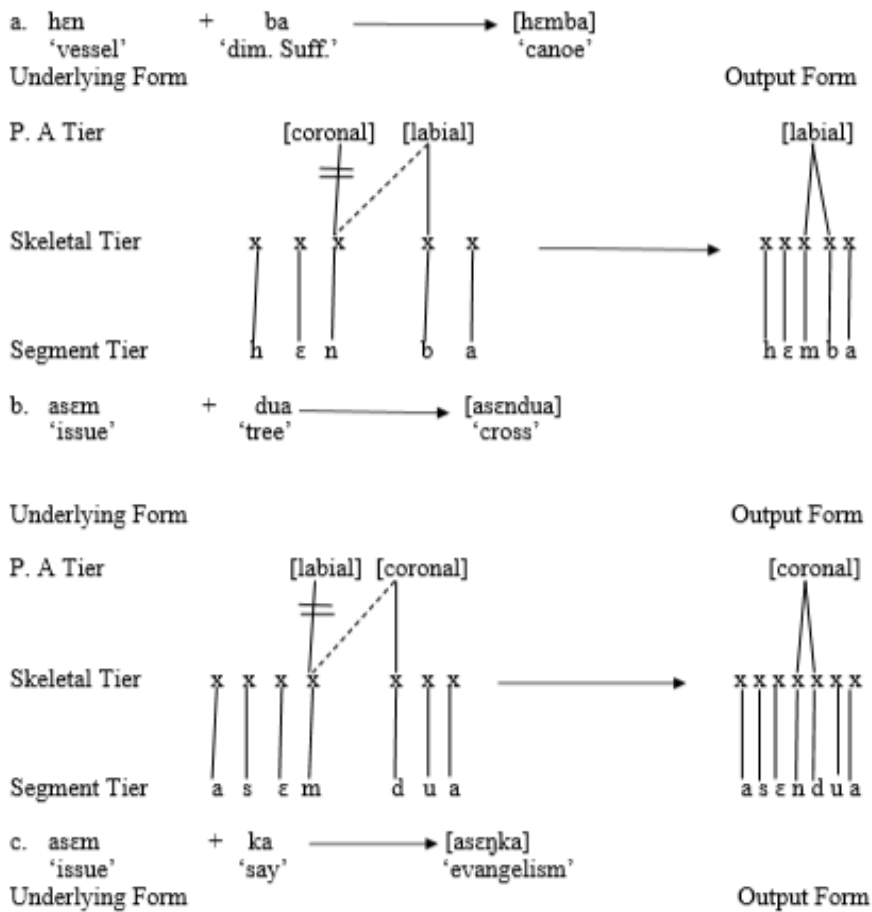


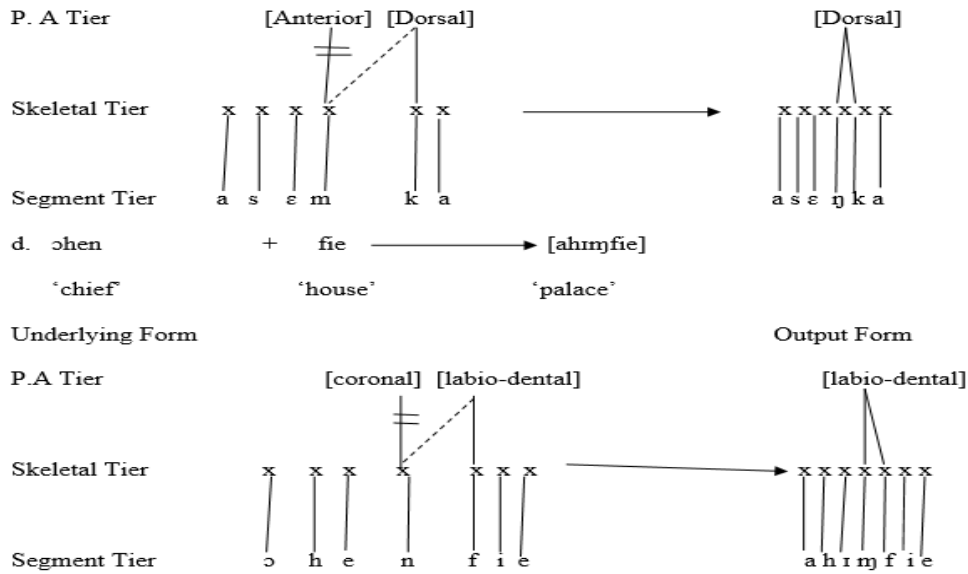
### 4.3.3 Homorganic Nasal Assimilation

Homorganic nasal assimilation is one of the most common places of articulation assimilation attested in a variety of languages in the world. Durand (1990; 100) explains that it is the assimilation process whereby a nasal consonant inherits the place of articulation of a plosive.

In Fante, homorganic nasal assimilation process operates during word formation processes. When two stems are brought together; the preposed stem ending in a nasal consonant and the second beginning with an oral plosive or even another nasal to form a compound word, the nasal consonant in the preposed stem, inherits the place of articulation of the initial consonant of the second stem, whether oral or another nasal consonant. An illustration of the autosegmental representations of this naturalness of homorganic nasal assimilation is captured in Excerpts 8 below.

**Excerpts 8**





#### 4.4 Syllable Structure Processes

Syllable structure processes are those processes that lead to the loss or addition of a sound in the word for morphophonological reasons (Nerius, 2003). For instance, morphological process of compounding, and also some times in fast speech, sometimes results in segments lost. Similarly, the adaptation of loan words into a language also results in segments insertions. These processes affect the basic syllable structure of words in a language by altering syllable shape of words. In Fante, the most common syllable structure processes induced by morphological process include apocope, the omission of final segment of a word, and syncope, the omission of segments within a word. The syllable structure processes discussed under this section is Elision.

##### 4.4.1 Elision

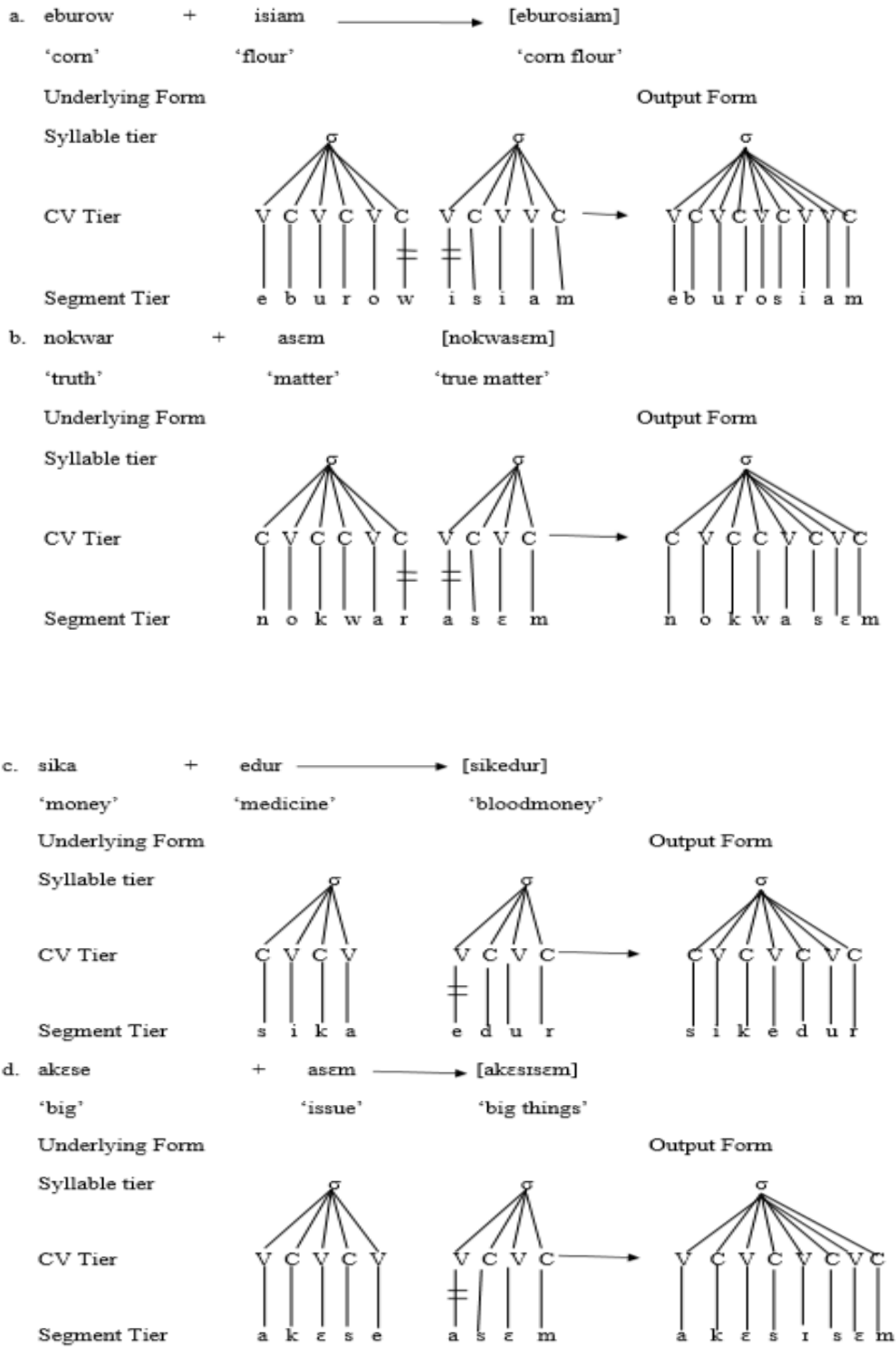
Elision, in Fante, takes the form of apocope; that is, the omission of final segment of a word. This commonly occurs in word compounding process during which a vowel or a consonant is elided when two stems are put together to form a new word (Nerius, 2003).

A vowel can be elided in two instances during word compounding. In the first instance, final vowel of CV or CVV syllable shape of an initial stem is elided before the second stem is added in order to form a compound word. The data in table 13 attest to this type of vowel elision.

Westermann & Ward (1966), cited in Bemile (1985:203), note that, in quick or slovenly speech, it is found out that consonants are pronounced with less vigorous articulations and consequently tend to weaken and drop out. This observation of consonant elision is very remarkable in Fante not in speech but in word formation processes especially compounding. In some compounding processes, final consonants in initial stems of CVC/CVCC syllable shapes are elided when the second stem begins with another consonant or a vowel. Where the Onset consonant of the second stem is the same as that of the Coda consonant of the initial stem, the Coda consonant is elided before a compound is formed. An illustration of the autosegmental representations of this naturalness of the vowel elision process are in Excerpts 9 below.

**Elision**

**Excerpts 9**



## 5. Conclusion

There are lots of processes of nominal derivation in Fante but this work was centered on affixation and compounding which are the most dominant way of deriving nouns in Fante. Segments which are put together to get nominal words in Fante were discovered both in affixation and compounding.

On the theoretical perspective, autosegmental phonology was used to analyse the phonological processes which were discovered in affixation and compounding as a morphological process of achieving nominal derivation.

### Conflict of Interest Statement

I, hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest that influenced my sense of judgement or analysis in this academic paper as a Communication Skills and Critical thinking lecturer in Anglican University College.

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## Appendix A

### List Of Abbreviations

ATR	Advanced Tongue Root
Nom.	Nominal
Pre.	Prefix
Suff.	Suffix

S/N	Fante Word	Gloss
1	adɔw	weeding
2	Eguar	bathing
3	Nhyira	blessing
4	Edzidzi	eating
5	Asaw	dancing
6	Akenkan	reading
7	ɔman	town
8	Mboa	help
9	ɔkyerɛwfo	secretary
10	ɔbowfo	drunkard
11	Sikanyi	wealthy person
12	Kunanyi	a widow
13	Osuanyi	student
14	Okuafo	farmer
15	ɔsomafo	messenger
16	Owufu	the dead
17	asoɛɛ	resting place
18	ahyehyee	parking place
19	Eguaree	bathroom
20	hɛmba	canoe
21	Sikamba	knife
22	boredzɛba	plantain sucker
23	Akataasiaba	young lady
24	Oforiwa	female personal name
25	Tekyiwa	female personal name
26	Adobea	female personal name
27	Pentsiwa	female personal name
28	ɔparebea	female personal name
29	Asanwa	female personal name
30	Ghananyi	ghanaian
31	Akamfo	akans
32	Mfantsenyi	a fante
33	Esuantsenyi	an ashanti
34	ɔkɔmfo	fetish priest
35	ɔtamfo	enemy
36	Ohianyi	poor person
37	Osikanyi	wealthy person
38	Nyimpadua	human structure
39	ɔmanhen	paramount chief

Grant Essuman  
NOMINALIZATION PROCESS IN FANTE (AKAN)

40	Egyankaba	an orphan
41	Sikedur	blood money
42	Eburosiam	corn flour
43	nokwasem	true issue
44	dætsedan	mud house
45	ɔbrapa	good life
46	sikantsem	quick money
47	Nampa	correct fish/meat
48	sikakəkɔ	gold
49	Mfonyintwa	photography
50	abrabɔ	life
51	Adzesua	learning
52	Ahentu	distoolment
53	Funsie	burial
54	Akwantu	travelling
55	asenska	evangelism
56	Amanbu	ruling
57	Agyinkwa	savior
58	Dzebea	stature
59	Ntoboa	contribution
60	Fintsidua	temptation
61	Nyimdzee	knowledge
62	akɛsesem	big things
63	ebusfusɛm	nonsense
64	akɔhwisem	lies
65	afɛɛfedze	beautiful things

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