

VOWEL ASSIMILATION IN MONOSYLLABIC VERB + NOUN CONSTRUCTION IN YORUBA REVISITED

Kẹhinde Oḷadeji

Department of Linguistics, African and Asian Studies
University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, **NIGERIA**

ABSTRACT

Vowel deletion is widely reported in monosyllabic verb+noun construction in Yorùbá language, particularly in cases where vowels are juxtaposed in a CV# VCV structure. The only exception to the deletion process is found in the greeting verb /kù/ that permits assimilation rather than deletion. This paper examines the exceptional behaviour from a dialectological perspective by looking at one of the Yorùbá dialects of the North –East dialect group. Findings in the paper suggest that the verb/kù/ is a shortened form of a longer form, the reduced form appears to undergo a process of assimilation as against the deletion process permitted by the longer form.

Keywords: Verb-noun construction, assimilation, deletion.