

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**A TOPONOMASTIC STUDY OF SUBURB NAMES FROM SOME AGONA
TOWNS IN THE CENTRAL REGION**

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partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of**

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DECLARATION

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I, Bright Arthur, hereby declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have been identified and acknowledged is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole for another degree elsewhere.

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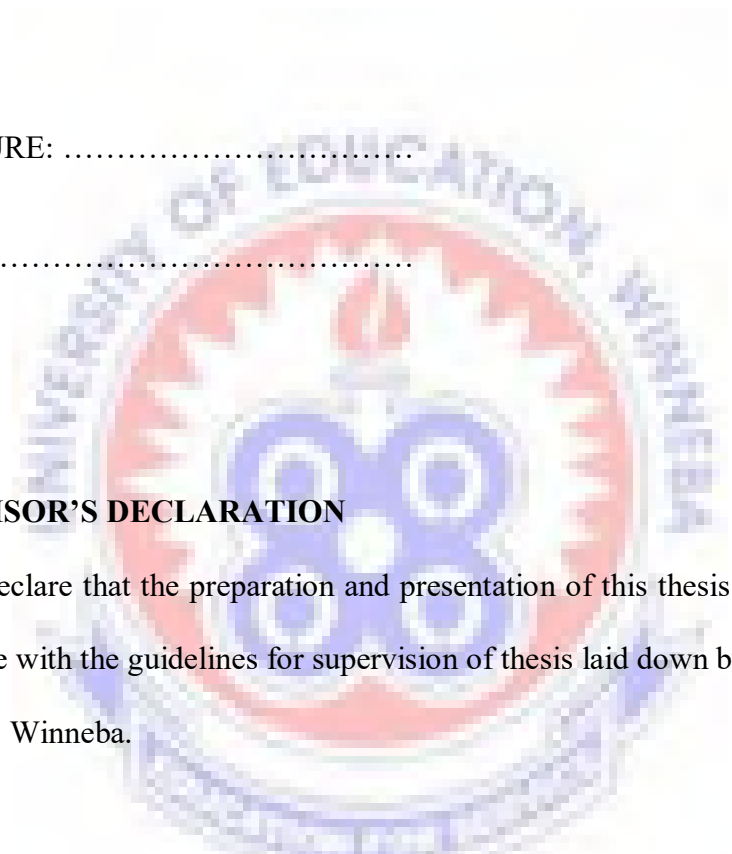
SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this thesis was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my lovely parents Mr. Benjamin Arthur and Agnes Arthur and to my siblings Christopher Arthur, Grace Arthur, Emmanuel Arthur and Esther Maame Dokua Arthur.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADJ	:	ADJECTIVE
ADJP	:	ADJECTIVAL PHRASE
C	:	COMPLEMENT
DET	:	DETERMINER
FUT	:	FUTURE
INT. MARK	:	INTERROGATIVE MARKER
N	:	NOUN
NEG	:	NEGATIVE
NP	:	NOUN PHRASE
PART	:	PARTICLE
PD	:	QUESTION PARTICLE
PDP	:	PROXIMAL DIRECTIONAL PREFIX
PL	:	PLURAL
POSS	:	POSSESSIVE
PP	:	POSTPOSITION PHRASE
PST	:	PAST TENSE
SA	:	STANDARD ARABIC
SE	:	STANDARD ENGLISH
SVC	:	SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTION
SVC	:	SUBJECT VERB COMPLEMENT
SVO	:	SUBJECT VERB OBJECT
V	:	VERB
VP	:	VERB PHRASE
1SG	:	1 ST PERSON SINGULAR
2SG	:	2 ND PERSON SINGULAR

ABSTRACT

This study is a toponomastic study of suburb names, using the Causal theory of Names as proposed by Evans (1985) and the Frame theoretical framework as proposed by Fillmore (1985). The study investigates the morphological processes, phonological processes and syntactic structure of about seventy (70) suburb names. The suburb names for this study were collected from primary source. The researcher supported the primary data with oral structured interviews to ascertain the complete structure of the names since some of them might have undergone some phonological processes. Purposive sampling technique was employed in the selection of the sample size. The researcher also used inductive and creative synthesis approach to categorize the suburb names under the right morphological, phonological and syntactic divisions. Under the morphological analysis, the study reveals that some Agona suburb names are formed through compounding and affixation. Phonological processes such as vowel harmony, homorganic nasal assimilation and elision are important to this study were examined. The study also shows that some Agona suburb names at the sentential level can function as statements, interrogatives and imperatives and they can structurally be simple, compound and complex sentences. The study reveals that Agona people use personal names, trees or animal names, characteristics of the physical environment of the place, activities/occupation carried out at the place, events/incidents that happened at the place and names from the bible to name their suburbs. The study found that suburb names reveal the history, culture and religious beliefs of the Agona people. Lastly, referential and other cognitive meanings of some suburbs from the categories of the established naming system were identified. The Causal theory allowed for identification of the referential meanings from the community while the Frame theory explains how the meanings are cognitively retrieved from the speakers' mental encyclopedic knowledge.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the Agona people and their language, background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, as well as limitations, delimitations of the study, organization of the study and definitions of some terms.

1.1 The Agona People

According to the Ghana Population Census (2010), the Agona Traditional Area is located in the eastern part of the Central Region of Ghana. The aboriginal people of the area are the 'Agonas'. Some of the Agona towns are: Agona Swedru, Agona Nyakrom, Agona Nsaba, Agona Odoben, Agona Bobikuma, Agona Asafo, Agona Kwanyako and Agona Nkum. Their main language of use is Agona, a dialect of Fante. Though they all speak the same dialect, there are some dialectal differences that exist among the Agona people due to certain language contacts. For example, the type of Agona spoken by the people of Agona Swedru differs from that of Agona Asafo and Agona Kwanyako which may be as a result of their contact with the Gomoa people. Another dialectal difference is seen in Agona Odoben who are in contact with the Breman people. The people of Agona Nsaba also appear to have a peculiar dialect of Agona, and this may be due to the influence from the Akyem people, who share border with. Within the same communities, one can realize variation in the dialect which may be due to different language contacts. There are Muslim (Kotokoli) communities in most of the Agona towns and the suburbs which are close to the Muslim communities speak differently from the other communities. For example, a typical Agona interrogative construction **Wose dɛn?**, which means 'What are you saying?' is uttered differently in other

communities which may be as a result of their contact with other language. The people of Agona Odoben utters it as 'Wosen sɛn?'. Agona Nsaba people also utter it as '**Wose dɛɛn?**'. This same utterance is uttered by the people in Agona Swedru as **Wolɛ ebɛn?**. The suburbs that are in close with the Muslim communities also utter it as **Wose ayɛ dɛɛn?** Urine for instance is uttered differently in different communities. The people of Agona Odoben and Agona Nsaba utter it as **gɔnsɔ**. Those in Agona Swedru who share border with the Gomoa people utter it is as **dwansɛ**. Also the people of Agona Duakwa, Asafo and Nyakrom also utter it as **dwonsɔ**. From the examples above, some phonological differences are realized where there are some vowel and consonant alternation in pronunciation of the same construction and same word. According Ghana Statistical Service (2010) the key towns of the Agona Traditional Area are Agona Swedru, Agona Nsaba, Agona Nyakrom, Agona Asafo, Agona Kwanyako, Agona Bobikuma, Agona Mankrong, Agona Duakwa, Agona Abɔdɔm and Agona Mensakrom. The Agona people are believed to have migrated from the Ashanti Region in Ghana. Over the years they have co-existed with other prominent minority migrants such as Obutus, Gomoas, Ewes, Effutus, Fantes, Kwahus, Atakpames, Kontokolis and several ethnic groupings of Northern Ghana origin (Ghana Statistical Service, 2010). The Agona people due their existence with different ethnic groups, has had some influence on their culture.

Festival is one of the significant social activities in the life of the Agona people. The Akwambɔ festival is the most important traditional festival instituted for the spiritual reunion of the people. It is celebrated every year between August and October. Though they all celebrate the Akwambɔ festival but each town celebrates it on different days scheduled within the months of August and October. This is because they all have different customs and rites they perform during the celebration of the festival. Also each

community plans their developmental activities including strategies for mobilizing funds for projects implementation during the festival. So, if they all celebrate it at the same time it will not boost selling and buying of goods. This is because when they are celebrating the festival people from nearby towns come to witness the festival. Because of this, when they celebrate it at the same time, nobody will leave his/her town to the other town to witness how they celebrate their festival. Also, during the celebration of the Akwambo festival other Agona chiefs are invited to grace the occasion. If the festival is well packaged, it could make a significant socio-economic impact on the district's development. It could also serve as a potential tourist attraction event.

Funeral rite is one of the serious occasions which bring the Agona people together. It is one single most important event that brings the youth home to mourn with their people. It also enables the youth to visit their homes. Business in mourning cloth is quite lucrative because of its high demand, particularly in Swedru.

The people of Agona practise the matrilineal inheritance system. Female children in the extended family under this system are considered important for the survival of the family as a unit. Inheritance is therefore, passed on from brothers to their sisters' children (nephews and nieces). The females' share of labour and contributions to the family income from agriculture is quite substantial.

Polygamy is a common social feature in the area, particularly in the less developed farming communities. According to Ghana Statistical Service (2010) the reasons that account for polygamy are: "the wide disparity of the male-female ratio reaching as high as 1:3 in some localities, inadequate opportunities for women compelling them to seek early marriage as teenagers and the tendency of some men to use female labour on their farms".

Most of the Agona people are highly religious. The common religion found in the area is Christianity. Islam and Traditional are the other religions which exist in the area but are in the minority. These three religious groups found in the area have mutual relationship and co-exist peacefully. The church and information centers are used as a forum for information dissemination on community/group mobilization for communal work and developmental work in the area. There are taboos in the area which are observed by all religious groups. These taboos are significance in the socio-economic and spiritual life Agona people. They are used to regulate farming days, land use, water resources use and control and devotion to some social norms. In most of the Agona towns, Wednesdays are considered to be non-farming taboo days.

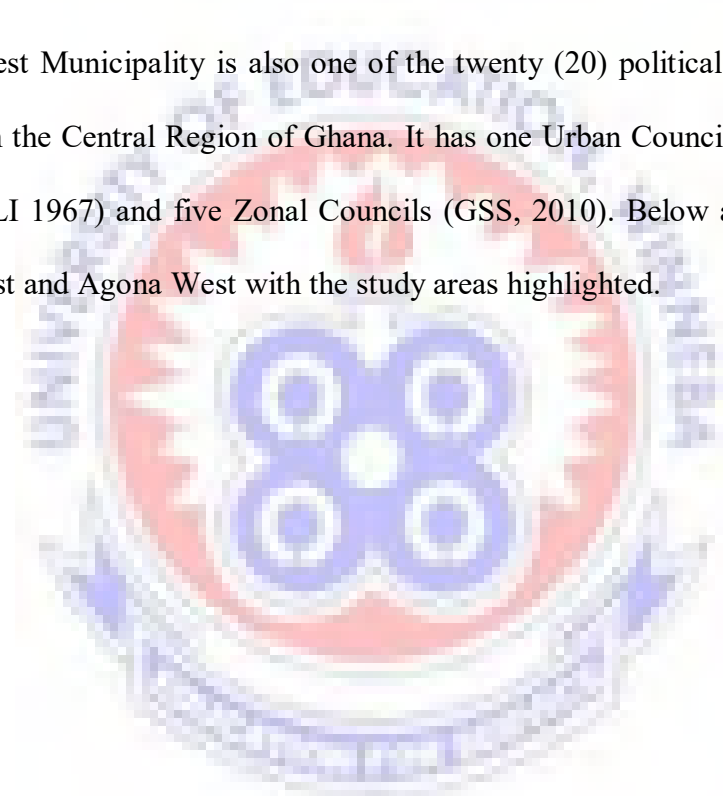
The main economic activity of the Agona people is agriculture. Major crops produced by farmers in the area are food crops (cassava, plantain, maize) and cash crops (cocoa, oil palm). After agriculture, trading is the most important economic activity throughout the area. Trading in Agona areas is least developed and most undertaken by minor traders and kiosk owners (GSS, 2010). GSS (2010, p. 4) shows that

“regardless of the high number of different ethnic groups, the Agona people have a solid social integration from the diverse ethnic groups. The groups inter marry and participate in shared cropping arrangements under the existing land tenure systems, especially the ‘Abunu’ and ‘Abusa’ which are commonly practised. This has promoted solid social bonds and economic ties between migrant tenants and their indigenous landlords. It also makes it easier for tenants to acquire land for farming”.

GSS (2010) avers that the Agona traditional area is made up of two political demarcations: the Agona West Municipal Assembly (Agona Swedru as its capital) and

the Agona East District (Agona Nsaba as its capital). GSS indicated that the Agona East District is made up of two traditional councils: the Agona Nyakrom Traditional Area and Agona Nsaba Traditional Area. The key towns of the Agona Nyakrom Traditional Area are Nyakrom, Asafo, Duakwa and Kwanyako. Other communities that owe allegiance to the Agona Nyakrom Paramount Chief include Agona Mankrong, Agona Mensakrom and Mankrong Junction. The Agona Nsaba Traditional Area has the following towns and villages: Lower Bobikuma, Teacher Okai and Agona Ninta.

Agona West Municipality is also one of the twenty (20) political and administrative districts in the Central Region of Ghana. It has one Urban Council - Nyakrom Urban Council (LI 1967) and five Zonal Councils (GSS, 2010). Below are the maps of the Agona East and Agona West with the study areas highlighted.



DISTRICT MAP OF AGONA EAST





Figure 1.1: Map of Agona East District

Source: Ghana Statistical Service (2010)

DISTRICT MAP OF AGONA WEST





Figure 1.2: Map of Agona West Municipality

Source: Ghana Statistical Service (2010)

1.2 Background to the Study

(Anindo, 2016, p. 2) explained Onomastics as “an integral part of life, especially for Africans to whom culture and language are valued and inseparable”. Naming is an important part of any society’s inventory of linguistic behaviour. According to Letsoela

(2015) it is through naming that speakers of a language are able to identify the entities that are referred to in their world, be it real or imaginary.

Names are vital part of human survival since they are used to assign people, places, things, pets and houses and it seems it is a universal practice (Crystal, 2003). It is the society that determines the types of names allotted to an entity. Toponymy is the study of place names and the identification of their etymological meanings. Place names include names of districts, towns, villages, settlements, topographical features, streets and houses. Place names can be categorized into two primary divisions; names of natural features and names of human settlement (Owu-Ewie, 2014). Names usually portray the origin and socio-linguistic information embedded in the surface linguistics structure for identification of individuals in any given culture (Crystal, 1995).

Early linguistic arguments ascertained that names only represent an entity when they are dormant and do not have meaning (Anderson, 2007). Naming in traditional society is not haphazard. The Agona people have a pattern of naming places. The names can be descriptive, metaphorical, experiential or mythological. These include naming: to depict their past events, to depict their beliefs, the first settler and to depict their culture. Descriptive names are self-explanatory but require knowledge of the literal interpretation. Secondly, metaphorical names are words or phrases to refer to something that it is not, invoking a direct similarity between the word or phrase used and the thing described. Experiential names in this category are named based on the experiences or knowledge about a place. In other words, names store information about the history of a place. Mythological names include the names of place which reflect the society's belief system, usually in the supernatural.

According to Dobric (2009 cited in Anindo, 2016), modern Europeans disregard the fact that names, according to naming traditions in different cultures carry meaning in the original form from the point of creation. Names are usually used to give you an idea about a person, place or a thing and instances of naming may result from geographical terrain, natural phenomena, settlers and even after ancient gods, all things they can identify with. Basso (1984) cited in Helleland & Wilkström (2012) asserts that place names do have meaning.

Anindo (2016, p.1) avers that “Place names refer..... [but] they are used and valued for other reasons as well... When people settle down in a given area, they name the place for reasons of identification, but when names are created, morphological structures as well as denotational meanings are considered”. The morphological structures and denotational meanings are the source of innovation and naming of places while fulfilling the need for identity. Names are not worthless signs but a cultural way of communicating ideas. In this way, names have culturally unique place names with morphological patterns that are unique to a community. Place names can be a source of information on a society’s history, customs and past events (Crystal, 2003). Communities have unstable linguistic abilities and this uniqueness can possibly be found in place names, which are known to reflect not only physical characteristics of the place but characteristics of the community and the people’s linguistic history. Names are given in particular languages whose morphology, syntax and semantics inform their meaning to a great extent (Batoma, 2006).

The researcher has found that a lot of interesting linguistic features are exhibited by suburb names in Agona towns which are influenced by some socio-cultural factors.

Meanings of these names are understood in the context of socio-linguistics and socio-culture realms and are required to be analyzed linguistically.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Names are important part of our society as they designate individual people, places and things and execute the desire for distinctive recognition. As Meiring (1993 cited in Letsoela, 2015, p. 2), pointed out “To name objects is...part of the genetic make-up of man”. Naming is not just an act of linguistic labeling by which speakers of a language identify the entities they are referring to in the real or imaginary world. Naming is not done or chosen by chance but it is chosen based on a combination of factors be it linguistic and non-linguistic.

Previous studies like Owu-Ewie (2014) did a morphosyntactic analysis of Fante habitation names. Anindo (2016) focuses on the morphosemantics analyses of Lulogooli place names. Letsoela (2015) did a semantic analysis of Sesotho place names with evidence from Bus stop’s names. Kibet (2016) focused on the morpho-semantics of place names in the Kipsigis dialect. Kibet’s (2016) study had three objectives : to describe the morphological processes involved in the formation of names in Kipsigis, to establish the extent to which Kipsigis toponyms were formed through systematic processes and lastly to analyze different meanings evident in Kipsigis toponyms. Malande (2011) in a study ‘What is a Name?’ analyzed the semantics of Lulogooli personal names. Jauro, Ngasma & Wappa (2013) did a morphosemantics analysis of Kamuə personal names in order to show the Kamue (Kamuə) norms and values as expressed in their naming patterns.

Most studies under Onomastics have been concerned with analysis of pet names, human names, town names, bus stop names etc. Kibet (2016) avers that place names are words

like other words in a language. Some toponomastic studies have been done in Ghanaian setting as in the case of Asamoah (2014) and Owu-Ewie (2014). Their studies concentrated on the morphology and syntax of Asante and Fante habitation names respectively. Naming reveals a lot of history and culture about the Agona people which is yet to be unearthed. This makes it necessary for me to do a toponomastic study of some Agona suburb names to unearth the history and culture about the Agona people.

1.4 Research Objectives

The specific objectives of this study are to:

1. To identify some linguistic processes involved in the formation of Agona suburb names.
2. To establish the naming systems of Agona suburb names.
3. To explain what Agona suburb names reveal about the people.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are some of the linguistic processes involved in the formation of Agona suburb names?
2. What are the naming systems of Agona suburb names?
3. What do Agona suburb names reveal about the people?

1.6 Purpose of the Study

The objective of any study is about why such a study has to be conducted. The main purpose of this study is to unearth the history and culture about the Agona people and to identify some linguistic processes involved in the formation of Agona suburb names. The study is conducted to help document aspects of Agona suburb names for a linguistics studies. These suburb names in Agona appear quite unique in terms of their

structure and how different morphemes contribute to their meaning. Meaning of Agona suburb names depend much on structure. Studies so far in names of places and some compound names have not exhaustively done much on the history and socio-cultural aspects. Previous studies under Onomastics were concerned with morphology, syntax and semantics of pet names, human names, town names, bus stop names etc. This makes it necessary for me to look at these Agona suburb names to unearth the history and culture about the Agona people.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The findings will provide dialectologists who have research interests in Agona with information that can be used in analyzing other Fante related dialects. Lexicographers interested in writing a dictionary about Agona can get meanings of suburb names and their origins. The study explores suburb names and how unique morphological structures help in producing meaning. Linguistics students and others from other disciplines like anthropology, geography, philosophy and African languages should find this research as an eye-opening on both the culture and dialect of the Agona people as shown by how they are applied in the language. The study will help other researchers intending to carry out research on a topic relating to Onomastics. The general public will benefit from the study's findings as it will increase their knowledge on the study of names.

1.8 Limitation of the Study

A limitation is an influence that a researcher cannot control. They are the shortcomings, conditions or influences that cannot be controlled by the researcher that place restrictions on the researcher's methodology and conclusion.

This study is on the Agona dialect which is one of the many Fante dialects. The other dialects may or may not share the same principles in terms of the analysis of suburb names. Agona was chosen because the researcher has native speaker competence in it.

The study did not handle other areas of Onomastics such like Hydronymy, Oronymy, Chrematonymy and anthroponomy of the Agona people.

Due to limited time frame, the researcher did not get enough time to travel from one place to another to interact with participants for information. The researcher was confronted with so much work within the same period. The researchers, after cautiously selecting the participants for data collection found it hard to persuade these people to give significant and sufficient information for the research work. The participants demanded money from the researcher before participating in the study thinking that the researcher has been given plenty of money by a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to do such a work. Because of this the researcher found it difficult eliciting information from them.

1.9 Delimitation

The study is basically analytical. It is a descriptive qualitative study that describes and analyzes data collected from the participants. It also points out the findings from the analysis from linguistic perspective. It discusses the relationship between morphology, phonology, syntax and meaning using the causal theory of names and the frame theory of names by Evans (1982) and Fillmore (1985) respectively.

The study is also limited to only Agona Language spoken in the Central Region and narrowed to a Toponomastic analysis of suburb names in some Agona towns. The

frameworks for this study are the causal theory of names and the frame theory of names. These are used to take care of the meaning of suburb names.

1.10 Organization of the Study

The study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one consists of a brief introduction, a brief description of the Agona people, background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, limitations and delimitations of the study and definition of some terms.

Chapter two reviews literature relevant to the study. The chapter consists of the theoretical frameworks to the study, some studies on names of places and persons and some morphological, phonological, syntactic and semantic processes relevant to the study

Chapter three is methodology and research design. This chapter comprises introduction, research design, population, sampling techniques and sample size. Others are data collection instruments, data analysis and data presentation.

Chapter four comprises presentation and analysis of data collected from participants from the perspective of morphology, phonology and syntax. In this chapter the morphological, phonological and syntactic processes that take place in the formation of suburb names in Agona are analyzed linguistically. It also discusses the naming systems of Agona suburb names and what suburb names reveal about the Agona people. Chapter five presents the conclusion, summary and recommendation followed by references.

1.11 Definition of Terms

Onomastics: A branch of linguistics which studies proper nouns.

- Toponymy:** It is a branch of Onomastics that studies place name especially one derived from geographical features.
- Anthroponomy:** It is the study of personal names.
- Place names:** They are names given to places.
- Connotative meaning:** It is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content.
- Conceptual meaning:** Logical, cognitive or denotative content.
- Causal relations:** The connection between an entity's name and the speaker's knowledge about the name.
- Etymology:** It is the investigation of the origins of individual lexemes.
- Reference:** It refers to the relationship between the linguistic elements (words) and the non-linguistic world of experience.
- Affixation:** Is a word formation process that involves prefixation and suffixation.
- Hydronymy:** Is the study of names of water bodies.
- Chrematonymy:** Is the study of names of hotels and restaurants.
- Oronymy:** It deals with the study of names of hills and mountains.
- Semiotics:** Meaning making system that relates to signs and symbols, especially spoken and written.

Source: (Kibet, 2016: p. xiii)

1.12 Summary

The chapter discussed the Agona people and their language, background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, as well as limitation, delimitations of the study, organization of the study and definition of some terms.



2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of literature relevant to the study. Information relevant to the study are stated and cited. The chapter further discusses the theory of Onomastics. The first part presents the theoretical framework for the study. The second part presents at related literature relevant to the present study. The last part presents some morphological processes, phonological processes, syntactic structures and semantic implications to meaning which are useful in the analysis of Agona suburb names.

2.1 Onomastics

Onomastics is a branch of linguistics which studies proper nouns. In Onomastics, the word name always refers to a proper noun. It is a theory that studies personal names, place names and geographical features. Fatawu (2018) posits that the theory believes meaning and structure of a name depend on the context in which it is used. Onomastics as a semantics field contains two fields of study: Toponymy and Anthroponomy. These two fields use proper names as the focus for study. Toponymy is the branch of Onomastics that examines place names through the study of motivation and origin of the proper names of places (Seabra, 2018). According to Seabra (2018) Anthroponomy also studies proper names of individuals, parental or last names, and nicknames.

Seabra (2018) points out that Onomastics brings valuable information that can be used in many fields of human knowledge. He stresses the fact that this linguistic discipline has an interdisciplinary characteristic, interesting not only to linguistic science, but also to other sciences, of which History, Geography, Archeology, Genealogy, Social History, and Cartography stand out, as they use information provided by anthroponomical and toponymic studies which is, in itself, a sufficient show of the wealth and importance of this field. This work is basically looking at Agona suburb names from the perspective of morphology, phonology, syntax and semantics with the Causal Theory of Names and Frame Theory as an analytical tool. Idea in Onomastics is relevant to this study because, the study falls under one of its branches precisely toponymy.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework refers to a collection of unified concepts that direct research and determine what to evaluate as well as the relationships to find out for. The Causal

Theory of Names by Evans (1982) and the Frame Theory by Fillmore (1985) will serve as tools to explain distinctive meanings of suburb names.

The Causal Theory of names according to Anindo (2016) was pioneered by Russell (1905) as the Descriptivist theory of the reference of names, and then into the Causal Theory of the Reference of names championed by Kripke (1972) later modified by Evans (1973) to the Causal Theory of Names. The Causal Theory of Names proposes analysis of the meaning of proper names by relating a name to its referent in the real world.

Thakur (2009) describes referent as the actual physical object that a word or a phrase stands for. For example, the referent of the word pen is the totality of the class of plastic material used for writing and the referent of the expression *this pen* will in many situations be the pen that the speaker has in his hand or can refer to. He also explains that the word *reference* and its related form *referent* are very widely used in this sense. This fits in with analysis of Agona suburb names which are assumed to have a real world referent.

The second theory is the Frame Theory by Fillmore (1985) which “explains how we access the meaning of toponyms from encyclopedic knowledge through the use of related concepts” (Anindo, 2016, p. 13). The knowledge is the information the speaker holds about the place.

Wittgenstein (1953 cited in Thakur, 2009) is of the view that the meaning of a word is derived depending on how it is used in a language. Stuart’s (1938) view is almost the same. Stuart holds the opinion that that the true meaning of a word is generated by observing what it is used for, not what we say about it. This refutes the assumption of

the Referentialist Theory Approach which views the meaning of a word as referent to the actual object that a word stands. The Non-Referentialist Approach to meaning is very relevant to this study because it will help in the analysis of Agona suburb names which have no world referent like **Dwenho** ‘think of yourself’. This name has no referent in the real world to get its meaning. The meaning of this suburb name is generated by accessing it from the encyclopaedic knowledge of speakers.

2.2.1 The Causal Theory of Names

This theory by Evans (1982) is concerned with names and how names are analyzed using causal relations. The theory looks at the object as the dominant source being the most important determinant that suggests what is associated with names. Of particular importance to meaning of names was the speaker’s denotation and name denotation. Evans (1982) further explained these sub-theories as captured below.

Speaker’s denotation is what a name denotes upon a particular occasion of its use (Evans, 1973). For a name to be arrived at the item must possess some features and descriptions that can be associated with that name. In other words, for names to be derived, an item must possess certain clear referent characteristics.

Evans (1976) avers that name denotations are the conditions to be satisfied by an expression [x] and an item [y] for [x] to be a name of [y]. It is the object that bears the name of a place, as such that object must satisfy the descriptions of the place.

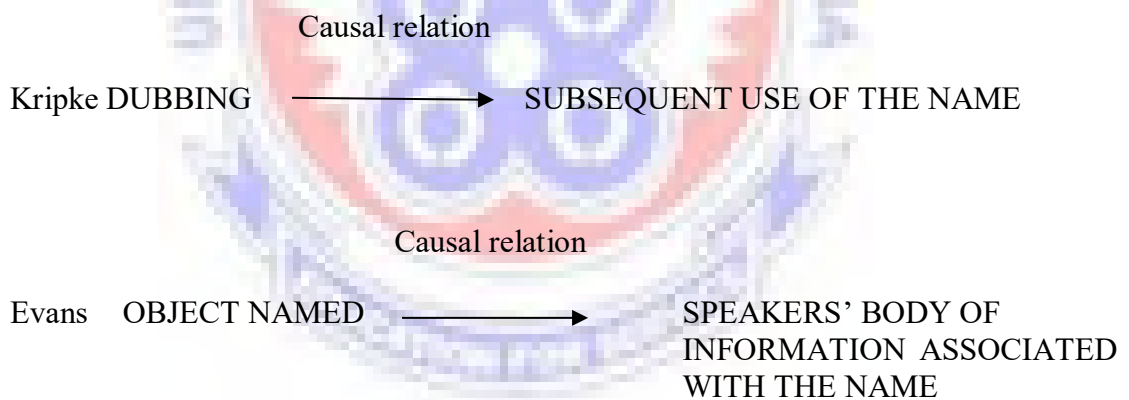
Evans (1976) proposes two requirements for the speaker’s denotation namely: intention and philosophy of mind. Whereas intention has to do with what one aim at with regard to uttering an expression, philosophy of mind deals with one’s belief concerning something which is uniquely true of it.

At the heart of this theory is the causal relation which explains the link between the real world and the speaker's or hearer's meaning.

2.2.1.1 Causal Relation

According to Anindo (2016, p. 14), “for speakers (S) to believe that *a* (where *a* is a name) is F (where F is the object or place) there has to be some causal relation involving ‘*a*’ the name’ and S’s use of the name”. For speakers of the Agona dialect to use and believe ‘**Odumase**’ which literally means ‘under the oak tree’ is a name there should be a connection between the name and the speaker’s use of and knowledge about the name. This means the name must denote some features of the object or the place.

Kripke (1980 cited in Anindo, 2016) is of the view that dubbing of name makes it a name. Evans commented on Saul’s view and modified it. This is illustrated below:



Source: Anindo (2016, p. 14)

Kripke (1980) suggests that names are not just given without considering any dominant features and knowledge about the place. Evans (1982) commented on Saul’s view by positing that before a name is given, the body of information that speakers associate with the use of the name must be the cause to the named item. An example is the reason why **Mangoase** ‘under the mango tree’ names a suburb because it has a real world

referent, not because speakers believe that what they call **Mangoase** fits the suburb but the suburb itself plays a **dominant causal** role in their acquisition of beliefs.

As the above reveals, that in this theory, the causal connection is not the dubbing of a name and speakers' subsequent use of it but it is rather the body of information that speakers associate with the use of the name that causes the subsequent use of the name.

2.2.1.2 Rules of the Causal Theory of Names by Anindo (2016)

NN is a name of x (if and only if)

There is a suburb in which people

- 1) Use NN to refer to x .
- 2) It is common knowledge that NN is so used for x
- 3) The reference relies on the common knowledge of the suburb and not on the knowledge that x satisfies some predicate embedded in NN.

Anindo (2016) avers that according to the Causal theory of names, identification of the actual or intended meaning of the place names involves identification of a community using the word to refer to a place, and that the place itself is the dominant source of information the people associate with NN (the name)

When NN refers to x , it relies on a notion that speakers of the language do use NN to refer to x only if x is the **dominant** source of information that they associate with NN.

Place names are referents and when used, are supposed to be the **dominant** source of information that's associated with the name.

In line with the second principle, the conceptual meanings are derived through the use of causal relations between society's knowledge and the object thus named. The causal connection is the named item and the knowledge associated with the name.

Names are viewed as a product of the environment; so there is the need to study how names relate to the society. The Causal Theory will therefore be important for analyzing meanings of Agona suburb names by considering the community that uses the name to refer to a given place.

This reference also has to be what the speakers believe and admit as the name of an entity, in this case a place, this reference solely relies on shared knowledge and not by virtue of sharing characteristics of the referent (Anindo, 2016). The knowledge is derived solely from the name as a dominant source associated with the name. Evans (1976) shows that there are causal relations which are the relationship between a named entity's states in connection to the speaker's knowledge of its meaning. This will assist in bringing out referential meaning of Agona suburb names. The theory's principles are universal and relate to the society which derives the names thus fit in with traditional African society (Anindo 2016). When a society has a belief about a place, the place itself causes them to believe because the causal theory explains the link between the real world and the speaker's or hearer's meaning. In this case, meaning of an item is linked to the real world by the speakers of a language. An example is the word **Odumase** an Agona suburb name which can be found in Agona Odoben Traditional area which draws input from the place itself, which has a large population of 'odum trees'. This theory will help in analyzing Agona suburb names which have denotative meaning.

2.2.2 The Frame Theory

The frame theory proposed by Charles Fillmore is cognitive theory. **Cognitive** linguistics is an approach to the study of language, which came into view in the 1970s

whose proponents were Charles Fillmore, George Lakoff, Ronald Langacker, Leonard Talmy, Evan Thompson, and others (Anindo, 2016).

The focal point of Cognitive Linguistics is to study the relationship between human language, the mind and socio-physical experience. It states that meanings do not exist independently from the people that create and use them.

2.2.2.1 Frame Semantics

According to Anindo (2016, p. 17), “Frame semantics contends that lexical concepts can only be understood through recourse to **mentally schematized** structures, borne of past experiences and argues that meaning is **encyclopedic**, and that experiences stored in long term memory offer a background on which future concepts are interpreted”.

Fillmore (1982, p. 111) explains that “Frame semantics offers a particular way of looking at word meanings, as well as a way of characterizing principles for new words and phrases, for adding new meanings in words and for assembling the meaning of elements in a text into the total meaning of a text.” In short, frame semantics is an attempt to arrive at the meaning of (a word) by relating it to a larger background. Language represents socio-cultural life; it can be understood only by considering its acquisition and mental processes. Thus the need for frames in name analysis is to relate cultural knowledge and the mental concepts.

Frame semantics holds the proposition that meanings are relativised to scenes (Fillmore, 1977). Meanings can thus be determined according to background frame or scene. There are some Agona suburb names whose meaning can only be drawn from the background knowledge speakers have about the place. This theory will help in analyzing Agona suburb names which have connotative meaning.

2.2.2.2 Theoretic Principles

The main theoretic principles of frame semantics are: frame, prototype, profiling.

a. Frame

The frame is a set of knowledge about a certain situation, which is amassed in the mind of an individual and the different aspects of the frame to which we express our attention, influence our linguistic expressions (Anindo, 2016). The frame is the meaning from the knowledge that native speakers have stored in their minds.

Fillmore (1982, p. 112) defines 'frame' as "...any system of concepts related in such a way that to understand any one of them you have to understand the whole structure in which it fits. When one of the things in this structure is introduced into a text, or into a conversation, all the others are automatically made available."

The study of Frame semantics involves identifying different frames, the semantic roles involved in each scene per frame, and how different frames interrelate.

Fillmore (1985) discusses the different scenes evoked by the sentences:

I can't wait to be on the **ground** again.

I can't wait to be on **land** again.

Source: Anindo (2016)

Even though the two words, **ground** and **land**, refer to the same thing, sentence 1 evokes a speaker who is in the air (on the plane), while 2 evokes a speaker who is at sea (on a ship). Land is therefore understood within a conceptual frame of **sea travel**, and within that frame it is opposed to sea, while ground is understood within a conceptual frame of **air travel**, and within that frame, it is opposed to air. In this

example, the frame is tied to the senses of the words **land** and **ground**. Due to shared encyclopedic knowledge, many interpretations of situations are made by invoking the appropriate frame even when the words used are not explicit. The frame principle will enable the researcher brings out the meanings of Agona suburb names from the knowledge that native speakers have stored in their minds.

b. Prototype

The word **prototype** according to Anindo (2016) refers to an instance of a category or concept that combines its most representatives attributes in the community. Anindo (2016) exemplified that a weaver bird is a prototype of a bird as opposed to a penguin in the Maragoli community.

(Fillmore 1982: p. 117-8) uses the concept of prototype with respect to frames and not words, in his own words;

“...very often, the frame or background against which the meaning of a word is defined and understood is a fairly large slice of the surrounding culture, and this background understanding is best understood as ‘prototype’. Prototypical information is inbuilt, for example within a frame for a computer, related devices such as keyboard, mouse and monitor etc. are assumed to be inclusive in the offer”.

c. Profiling

Another central notion within frame semantics is the concept **profiling**. With this goes the argument that, even though a frame may consist of different profiles parts, they

cannot be interpreted independently but have to be interpreted with respect to the frame (Anindo, 2016).

Langacker (1987) uses the example of hypotenuse to illustrate that; one cannot imagine the concept hypotenuse without imagining the whole right angled triangle. Thus, though the hypotenuse and the right angle profile different parts, they are interpreted with respect to the frame of a right angled triangle in which they are both included.

(Fillmore, 1982) avers that meanings of words sometimes differ not in what they profile, but in how they profile it. In such cases, I will say words differ in perspective.

With reference to three theoretic principles, the study will use the Frame principle in analyzing Agona suburb name. The reason for using Frame is explained below:

According to Anindo (2016) the Causal Theory of Names explains that meanings are derived from speakers' shared knowledge, but there is no clarification on how the retrieval and analysis of meaning is done. The Frame Semantic theory elaborates on this.

She said as a cognitive linguistic theory, Fillmore's frame theory investigates language in relation to other non-linguistic components like knowledge and experience, which persuade its understanding. Fillmore (1982) elaborates that in Frame Semantics, a word represents a category of experience; part of the research endeavor is the uncovering of reasons a speech community has for creating the category represented by the word and including that reason in the description of the meaning of the word. This is suitable for the analysis of Agona suburb name meaning by enabling us to relate the place names in the language to the real world experiences of the speakers that are part of their knowledge. The mind plays an important role in interpreting lexical items as well as

larger structures. This knowledge about what is named will ensure elicitation of concepts that explain their meaning.

Our cognitive abilities schematize every lexical sense in frames which are activated when we encounter the word. Some frames combine with others while others even become sub frames of larger ones. When a proper name (place) is mentioned, ideas like scenes arise in the mind about its meaning.

Anindo (2016) used the Causal theory and the frame theory. The Causal theory allowed for identification of the referential meanings from the community while the Frame theory explains how the meanings are cognitively retrieved from the speakers' mental encyclopedic knowledge.

2.3 Review of Related Studies

Anindo (2016) discussed the meanings and morphology of Lulogooli place names in Sabatia constituency, using the Causal theory of Names as proposed by Evans (1982) and the Frame theoretical framework as proposed by Fillmore (1985). The study outlines the morphological and morphophonological patterns followed during the formation of Lulogooli toponyms and classifies them accordingly. The study attempted to bring out the types of meanings present in Lulogooli toponyms and how they are enhanced by morphological units of the words. Morphological processes such as prefixation, suffixation and reduplication and morphophonological processes like vowel deletion which are of importance to this study were examined. The research was largely descriptive and the data were collected through oral structured interviews, introspection and questionnaires.

The findings of the study indicated that Lulogooli toponyms do follow distinct morphological patterns of formation, derivation is the main one and others being inflection, and compounding. Secondly, the toponyms can be classified morphologically into those same patterns as derived, inflected, compounded and those following no pattern. Thirdly, a naming system for Lulogooli toponyms was established which identified the motivations behind the identified toponyms. The classification was done by placing toponyms into categories depending on their meanings. Lastly, referential and other cognitive meanings of eleven toponyms from the categories of the established naming system were identified. The Causal Theory allowed for identification of the referential meanings from the community while the Frame Theory explained how the meanings were cognitively retrieved from the speakers' mental encyclopedic knowledge. The researcher used tables to guide the morphological analysis of toponyms and Frames are used to define concepts that guide the retrieval of meanings. The results showed that the meanings of morphemes contribute to the overall meaning of Lulogooli toponyms. This study will help in analyzing referential and cognitive meaning identified in Agona suburb names. The study will also help in using the Causal Theory for the identification of referential meanings from Agona suburb names while the Frame Theory will help explain how meanings are cognitively retrieved from speakers' mental encyclopedic knowledge. It will help the researcher to identify the naming systems of Agona suburb names.

Owu-Ewie (2014) investigated some Fante habitation names from a morphosyntactic perspective. Names are given in particular languages whose morphology, syntax and semantics inform their meaning to a great extent (Batoma, 2006). Based on Batoma's definition Owu-Ewie ascertained that understanding place (habitation) names hinges on taking a critical look at the internal structure of the word(s) and the syntactic

structure that constitute the name besides sociolinguistics, socio-cultural and ethno linguistics domains. The study was situated in the larger framework of Onomastics, which is the study of names. The paper investigated the morphological and syntactic structure of about one hundred and fifty (150) Fante habitation (towns/villages) names. The research is largely qualitative and habitation names for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The researcher also supported this approach with semi-structured interviews to ascertain the complete structure of the names since some might have been written wrongly or might have undergone some phonological processes. It discussed the typology of Fante habitation names under two broad areas; morphological analysis and syntactic analysis. The morphological analysis revealed that some Fante habitation names can be single stems, compounds, inflections (affixation), and reduplication. The study also found that Fante habitation names at the sentential level can function as statements, interrogatives or imperatives, while they can be structurally simple, compound, or complex sentence. The habitation names for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The researcher also supported this approach with semi-structured interviews to ascertain the complete structure of the names since some might have been written wrongly or might have undergone some phonological processes. This study will help in the morphological analysis of Agona suburb names and it will also help in the analysis of Agona suburb names at the sentential level.

Helleland & Wilkström (2012) in an attempt to find out the meaning of place names argues that there is a close relationship between place and place names. They also explained how place names create a sense of identity in a place through the attachment feelings of belonging. People as indicated in their survey were connected by place names which bring to mind experiences and memories of varied feelings. People thrive

on developing familiar connections with each other in a community by having the names and the stories create the spirit of a place. Helleland & Wilkström (2012) contradict statements by linguists like Stuart (1938) that names lack meaning, and says that a name's meaning depends on context differing from individual to individual and identifies place names as a link to the past heritage and enrichment of history, 'denoter' but also full of meaning and connotations... Place names are seen as symbols of acts and experiencing both in tribal and western context and are social signals of belonging. Helleland & Wilkström concluded by saying that names particularly place names create nostalgia in people mentally for cultural and personal experiences. Though the work partly covers symbolic meaning, they explained how a sense of identity is fostered in place names. The study had no clear theoretical framework. The research is relevant to my study and will help me, since suburb names identity includes connotative meanings, and the study elaborates on that.

Kibet (2016) focused on the morpho-semantics of place names in the Kipsigis dialect. The study had three objectives, which were: to describe the morphological processes involved in the formation of names in Kipsigis, to establish the extent to which Kipsigis toponyms were formed through systematic processes and lastly to analyze different meanings evident in Kipsigis toponyms. The study used a descriptive research design. The data was in the form of place names. Fifty six toponyms were sampled purposively from a roll of administrative units in sub-county commissioner's office in Bomet Sub-County. Based on Generative Morphology, the morphological structures of the sampled names were described and the percentage of frequency of occurrence of each process was captured in pie-charts. Twelve respondents were interviewed for meanings. A semi-structured interview was used to obtain the meanings of the names. The data was analyzed in terms of the meanings evident. The findings were that the names exhibit

certain morphological processes, both, systematic and idiosyncratic. Systematic word formation processes were prominent. Examples of the systematic word formation processes found in the study were: affixation, compounding and conversion while under idiosyncratic processes was avoidance of word formation. The study also found out that all Kipsigis toponyms bear denotative meanings. In addition, some carry connotative meanings. The study made pertinent recommendations, one of which is that, when naming places or institutions, those responsible should consider the semantic implication of such names. The study also suggested areas for further studies: the research recommends the establishment of morphological processes involved in the formation of place names in other dialects of the Kalenjin and even in other languages and it also suggests that a morpho – phonological study of place names be carried out in this dialect since phonology is an important aspect in the formation of words. The study is relevant to this research since it will adopt the methodology used for data collection and it will also help in the morphological and semantic analysis of Agona suburb names.

Letsoela (2015) examined the names of bus stops in Lesotho with the view of unveiling the factors that could have motivated the awarding of such names. The data for the study was collected from thirty Semantics third year students. The students come from different districts of Lesotho and are all Sesotho native speakers. The sample for this study was not based on statistical procedures as the study is mostly qualitative. Letsoela avers that it is important to observe that in qualitative research, there are no definite rules regarding the sample size. For as Du Plooy (2001) rightly points out, the validity, meaningfulness and insights generated from qualitative design have more to do with the information richness of the cases selected than with the sample size. Letsoela argued that since these students represented inhabitants from all the ten districts of Lesotho,

their responses were representative of the naming system in Lesotho and a reflection of Basotho's outlook of life. Regarding the choice of this group of students from among the four groups in the different courses the researcher teaches, probability sampling, which is a cover term for simple, systematic, stratified, cluster and multi stage-sampling (Du Plooy, 2001), was used to select the group. The choice for this type of sampling was based on the observation that the methods used are generally free of bias since the sample is chosen randomly. The students were each given a questionnaire in which they were asked to write as many names as possible for the bus stops they knew. For every name, they were required to provide the location (name of the village and district) where that bus stop is found. Lastly, they were asked to provide an explanation as to what motivated or could have motivated the awarding of each name they gave. After collecting the students' questionnaires, the researcher studied the names systematically and categorized them according to the features they shared. The study, thus, adopted both the quantitative and qualitative approaches. Since the overall aim of the research was to study the names for bus stops, with the intention to examining the motivations behind the naming, the quantitative approach, or more precisely, descriptive statistics was used to calculate frequencies and percentages. After identifying and counting the names, the researcher interpreted them in order to meet the other objectives of the study, namely, to find the literal meanings of the names, and find the reasons for the award of such names. This is a qualitative analysis but combining these two approaches helped to bring about a fuller understanding of a naming system. The findings of the study indicated that the names could be classified into the following categories: descriptive, metaphorical, experiential and mythological. The study concluded that through the names of bus stops, Basotho narrate their experiences, emotions and belief systems,

among other things. This research will help in unveiling the factors that could have motivated the awarding of Agona suburb names.

Capra et al (2015) investigated the meaning of the distribution of the toponyms used in traditional and recent cartography of Sardinia (Southern Italy). It is particularly, but not only, focused on those related to soil resources. Sardinia is particularly interesting in this respect, as its unique history, geography, and linguistic position makes it one of the Italian and Mediterranean regions with the greatest number of toponyms. This research investigated the toponyms belonging to an important sub-region of Sardinia, called Ogliastra (Central-Eastern Sardinia). The research was conducted through the following integrated approach: i) toponymy research and collection from different sources; ii) database creation and translation of toponyms from the Sardinian language (SL); iii) categorization of toponyms; and iv) graphical, statistical, and cartographic data processing. Distribution and diversity of toponyms were assessed using the compiled database, coupled with a geographical information system (GIS). Of around 7700 toponyms collected, 79% had already been reported in SL, while just 21% were in Italian. Of the toponyms in SL, 77% are of known meaning and 54% of these toponyms were characterized by a meaning directly and/or indirectly connected to specific environmental features. On the whole, morphology would appear to be the primary environmental factor able to explain the complex, articulated presence, distribution, and typology of the investigated toponyms. A least squares regression analysis of pedodiversity vs. topodiversity shows a very closed distribution, with an impressive high correlation index ($R^2 = 0.824$). The principal factor analysis (PFA) showed that such a connection may be morphologically based, thereby confirming that pedodiversity and topodiversity are strongly linked to each other. Overall, the research showed that an integrated ethnopedological approach, combining indigenous and

scientific knowledge may be of great interest in order to mitigate the impressive phenomena of the indigenous knowledge lost. The study will help to investigating the meaning and distribution of the toponyms used in traditional and recent cartography of the Agona dialect.

Malande (2011) in a study ‘what is a Name?’ analyzed the semantics of Lulogooli personal names. Lyons (1989) strongly states that as interesting as the origin of a name may be, it exercises very little choice and it is of very little value in the study of naming trends. To qualify or disqualify this view, the study sought to investigate whether Lulogooli personal names have meanings. The study is situated in the frame work of Semiotics which is the study of signs and sign-systems. The research used Troike (1997) Ethnographic analysis procedures. Ethno-methodologists are interested in the processes and techniques that people use to interpret the world around them and to interact with the world. They were interested in trying to discover the categories and systems that people use in making sense of the world. Therefore, they did not conduct large-scale surveys of populations, devise sophisticated theoretical models of social organization, or hypothesize that some social theory or other will adequately explain social organization. Instead, they focused on the phenomena of everyday existence, actually on various bits and pieces of it, in an attempt to show how those who must deal with such bits and pieces go about doing so (Wardhaugh, 1990). The area used for the study is Maragoli which covers Sabatia and Vihiga constituencies in Vihiga district, Western Province of Kenya. In all a total of 797,000 names were used in the analysis. Most of these Lulogooli names are shared and cut across all the community’s ages, sexes, and sub-clans. The researchers employed informants who were born and bred in Maragoli who, using their institutional memory-intuition provided the most reliable meanings of the personal names and their origins. Because the area is familiar to the

researcher, having been brought up and partly educated there. This enabled them to select the sample and ease any tension that arose in the informants by building confidence among them as one of them. The study established that Lulogooli personal names have both denotative and connotative meaning. When we come to the question the meaning of Lulogooli personal names, we have to learn the origin of all such names i.e. place names, names of natural phenomena such as famine, poverty, and so on. Naming derives meaning from existing phenomenon. Connotative meaning creates a mental picture, which at the origin of such names, has negative and positive attributes. This study will help in analyzing the denotative and connotative analysis of Agona Suburb names and analyze the origin of such names.

A morphosemantics analysis of Kamuə personal names was examined by Jauro, Ngasma & Wappa (2013) in order to show the Kamue (Kamuə) norms and values as expressed in their naming patterns. A sample of 128 names for both male and female were used for the analysis. The data was derived from native speakers of Nkafa in twelve (12) selected villages. The analysis showed birth-order terms indicating a child's birth position and sex; circumstantial names, showing the circumstances surrounding a child's birth, and twins' names. Structural components such as noun-based compounds, verb-based compounds, preposition-based compounds, conjunction-based compounds, adverb-based compounds and adjective-based compounds and their sub-categories were also identified in Kamuə proper names. It was also found that, the meanings of some of the proper names are predictable from their structural components. Kamuə native personal names should be reserved as a mark of culture and tradition. This study is relevant to determine the structural components of Agona suburb names and circumstances surrounding the names.

Al-Ghazalli (2009) analyzed the semantics of personal names in English and Arabic. The study is concerned with introducing a meaning-based analysis of personal names (PNs) in Standard English (SE) and Standard Arabic (SA). It is based on the hypothesis that in both languages surnames are roughly derived from the same sources. Thus, the study is limited to the investigation of personal names including surnames. The paper is divided into two parts: the first shed light upon the meaning of proper names in English and their relationship with definiteness, origin of surnames and ambiguity of proper names. The second part dealt with PNs in Arabic, the way they are coined their categorizations into different classes and on what bases surnames are derived. The results of the study have validated the hypothesis of the work. On this basis the following findings were drawn:

1. In accordance with the discussion held among English linguists and semanticists concerning PNs, the majority of such names have meaning whereas the minority has reference only.
2. It is not always true that there is one-to-one correspondence between PNs and their referents in both languages.
3. In Arabic and English, among other languages (eg Spanish, Russian, French, Romanian etc), surnames are roughly derived from the same origins. Therefore, this has verified the hypothesis of the present study. Moreover, it is safe to say that surnames are language universals.
4. PNs in Arabic are coined depending on more reasons than those found in English.
5. Unlike in SE, in SA and modern Arabic dialects, primitive beliefs and superstitions still play a role in the choice of PNs.

6. SA and modern Arabic dialects have more frequently religion-based names than English does.
7. English linguists and semanticists hold a lot of controversy over whether PNs are meaningful or meaningless. Arab linguists, on the other hand, unanimously agree that PNs do have meaning.

This study will help to analyze Agona suburb names to determine whether suburb names are meaningful or meaningless.

Onumajuru (2016) investigated the semantic and pragmatic contents of personal names and naming in the Igbo language and culture. The objective of the paper was to examine the structure of Igbo names and analyze their semantic and pragmatic contents. The data were sourced from Igbo language speakers in the South Eastern States of Nigeria. The data cut across Standard and dialectal Igbo names. Selected personal names were grouped structurally according to their forms in the following order: lexical (or monomorphemic) names, Noun-Noun phrasal names, Noun-Verb phrasal names, Noun-Verb Phrasal-Complement/Sentential names and Interrogation/Injunction names. The semantic and pragmatic analyses were made based on the structural data generated. The pragmatic analysis was handled by incorporating the context into the semantic contents. Findings showed that Igbo names structurally fall into three broad categories: lexical, phrasal and sentential. For Ndigbo, a name is not just a tag of identity or personal label but a story and an expression of the events and circumstances surrounding the birth of the child as well as the parents' life experiences and world view. This study will help me identify whether there is an expression of events or circumstances surrounding the giving of suburb names as well as life experience.

Jackson and Amvela (2007: p. 59) described the notion of word as "... an uninterrupted unit of structures consisting of one or more morphemes" and characteristics of a word are described. The authors also defined reference while clearly differentiating connotation and denotation, reference and sense. Reference is described as not possible for a single word since it shows a relationship with a referent in the real world. The work will be relevant in analyzing reference in Agona suburb names.

Leech (1983: p. 9) explained seven types of meaning: conceptual, (cognitive /denotational), social, affective, reflected, collocative and thematic meanings. It does not limit meaning to conceptual meaning only. Connotation is described as "... the real world experience one associates with an expression when one uses or hears it" (1983: p. 13) while denotation is the basic word meaning. Reflected meaning involves synonyms where a word has many conceptual meanings. Collocative meaning is what a word acquires due to words that usually occur with it. Social meaning is about emotions and tones which may be hard to detect in names. Thematic meaning is seen to be relating constructions that are mostly syntactic. The book clearly describes in detail how the meanings are got in the book will be useful in identification of the meanings in Agona suburb names, although some of the meanings cannot be easily identified in names.

Palmer (1986) gives an in-depth account of what meaning is, particularly in linguistics. Under the scope of semantics, the concept of naming is talked about and how names refer to things in the real world or not. Palmer avers that meaning does not have to be only denotational and concepts, sense and reference and the notion of the word are described in detail. Palmer posits that some words cannot be meaningful when they stand alone but can only be meaningful at the syntactic level. The book will be useful

in assisting the researcher to understand and identify types of meaning in the Agona suburb names.

Wappa, Glastone & Clement (2017) in their study titled 'Understanding the Kamuə Proper Nouns from Onomastics Perspective investigated the place of proper nouns as against proper names from the Onomastics perspective of the Kamuə. The research population consists of the Kamuə people living in various villages in Michika local government area of Adamawa state, Nigeria only, specifically, the speakers of the Nkafa dialect which is the central dialect (Mohrlang, 1972 and Samaila, 2004). The study was carried out on 130 names from 12 villages of the Kamuə language, which revealed four (4) basic categories of proper names/proper nouns to include personal names, geographical names, dog names, names for the days of the week and names of the months of the year. Their respondents were selected through the roulette sampling method, with informants drawn from each of the villages. The method adopted for the collection of data for the study is the field research method, while the sources of data collection employed were the primary sources: questionnaire and unstructured interviews. The study revealed that some Kamuə names are sentential, proverbial and rhetorical in nature; and sometimes given based on certain situations/conditions surrounding the family or the child's birth or seasonal activities. Some are named after some personal names. The study recommended that a study should be carried out on some other aspects of Kamuə linguistics, such as phonology, syntax and grammar applying them to Onomastics. This study is relevant to my study in the sense that it will enable the researcher to ascertain if suburb names are sentential, proverbial and rhetorical in nature.

Fatawu (2018) conducted a morphosyntactic study of personal proverbial names in Mampruli, a Gur language of Ghana using the frameworks of lexical morphology by Katamba (1993) and the lexical functional grammar by Bresnan (1974) and Falk (2001). The study employed semi-structured interview, conversations and recordings to obtain data from thirty (30) native speakers of Mampruli to represent the entire Mamprugu. The sample was purposefully selected to meet the demands of the study. The study found that compounding and affixation are the common morphological processes that are involved in the formation of personal proverbial names in Mampruli. Elision and assimilation have also been found as major phonological processes in the formation of these names. The study also found that different compound names in Mampruli belong to the same grammatical category (nouns). The study has also found that majority of personal proverbial names in Mampruli obey the principle of government and binding by Chomsky (1981) and are therefore simple sentences with the S.V.O, S.V. as well as NPs and VPs within the C-structure and the F-structure representation of sentences by LFG. The work therefore proposes that personal proverbial names in Mampruli be treated syntactically as simple sentences regardless of any morphological processes they undergo. This study will help in analyzing the morphological and phonological processes that go on in the formation of Agona suburb names.

Gerba (2014) in analyzing Oromo personal names stated that names relate with other sections of culture and depict solidarity and identity. This declaration and conclusion that personal names have meaning derived from content words is good for my study since place names are also derived. The analysis of morphological structure of names was good and denotational meanings and referential meanings were given and a clear explanation of associations done. Agona suburb names (place) draw some meanings from association. The work is relevant to my study.

Asamoah (2014) is toponomastic study of some Asante habitation names from a morphosyntactic perspective. The study investigated the morphological and syntactic structure of about one hundred and sixty (160) Asante habitation names. It also discussed the typology of Asante habitation names under two broad areas which are morphological analysis and syntactic analysis. The study revealed through its morphological analysis that some Asante habitations can be single stems, compounds, affixation and reduplication. The study also indicated that some Asante habitation names at the sentential level can function as statements and imperative and structurally be simple, compound or complex. The habitation names for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The researcher also supported the primary and secondary sources data with semi-structured interviews to ascertain the complete structure of the names since some names have either been wrongly written or might have undergone some phonological processes. Purposive sampling technique was employed in the selection of the sample size. The researcher also used inductive and creative synthesis approach to categorize and code the habitation names under the right morphological and syntactic divisions. This study will help ascertain the morphological and syntactic divisions of Agona suburb names.

2.4 Some Morphological Processes in Fante which are relevant to this study.

The focus of morphology is the study of how morphemes are put together to form words. In short the goal of morphology is to identify all the roots and affixes in a language, as well as the rules guiding the affixation of bound morphemes to the various roots. Payne (1997) points out that a morphological process in a language goes beyond just the overt arrangements of morphemes (stems and affixes) in a word. It is also the covert recognitions in the way a word is uttered which brings about variations in the meanings of two separate words which may have the same morphological shape or

uttered in the same way either due to vowel lengthening or the use of tones in a particular language.

In the formation of place names in most languages, a lot of morphological processes take place. The most common morphological processes that are involved in the creation of Agona suburb names include single stem word, compounding and inflection.

2.4.1 Compounding

According to Ndimele (1999) compounding involves the process of forming words by joining two or more independent roots to form a single word. Compound words are words that consist of either of 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 etc (Abakah, 2006). Compounding can be put into semantic and formal classifications.

“Semantic classification of compounds deals with the issue of the head word. There are four types which are *endocentric compound* (consists of a head, i.e. the categorical part that contains the basic meaning of the whole compound, and modifiers), *exocentric compound* (does not have a head, and meaning often cannot be transparently guessed from its constituent parts), *copulative compound* (have two semantic heads) and *appositional compound* (have lexemes with two contrary attributes). Formal classification of compounds on the other hand, is where compounds are classified based on the word classes that compose it” (Owu-Ewie, 2014: p. 234).

In Agona when two independent nouns are combined to denote a place name the resultant can be solid compound and open compound. *Solid compounds* are two independent nouns which are written as one whiles *open compound* other noun-noun compounds which remain open in the resultant name. In this form of compounding when two nouns are put together they all remain separate. This will enable the researcher comes out with Agona suburb names that employ compounding in their formation.

2.4.2 Single Stem Morpheme

A single stem morpheme is a single stem noun that can be arbitrarily used to identify the places that bear them. They are made up of single root morphemes and have unique meanings. These names cannot be broken down further into morphemes without demolishing the word (Owu-Ewie, 2014). It will help in the analysis of Agona suburb names which involve single stem in their formation.

2.4.3 Affixation

An interesting and common morphological process that takes place during the formation of names in Fante is affixation. This is a morphological process where words are formed by the addition of affixes (Dolphyne, 2006). Affixes are considered as lexical entries that are combined with lexemes in a combinational fashion as lexical entries (Leiber, 1980). Sometimes, it is the combination of a root and another root which has attached itself to an affix.

Affixation involves the addition of suffixes, prefixes, circumfixes and infixes in some languages (Fatawu, 2018). Agbedor (2010) also holds the same view that adding affixes to the base or root to generate a different word form or new word is affixation. This means that it is the morphological processes that contribute greatly to the creation of

new words in many languages. The above definitions of affixation apply to Fante and it will enable the researcher comes out with Agona suburb names that employ affixation in their formation.

2.5 Some Phonological Processes in Fante which are relevant to this study

Phonological processes refer to the changes that take place in sounds when segments are juxtaposed (Kuubezelle, 2003). According to Wolfgang (1984: p. 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 assimilatory processes and syllable structuring processes.

2.5.1 Assimilatory Processes

Assimilation is when 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). Katamba (1989) 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 (Kuubezelle, 2003). 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 (Kuubezelle, 2003).

The assimilatory processes realized in this work include; Vowel Harmony, and Homorganic Nasal Assimilation. These processes are discussed below;

2.5.1.1 Vowel harmony

The phenomenon of vowel harmony has been explained by various linguists from the individual perspective. According to Goldsmith (1990: p. 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. All the ten vowels are sub-categorized into two distinct sets based on the position of the tongue root during their production 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,ɪ,ɛ,ʊ] are the –ATR vowels in Fante. Fante vowel harmony does not depend on tongue root alone but also consider lip rounding. The rounding of the lips gives two distinct vowels which are - Round vowels [i,ɪ,e,ɛ,a,æ] and the +Round vowels [u,ʊ,o,ɔ].

2.5.1.2 Homorganic Nasal Assimilation

According to Kuubezelle (2003) homorganic nasal assimilation is one of the commonest 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.

2.5.1.3 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 (Kuubezelle, 2003). For instance, morphological process of compounding, and also sometimes in fast speech, sometimes results in segments lost. Similarly, the adaption of loan words into a language also results in segments insertions. According to Kuubezelle these processes affect the basic syllable structure of words in a language by altering the 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.

2.5.1.3.1 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 (Kuubezelle, 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.

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 alone 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. Example **sika + asem** will be **sikasem** which means 'money issues'. Looking at the example the coda of the first word which is 'a' is the same as the onset of the second word and when it is being compounded the onset of the second word is elided.

2.5.2 Tiers used in the phonological analysis

Kuubezelle (2003) explains that tiers are the multi-levels at which the different phonological features are arranged in Non-linear generative phonology. According to him they usually consist of sequences of features which differ from one tier to the other. There are various kinds of tiers that can be specified for various phonological analyses. In this part, the following tiers as explained by Kuubezelle (2003) are applicable to the phonological representation:

i. Skeletal / CV Tier

It is the mediating point on which the elements on the different tiers anchor. The skeletal/CV tier holds units represented by consonants and vowels; hence they are sometimes represented as C-slots and V-slots or X-slots. The skeletal/CV tier can relate with other tiers on one-to-one or one-to-many basis.

ii. Segmental Tier

This is the level at which phonetic representation relevant to the description are arranged. In other words, the underlying phonetic segments occupy this tier

iii. Place / Manner of Articulation Tier (P. A. /M. A. Tier)

This tier specifies the Place or Manner of articulation features of the segment that are significant to the phonological analysis. This applies in the formalization of phonological processes such as Homorganic Nasal Assimilation, Labialization and Glide formation.

iv. Tongue Root/Lib Rounding Tier

This tier spells out the tongue root and lib rounding position features of the phonological segments whether it is an Advanced Tongue Root feature (+ATR) or Unadvanced Tongue Root feature (-ATR) or whether it is a Rounding feature (+Round) or Unrounding feature (-Rounding). This tier is very relevant in the discussion of Vowel Harmony as a phonological process in Fante.

v. Syllable Tier

This tier indicates the units of sounds that make up a word. It is applicable in the discussion of the syllable type in Fante and syllable structure processes such as elision, linking, and segment deletion. The CV-tier model of the syllable structure is used in this Thesis.

2.6 Some Fante Syntactic Structures at the Sentential Level

A sentence is referred to as the largest unit of grammatical description. When we communicate with others, either verbally or in writing, we normally do so in sentences in order to be well understood, unless those we are talking or writing to are people familiar to us, and those who will easily understand us whether we use sentences or not. The sentence, then, is the basic unit of expression with which we express complete thoughts. Features of a sentence which is applicable in all languages are explained below:

1. *A sentence must express a complete thought.* When a speaker speaks, the listener must be able to achieve meaning out of the strings put together by the speaker. Without that we say a sentence is not complete because it does not express a complete thought. There are some suburb names which at the sentential level give a complete thought. An example like **'Mbofra-mfa-adwen'** which means 'Children should think' which is declarative sentence gives a complete thought.
2. *A sentence must have a subject and a predicate.* A subject of sentence is the word or group of words the speaker or writer is talking about. The predicate is that part of the sentence that says something about the subject. Some suburb names at the sentential have a subject and a predicate. An example like **Ɔbo yam bo** which means 'Stone grinds stone' has a subject which is 'Ɔbo 'stone' and a predicate **yam bo** 'grinds stone'.

2.6.1 Types of Sentence in Fante

There are two ways of considering types of sentence in Fante: first, by considering the structure of the sentence, that is, the composition of the sentence; second, by considering the function performed by the sentence.

2.6.2 Types of Sentence according to Structure in Fante

There are various possible classifications of sentences according to structure, but the following are common in Fante:

1. The simple Sentence

A simple sentence in Fante has only one main clause. This means it has only one idea. A Simple sentence can be composed of a single verb, a noun (subject) and a verb and most often a noun (subject), a verb, and a noun (object). Using this information, the simple sentence will be (N) + V + (N/Adj). The Nouns (Noun Phrases) are optional but

the V (Verb Phrase) is obligatory (Owu-Ewie, 2014). Example like **ohia ma adwen** which means ‘Poverty gives thinking’ and **Asem asa** which means ‘Case has finished’. In the first example the sentence is composed of N + V +N and the second one is composed of N + V. This will be discussed further in the analysis.

2. The Compound Sentence

A compound sentence according to Crystal (2003) consists of two or more main clauses. Such clauses are joined by coordinating conjunctions like *and, but, or*. A compound sentence in Fante according to Owu-Ewie (2014) is also made up of two or more clauses which are joined by coordinators like **na** (and), **naaso** (but), **anaa** (or). The later avers that in some cases some compound sentences do not have an explicit coordinating conjunction. These are sometimes known as ‘asyndetic coordination’. This phenomenon is common in Fante compound sentence structure. An example is ‘**Kɔ na kɔda mu**’ which means ‘go and sleep there’ has two main clause joined with the conjunction ‘**na**’ which are **Kɔ** ‘go’ and ‘**Kɔda mu** ‘Sleep inside’.

3. The Complex Sentence

A complex sentence in Fante, like that of English is made up of at least a subordinate clause and a main clause. In Fante, the subordinate clause is marked by (*sɛ*) *a*.. The (*sɛ*) component is optional but the ‘*a*’ (particle) and the *comma* are compulsory elements. Example is ‘**Sɛmanntse a, mannka bi**’ which literally means ‘If I do not hear, I will not say some’. The sentence has one subordinate clause marked by a subordinate conjunction and a main clause. The subordinate conjunction is **sɛ manntse a** ‘If I do not hear’ and the main clause is **mannka bi** ‘I will not say some’

2.6.3 Types of Sentence according to function in Fante

There are various possible classifications of sentences according to function, but the following are common in Fante:

1. Declarative Sentence

A declarative sentence according to Crystal (2003) refers to verb forms or sentence or clause types which are typically used in expressing statement. Sometimes, they are referred to as indicative sentences. They are statements. Some Agona suburb names at the sentential level are declarative. An example is **Borɔfoɣɛdur** which means 'English is heavy'. The example given has the form of a statement.

2. Imperative Sentence

A command sentence on the other hand, usually the subject is covert and the verb is in the imperative mood. It is the kind of sentence used to compel someone to perform an action. Usually the subject of such sentence is the second person pronoun but it is covert. An example is **Dwenwoho** which means 'Think of yourself'. In Fante imperative sentence is uttered with a rising voice.

3. Interrogative Sentence

Interrogative sentences are typically used in the expression of questions. They are usually marked with interrogative words like who 'woana', what/why 'ebenadze', which 'hendze', where 'henfa', and the interrogative symbol always comes at the end of the sentence to show that the sentence is in the form of a question. Sometimes, the inverted forms of declaratives become questions. Fante sentences conform to the definition of the various sentence types described above. An example is **Annkɔbea a?** which means 'Did you not go anywhere?'

2.7 Some Types of Meanings Relevant to the Present Study

Leech (1983:19-23) identifies and provides clarity on the variety of meanings that can be identified in a natural language that together form the wider aspect of meaning in relation to all that's communicated in language. These include Conceptual meaning,

Connotative meaning, Affective Meaning, Social meaning, Reflected and Collocative Meanings and Associative Meaning.

The different meanings of suburb names were considered: conceptual including concepts and referential; connotational including affective meanings.

2.7.1 Referential Approach

Lyons (1997:206-9 cited in Leech 1986:18) denotation indicates the class of persons, things generally represented by the expression while reference indicates the actual persons, things being referred to in a particular context.' The glosses identified in the toponomastic analysis of suburb are referential in meaning since they indicate the actual person, place or thing. Reference according to Trask (2007: 245) is 'the relation between a linguistic expression and something which it picks out in the real or conceptual world'. Meanings of place names are best got by getting the knowledge connected with the toponym as found in the mind of the speakers and connecting them to the referent. Toponyms are mostly referential in meaning since they indicate the actual person, place or thing. Agona suburb names seem to have a tendency towards linking referential concepts and denotation.

2.7.2 Connotative and Affective Meaning

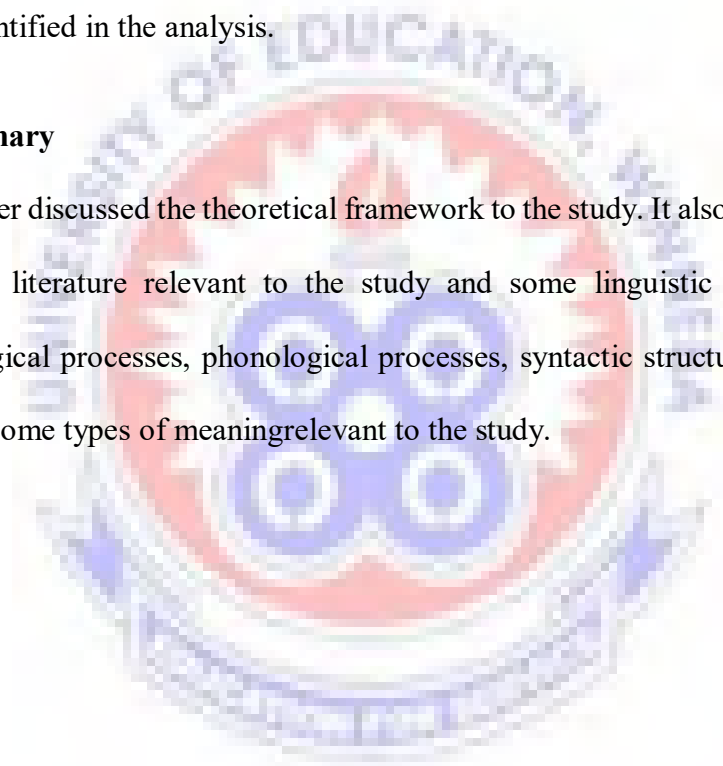
Connotative Meaning is the feeling or thoughts that a word evokes. Leech (1986:130) says that they are the real word experience associated with an expression when one hears it and differ depending on culture, age group and sex, history and experience. Connotations change over time or in the community e.g. a dog may be considered man's best friend to Americans, but considered as dangerous to someone who has been bitten by one. Connotative meanings are either individual or the viewpoints of the whole

community. This will help in identifying Agona suburb names that have connotative meaning.

Affective Meaning brings out emotions, attitudes, and tone of the speaker. According to Leech (1986: p. 15, 23) it's "...conveyed through the conceptual or connotative content of the words used. These meanings will be identified after the other meanings are got". Speakers of Agona language have different attitudes towards other places and even where they stay. What the places signify to them other than the literal meaning can be identified in the analysis.

2.8. Summary

This chapter discussed the theoretical framework to the study. It also presented a review of related literature relevant to the study and some linguistic processes such as morphological processes, phonological processes, syntactic structure at the sentential level and some types of meaningrelevant to the study.



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the area of study, research design and the instruments used for the collection and analysis of data. This chapter considers the methods and procedure followed to answer the questions posed in the study. The research methodology is discussed in the following order: the area of study; research design; population for the study, sampling techniques for the study; data collection instruments; data collection procedures; data analysis plan and ethical considerations.

3.1 Area of Study

The study is covered Agona Nsaba, Agona Swedru, Agona Nyakrom, Agona Odoben, Agona Kwanyako, Agona Duakwa and Agona Asafo. These are some of the major towns in the Agona Traditional Area. This study collected data from speakers in each of these areas. The reason is that the geographical locations of speakers of Agona influence the dialect and thereby provide different ways by which suburb names are used. So, a collection of data from these sources will provided an accurate data for this study.

3.2 Research Design

The descriptive method of qualitative study was adopted for the study. A descriptive study “is concerned with the relationship that prevails, beliefs, points of view held, ongoing processes, effects that are being felt and trends that are developing (Walden, 2012: p. 26). This does not involve manipulation of variables. The descriptive method is considered appropriate for conducting this study because it deals with things as they currently are. The design also provides information on which decisions could be based.

Descriptive research enables a researcher to explain the characteristics inherent in a population. It also allows a researcher to categorize the population and explain on the categories formed. In this study, the formation and meanings of suburb names were described based on the categories they fell into. This design was also used since it gave a chance to the researcher to explore the possible attitudes that the informants had towards Agona suburb names.

This study focuses on the vital facts of the Agona people; their beliefs, opinions, attitudes, motivations, behaviours and provides information on which to base sound decisions. This is the research design the researcher deems appropriate for conducting this study because it helps in getting insight into the philosophical and socio-cultural significance in the formation of Agona suburb names.

3.3 Population for the study

According to the Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Method cited in Walden (2012), population in a study refers to every individual who fits the criteria (broad or narrow) that the researcher has laid out for research and Kumekpor (2002) also explained population (universe) of investigation as the total number of all units of the phenomenon to be investigated that exists in the area of investigation.

The target population for the study comprises all speakers of 'Agona' in the Central Region of Ghana. The Ghana Population Census (2010) indicates that there are total populations of 85,920 in the Agona East District. 44,885 (52.2%) are females and 41,035 or 47.8 percent are males. Agona West Municipality has a total population of 115,358 with the female population constituting 53.1 percent. In all the total population for the study area are 201,278. The sampled population for the study comprised thirty five (35) speakers which include twenty one (21) males and fourteen (14) adult females

in the Agona Traditional Area. I selected these respondents based on the fact that they came from different locations and speak different dialects of Agona. The Agona traditional area was purposively selected because it is believed to have many elders who have indepth knowledge about costumes and traditions about the Agona people the views of these respondents were the true representation of the people. The areas are Agona Nsaba, Agona Swedru, Agona Nyakrom, Agona Odoben, Agona Kwanyako, Agona Duakwa and Agona Asafo in the Central Region of Ghana.

3.4 Sampling and Sampling Techniques

According to Kalton (1983), sampling is the process of choosing actual data sources from a larger set of possibilities. He added that, this overall process actually consists of two related elements: defining the full set of possible data sources which is generally termed the population and the selecting a specific sample of data sources from that population.

The study used judgmental sampling technique (Anindo, 2016) to select the participants where, the researcher decided on who is most suitable to provide the most accurate data. Kombo and Tromp (2006) state that the power of purposive sampling lies in selecting information and rich cases for in-depth analysis related to central issues being studied. Judgmental sampling also called purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique in which the sampling members are chosen only on the basis of the researcher's knowledge and judgment. The researcher's knowledge is instrumental in creating a sample in this sampling technique, there are chances the results obtained are highly accurate. The process of selecting a specific sample using judgmental sampling involves the researchers carefully picking and choosing each individual to be part of

the sample. The researcher's knowledge is primary in this sampling process as the members of the sample are not randomly chosen.

Judgmental sampling is most effective in situations where there are a restricted number of people in a population who own qualities that a researcher expects from a target population. Researchers prefer to implement judgmental sampling when they feel that other sampling techniques will consume more time and that they have confidence in their knowledge to select a sampling from conducting research. Judgmental sampling is usually used in situation where the target population comprises of highly intellectual individuals who cannot be chosen by using any other probability or non-probability sampling technique.

The researcher targeted thirty five (35) respondents with the following desired characteristics: knowledgeability, accessibility, diversity and representativeness. Five participants were selected from each area of the study. The respondents provided both the suburb names of their area and their meanings. The participants that were selected were aged fifty years and above. The reason for selecting participants aged fifty years and above was that people within these ages have gathered a lot of experience about customs and traditions of the society in which they live thus they are old enough to have knowledge of the meanings of Agona suburb name. The researcher used fourteen days to select five participants from each town. The researcher spent two days in each study area since seven towns were selected for the study. In each town, the researcher selected three male respondents and two female respondents. The study included fourteen (14) women out of the thirty five participants (35) because certain aspects of oral tradition are associated with women. So data on Agona suburb names can be compared in order to gather reliable data for the study.

The homogeneity of the population assures the researcher that the sample is a good representation of the population and for that matter, the result obtained from it would be good for generalization.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

Data was obtained first hand from respondents in order to be able to reach a sound conclusion. The data of seventy suburb names were collected by means of semi-structured interview carried out in their homes. Semi-structured interview consists of a series of questions that seek information from participants. These questions usually cover a broad range of topics to collect a vast amount of information from which to make a selection decision. Semi-structured interview is very consistent and standardized, providing each participant the same exact questions, asked by the same individual, in the same order. This standardization proves the oral semi-structured interview to be a valid selection tool for data collection.

This instrument was used because it allowed respondents to give wider responses which in-turn gave an insight into feelings, background, hidden motivation, intuitions, interests and decisions of respondents. The researcher, being a native speaker of the dialect, used intuition and natural observation to supplement the data from the respondents.

3.5.1 Semi-Structured Interview

The researcher used semi-structured interviews in a form of conversation to collect data from respondents on suburb names. The reason for using semi-structured interviews in a form of conversation was that the data to be generated was mainly informative and historical on place names by the Agona people. The semi-structured interview allowed participant to freely discuss issues on a question asked by the researcher. Semi-

structured interviews are purposeful conversations with participants in order to obtain information to answer a research question.

The researcher visited the participants in groups of five daily. I first identified myself to the respondents and obtained permission from them before the commencement of the interviews. The purpose of the study and nature of the interview were disclosed to the respondents as a way of generating their interest. Kusi (2012) avers that how the researcher carry himself out has an effect on the participants and may affect the research data. I spent two days in each town: Agona Swedru, Agona Nsaba, Agona Nyakrom, Agona Duakwa, Agona Asafo and Agona Kwanyako to collect the data. In all, fourteen days were used in collecting the data. The interviews were done at an agreed place by respondents in each town. The use of semi-structured interviews made it easy for participants to freely respond and provide enough and reliable information on Agona suburb names in their language. I consulted the educated respondents the second time for some clarification on some names that were not clear. Semi-structured interview is open and has a plan. In this type, the items are planned to follow in a sequence. There is a lot of flexibility and freedom. An answer can result in a series of questions in this type of interview but does not deviate from the research question. I also used pen and paper to write the suburb names and their meanings during the interview.

3.6 Data Analysis

The collected data were translated into English equivalent and then analyzed using the Causal Theory of Names and the Frame Theory analysis based on the following five steps:

- Classifying data according to morphological patterns.

- Identifying the underlying phonological processes involved in the word formation.
- Identification of the syntactic structures at the sentential level.
- Identifying naming system of Agona suburb.
- Explaining what Agona suburb names reveal about the Agona people.

The collected data was presented in tables that identify the classification and morphological patterns found in the data. The phonological analysis was done using the Autosegmental Tiers. The syntactic analysis was done based on function and structure of the suburb names. The naming system was established through description while Frames explained how meanings of Agona toponyms were drawn from the mind.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethics is about transparency and responsibility (Walden, 2012). In this study, therefore, permission to be interviewed was sought from the informants. They were made to appreciate the importance and confidentiality of the findings of the study so that they could readily cooperate.

3.8 Summary

The chapter discussed the area of study, research design and the instruments used for the collection and analysis of data. It also considered the methods and procedure followed to answer the research questions posed in the study. The chapter discussed in the following order: the area of study; research design; population for the study, sampling techniques for the study; data collection instruments; data collection procedures; data analysis plan and ethical considerations.



CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents analysis of data collected on Agona suburb names. The analysis is done using the Causal theory and the Frame theory of names to answer the research questions one after the other. The chapter presents analysis of morphological processes such as Compounding and Affixation involved in the formation of Agona suburb names. It also presents analysis of phonological processes such as: Assimilatory processes and Syllable structuring processes which go on in the formation Agona suburb names. The chapter further presents syntactic structures of suburb names at the sentential level including: Simple sentence, Compound sentence, Complex sentence,

Declarative sentence, Imperative sentence, Interrogative sentence and systems of naming Agona suburb names such as: Personal names, Tree names, Descriptive names, Historical activities/occupation names, Historical incidents/events names, Biblical naming. It finally presents analysis of what suburb names reveal about the Agona people

4.1 Morphological Processes that take Place in the Formation of Agona Suburb Names.

Morphological analysis is an attempt made to capture the structure of language at the word level, or it is a type of analysis that is concerned with the 'forms of words' (Matthew, 2000). Morphological processes are ways in which bound and free morphemes are put together to create new forms. A morphological pattern is a set of associations and operations that build the various forms of a lexeme (Anindo, 2016). This can be through inflection, compounding, borrowing compounding, reduplication, back formation, clipping, stem modification and suppletion among other morphological processes. A critical analysis of these names reveals that processes such as compounding and affixation are the common morphological processes that take place in the formation of Agona suburb names.

4.1.1 Compounding

According to Ndimele (1999: p. 71) compounding involves the process of forming words by joining two or more independent roots to form a single word. The data indicated that compounding is very common in the formation of Agona suburb names. Considering names like **Apambusu** 'area for sanctification' **Abakakrom** 'Abaka's town' and **Kwesi muoko** 'Kwesi's pepper'. Each of the names consists of the root morpheme to form one item. We found also that the some adjectives combine with nouns

to form a suburb name where the adjective serves as a pre-modifier or a post-modifier to the noun. We realized also that some names contain the verb and its pre-verbal negative marker which marks negation. In some names the negative prefix (**mm-** or **nn-**) is attached to the main verb to mark negation (Dolphyne, 2006) as in **Mannkɔ no ahodwe** “I did not go in peace” and the verb **kɔ** ‘go’ co-occurs with its pre-verbal negative marker **nn** “did not” before the nominal **ahodwe** ‘peace’ which functions grammatically as the complement in the expression.

In a name like **aboasa** the name **abo** “stones” combines with the verb **sa** ‘finish’ and its prefix /a-/ which shows perfection. So, we have the structure S.V. This same phenomenon occurs in the name **Krowasa** where the name **krow** ‘town’ combines with the verb **sa** “finish” and an affix /a-/ to show aspect perfection. Under this section Agona suburb names which are formed through compounding as a common morphological process are grouped into the following.

4.1.1.1 Suburb Names Comprising Noun-Noun Compounds

Some of the Agona suburb names are compounds consisting of a Noun and another Noun. The Noun–Noun compound names behave similarly as those observed in (Akrofi-Ansah, 2012; Lawer, 2017; Bauer, 2017; Booij, 2010; Dolphyne, 1988; Omachonu & Onogu, 2012; Owu- Ewie, 2014). They are formed by combining nouns of various semantic types to form a new word. According to Owu- Ewie (2014) there are solid compounds like **Kwaaman**, Kwaw + man which means “Kwaw’s town”, **Ekumpoano**, Eku + mpoano which means ‘Eku’s Coast/ beach’ and **Komfoeku**, **Komfo** + **Eku** which means ‘Ekuwho is priest’. Others are classified as open compounds which include **Edwumako Amea**, **Gomua Aseebu**, **Gomua Pɔtsen** and **Breman Essiam**. The Noun-Noun compounds identified in the formation of Agona

suburb names conform to the later classification of compounding as identified in Owu-
Ewie (2014) where the Noun-Noun compounds remain open in the resultant name.

Examples are:

Table 4.1: N –N Compound Names-Morphological Analysis

Name of Suburb	Morphological analysis	English Gloss	Meaning
	Noun- Noun		
1. Ayigbe Town	Ayigbe –Town	Ewe -town	Ewe’s town
2. Kwesi Muoko	Kwesi –Muoko	Kwesi -Pepper	Kwesi’s pepper
3. Power House	Power –House	Power -House	Power house
4. Nana Apaa	Nana –Apaa	Chief-Place	Chief from Apaa
5. Egya Atta	Egya-Atta	Father-Atta	Father Atta

Names of the suburbs above have their first names qualifying the second names. The first name is a modifier to the second name. Example (1) above indicates the kind of people that settled in the suburb. My interaction with the respondents revealed that the Ayigbe, a named used by Akans to refer to the Ewes were the first to settle at that area and presently the suburb is still occupied by Ewes. Example (2) indicates the kind of activity that was carried out in that suburb. The respondents revealed that the present suburb used to be a place where a man called Kwesi used to grow pepper and women from nearby places went there to buy pepper from him to sell in the market. People later settled there, though the pepper activity is no more the suburb still bears the name **Kwesi muoko**. With example 3, the place used to be a place where a generator plant was mounted to supply electricity in Agona Duakwa Township so the place was named power house to indicate where electricity was generated from. The respondents also

revealed that Duakwa was the only town by then to have such generator in Central Region that provided light; so, because of that people traveled from other places to watch it as light not common those days.

Example (1, 4 & 5) are eponymous names. Eponyms are the names of persons or a group of persons after or for whom a place is named (i.e. the founders). These suburb names were named after the first settlers of the place. My interaction with the respondents revealed that example (4) was named after a man who came from a town called 'Amaa' to settle there. He later became a chief over those that later came to join him. Egya Atta in example (5) was the first settler of the suburb and consequently the suburb was named after him.

4.1.1.2 Suburb Names Comprising Noun-Postposition Compounds

The study also identified that Agona suburb names are made up of nouns and postpositions as compounds. Majority of Agona suburb names collected belong to this category. In these examples, the noun is a name of an object or a landmark e. g. *tree, river, mountain, building* and the postposition is a locative e.g. **so/do** (on), **ase/adze** (under/below/beneath), **enyim** (front/tip), **ekyir** (back/beyond), **ntamu** (between) and **mu** (in). The Noun-Postposition compound suburb names are consistent with those observed by others like Asamoah (2014) and Owu-Ewie (2014) on Akan and Lawer (2017) on Dangme where a noun and a postposition come together to form a new word. According to them the noun and the postposition are written as one word (solid compound) like **Kumase**, kum 'tree name' + ase 'under' which means 'under the Kum tree', **Apemenyim**, Apem 'thousand' + enyim 'in front' which means 'in front of thousand' and **Kokwaado**, **kokwaa** 'hill' + **do** 'on' which means 'on the mountains'. Examples include the following:

Table 4.2: N –PP Compound Names-Morphological Analysis

Name of Suburb	Morphological analysis Noun- Postposition	English Gloss	Meaning
1. Mpantuase	Mpantu- ase	Name of tree- under	Under the mpantu tree
2. Odumase	Odum –ase	Odum-under	Under the odum tree
3. Kokwaado	Kokwaa-do	Hill-on	On the hill
4. Edurso	Edur-so	Medicine-on	Herbalist camp
5. Ankyease	Ankye-ase	Ankye-under	Under the ankye tree
6. Ofoase	Ofo-ase	Ofo-under	Under the ofo tree
7. Mangoase	Mango- ase	Mango tree-under	Under the mango tree
8. Dankase	Danka-ase	Calabash- under	Under the calabash tree
9. Nkemporase	Nkempor-ase	Bamboo –under	Under the bamboo tree
10. Nkubease	Nkube-ase	Coconuts –under	Under the coconut trees

11. Wawase	Wawa- ase	Wawa –under	Under the wawa tree
12. Desuenyim	Desu-enyim	Blacksmith-front	In front of the blacksmith shop
13. Alasemase	Alasema- ase	Alasema-under	Under the alasema tree
14. Ekutuase	Ekutu-ase	Orange-under	Under the orange tree
15. Abεase	Abε -ase	Palm nut –under	Under the palm nut tree
16. Besease	Bese-ase	Cola –under	Under the cola tree

The above suburb names indicate that the early settlement or the community began around or in the vicinity of the object/landmark in question. With regard to the Agona suburb names most of these names identified were named after trees which comprise the name of the tree and a postposition functioning as a locative. These names are said to be descriptive because they describe the nature of the place when the first settlers came to settle there. According to the respondents the settlers named the suburbs according to the nature of the place.

4.1.1.3 Suburb Names Comprising Noun-Noun-Postposition Compounds

Some Agona suburb names have a N-N-PP compound morphological structure which are in line with those observed by (Owu-Ewie, 2014; Asamoah, 2014;and Dolphyne, 2006). They are compound words made up of a noun followed by a noun and a postposition. The first noun is mostly the name of a person/object, while the second noun is **kurow/man** ‘town/village’ and the postposition **mu** ‘in’. According to Owu-Ewie (2014) the first noun is the possessor or owner of the community (the one who started the habitat) e.g. **Badu + kurow + mu** ‘in Badu’s town’. Such compounds are written solid for the name of the community. He also avers that one thing worthy of noting is that in almost all cases there is some elision. Elision in Fante according to

Abakah (2004: p. 184) is a phonological process by which a vowel, a consonant and sometimes a syllable, which is an intrinsic property of a morpheme in the isolative style is dropped in the combinative style. Dolphyne (2006) posits that in Akan, the high/close back vowel [u] is elided when it precedes [r]. In the same way, when **kurow** (town/village) has **mu** (mu) as a postposition the final vowel [u] is elided and this causes the semi-vowel [w] closing the morpheme **kurow** to be elided because Fante does not allow [wm] sequence which makes **kurow** + **mu** to be said and written as **krom** (Owu-Ewie, 2014). Examples (1-9) below illustrate this.

Table 4.3: N-N-PP Compound Names-Morphological Analysis

Name of suburb	Morphological analysis	English Gloss	Meaning
Noun-Noun-Postposition			
1. Bronyikrom	Bronyi - kurow – mu	Whiteman- town- in	Whiteman’s town
2. Abakakrom	Abaka-kurom –mu	Abaka- town- in	Abaka’s town
3. Kwansakrom	Kwansa-kurow- mu	Kwansa- town- in	Kwansa’s town
4. Asomdweekrom	Asomdwee-kurow- mu	Peace- town- in	Peaceful town
5. Mensakrom	Mensa-kurow- mu	Mensa -town –in	Mensa’s town
6. Oforikrom	Ofori-kurow- mu	Ofori- town- in	Ofori’s town
7. Ankukrom	Anku- kurow –mu	Anku-town- in	Anku’s town
8. Botwekrom	Botwe- kurow- mu	Botwe-town- in	Botwey’s town
9. Ndasekrom	Ndase-kurow- mu	Thanksgiving- town- in	Thanksgiving town

Most of the above suburb names are group are eponyms. With the exception of examples (4) and (9), all habitation names in this group are mostly eponyms. This

shows that eponymous habitation names are very common among the Fantes, especially in the rural areas.

4.1.1.4 Suburb Names Comprising Adjective-Noun Compounds

The data also showed that some suburb names had adjective + noun compound structure which behave similarly to those in (Asamoah, 2014; Owu-Ewie, 2014; Dolphyne, 1988; Abakah, 2006). This indicates that the first word in the name is an adjective and the second word a noun. The adjective or the numeral is a modifier or specifier to the noun. Though most of the authors who have contributed to the discussion of compounding in Akan include adjective-noun compounds, Appah (2013) argues that such a category does not exist and that supposed adjectives in such combination are rather nouns. He avers that the supposed adjective stems in the compounds bear prefixes which they do not bear when they occur in isolation and therefore posits that the “prefixes nominalize the adjectives. One thing interesting about this category of compounds identified in the Agona suburb names is that most of them comprise or were formed with foreign language (English and Kotokoli). Most of these suburbs are new sites and perhaps that is what culminated in the usage of the English words to name the places. In this category when the adjective and the noun are put together the resultant name remain open (open compound). The examples below illustrate this

Table 4.4: Adj–N Compound Names-Morphological Analysis

Name of suburb	Morphological analysis	English Gloss	Meaning
Adjective- Noun			
1. Free town	Free – town	Free – town	Free town
2. New town	New – town	New-town	New town
3. Mighty power	Mighty – power	Mighty- power	Mighty power

4. Sweet city	Sweet – city	Sweet – city	Sweet city
5. Yalewa Zongo	Yalewa – Zongo	Peaceful - Zongo	Peaceful Zongo
6. Sabo Zongo	Sabo – Zongo	New - Zongo	New Zongo

Examples 1-4 are Agona suburb names in this category formed using English words and examples 5-6 were formed using Kotokoli words. Kotokoli words are seen to be part of the lexicon used in naming Agona suburb names because almost all the Agona towns in the Central region of Ghana have Kotokoli communities which are mostly referred to as ‘Zongo’. My interaction with the respondents revealed that most of the Agona suburb names formed with English words were named by literate folks. These people in the bid of showing their competency in English tend to use English words to name the area where they live.

4.1.1.5 Suburb Names Comprising Verb-Verb Compounds

The study also reveals an instance of habitation names made of a Verb and another verb which are in line with (Asamoah, 2014; Owu-Ewie, 2014; Dolphyne, 1988; Abakah, 2006). These are two main verbs put together and used as a suburb name and the resultant becomes solid (solid compound). An example is

Tsintsim-hwe
 Plant-watch
Tsintsimhwe
 ‘plant and see’.

This name came about as a result of an incident that happened. Farming was one of the major occupations of the Agona people. Respondents revealed that the suburb was a barren land so the early settlers could not till the land. The people who came later to settle there wanted to farm on the land. They were told by the early settlers that they have been planting their products on the land but did not yield anything due to the

barrenness of the land. The early settlers assured them to plant and see if their crops will bear fruits. So, the frequent use of *tsintsimhwe* by the early settler to motivate the latter settlers who wanted to farm there motivated the place being named as such. **Dadwen** is also a suburb made up of a verb and another verb.

da-dwen

sleep-think

Dadwen

‘Sleep and think’

The respondent revealed that **Dadwen** as a suburb name came about as a result of a man who took a decision to do something. After the man had taken his decision, he was still not sure of what he has decided on. As a result he told a friend about his worry and the friend advised him to sleep and think about his decision again. After he slept to think, he was able to make the right decision. After, **Dadwen** became a common term between the two friends which made the place where they were living being named as such.

4.1.1.6 Suburb Names Comprising Noun-Adjective Compounds

A few Agona suburb names from the data are compounds in which a noun and adjective are combined. The N-Adj compounding found in the data is consistent with those in Fatawu (2018). The adjective that complements the noun is said to be the post-modifier of the noun in such names. Consider the examples below:

Woraba consists of a noun and an adjective as a post modifier of the noun. The morphemes are **ɔwora** “river” and **ba** “small” an adjective. They are combined to form the name **Woraba** “Small River”. The ‘ɔ’ in the **ɔwora** is elided due fast speech.

4.1.1.7 Suburb Names Comprising Noun-Negative Marker-Verb-Noun Compounds

Another set of Agona suburb names consists of a noun, a verb and its pre-verbal negative morpheme and another noun. In these names the pre-verbal negative morpheme negates the action involved in the verb of the suburb name. The arguments of the verb are usually pronouns. The occurrence of these Agona suburb names fall in line with those in Fatawu (2018). In Fante the negative prefix ‘**nn-** or **mm-**’ is attached to the main verb to mark the negation depending on the consonant that begins the verb (Dolphyne, 2006). Examples are as follow

a. **M-a-n-kɔ** **no** **ahodwe** → **[Mahodwe]**

ISG-PST-NEG-go DET peace

‘I did not go there in peace.’

b. **A-nn-kɔ** **bea** → **[Annkɔbea]**

PST NEG-go place

‘Did yo u not go anywhere?’

In example (a) above the name of the suburb comprises the personal subject pronoun **me** “I” with the past negative morpheme **ann-** ‘Pst-not’ used as a prefix to the main verb **kɔ** “go” to mark past negation and the verb complement **ahodwe** “peace” **Mahodwe** “I did not go in peace” . In the formation of this suburb name the past negative morpheme ‘**ann**’ and the verb ‘**kɔ**’ are elided due to fast speech.

In example (b) the suburb name is composed of a second person pronoun **wo** “you” which is covertly combined with the negative morpheme **nn** “not” and the verb **kɔ** “go” before the nominal **bea** “place” which functions grammatically as the locative.

4.1.2 Affixation Suburb Names

The study reveals that some Agona suburb names are formed through affixation. This is the morphological process in which an affix is attached to a root or a base (Kibet, 2016). In analyzing the data a few affixation suburb names were identified. The following were found:

Table 4.5: Affixation suburb names

Name of Suburb	Morphological analysis	English Gloss	Meanng
	prefix -Noun -suffix		
1. Esikafo	e –sika- fo	PL-money -PL	Wealthy people
2. Ahemfo	a -ɔhen –fo	PL -chief -PL	Chiefs

The suburbs in the table above are made up of a prefix, a noun and a suffix. The affixes are used to denote plurality which follows the claims of Osam (1993) that certain nouns have double plural marking. This is the process in which nouns mark their plural by using prefix and a suffix at the same time. Osam (1993) indicated that nouns which behave this way are all human nouns. This is true because **Esikafo** and **Ahemfo** are all human nouns in the plural form marked by a prefix and a suffix (**e-sika-fo** and **a-ɔhen-fo**). In table 4.5 (1) **Esikafo** ‘wealthy people’ the base is ‘**sika**’ but in its plural form a prefix ‘**e-**’ and the suffix ‘**-fo**’ are attached to ‘**sika**’ to form ‘**esikafo**’.

Ahemfo in table 4.5 (2) ‘chief’ the singular form of the word is ‘**ɔhen**’ but in its plural form a prefix ‘**a-**’ and the suffix ‘**-fo**’ are attached to ‘**ɔhen**’ to form ‘**ahemfo**’. In this case the ‘**ɔ**’ which is marking singular is elided and replaced with the prefix ‘**a-**’.

4.2 Phonological Processes that take Place in the Formation of Agona Suburb

Names

In the formation of Agona suburb names some phonological processes are involved. The most common phonological processes that take place in the formation of these names are assimilation and syllable structuring. These analyses are done using autosegmental phonology (Goldsmith, 1976) because of its superb representation capacity and its provision of independence to all segmental features.

4.2.1 Assimilation

The data revealed that some Agona suburb names undergo assimilation in its formation. Assimilation is a phonological process in which a sound is made to take the features of the adjacent sound. Otoo (2005) sees the process of assimilation as sounds in a sequence where one sound acquires a feature of a neighboring sound so that both sounds assume the same features. Assimilation can be realized at place of articulation and vowel harmony. The type of assimilation that occurs when a sound of different place of articulation takes the same place of articulation of the adjacent sound is the place of articulation.

Agona suburb names also undergo the process of assimilation where a segment is made to look like the adjacent sound. The most common type of assimilation that occurs in Agona suburb names are vowel harmony and homorganic nasal assimilation.

4.2.1.1 Vowel Harmony Assimilation

Vowel harmony is a phonological process that stipulates that vowels within a particular phonological, lexical and sometimes syntactic domain must share specific features (Akanlig-Pare & Asante, 2016: p. 1). Within a domain when the vowel features are not harmonious, then a harmony process is triggered. In the formation of Agona suburb

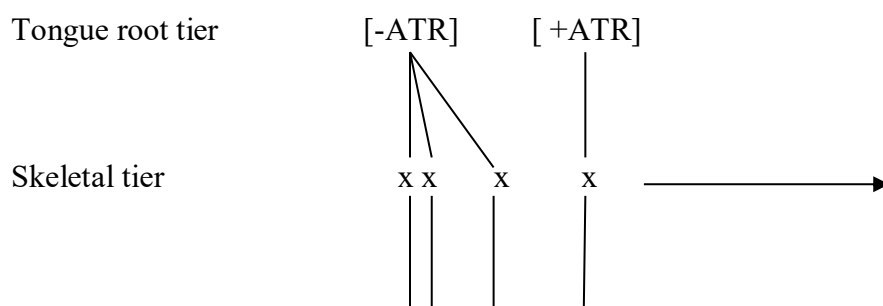
names there is an exhibition of vowel harmony phenomenon. This is in line with the findings of (cf. Kuubezelle, 2003; Akanlig-Pare & Asante, 2016; Fatawu 2018; Lawer, 2017). Fante displays two harmony types: tongue root (ATR) and rounding. According to Abakah (2013) and Dolphyne (2006) Fante has ten vowel sounds and they are sub-categorized into two distinct sets based on the position of the tongue root during their production. 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 but also consider 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]. In the formation of Agona suburb names usually it the [+ATR] vowels that assimilate [–ATR] vowels to harmonize with them and also the [+Rounding] vowels that assimilate [–Rounding] vowels to harmonize with them to be in the same set. In other words [–ATR] stem vowels are usually the targets whilst [+ATR] vowels are the triggers. The [+ATR] and [+ Round] features spread in stem words and across word boundaries in regressive direction (right - left) as exemplified in example 11a-11d below.

Examples 1

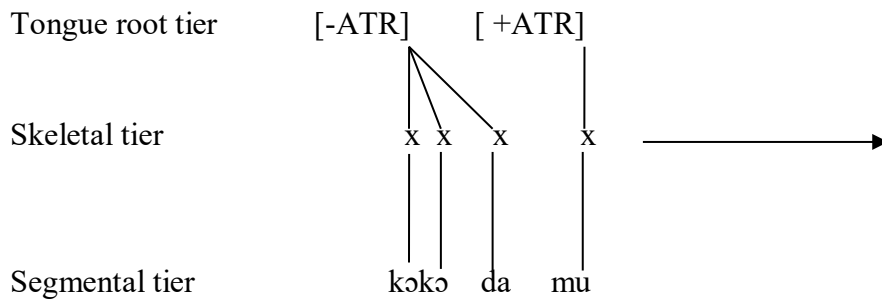
a. brɔfo - yɛ -dur → [brɔfɔyedur]

English-be-heavy ‘English is heavy’

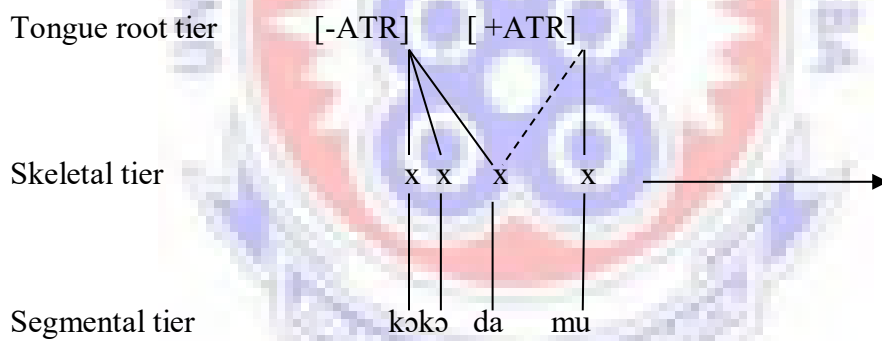
Underlying form:



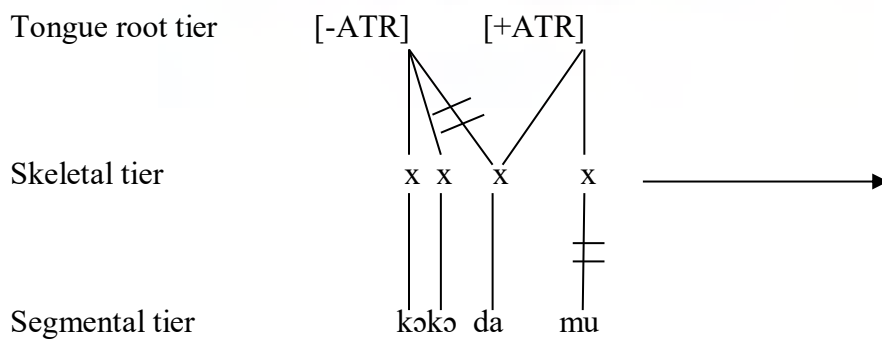
Underlying form



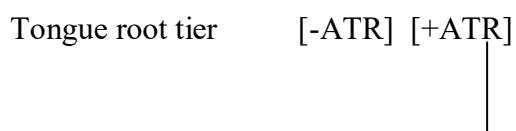
[+ATR] Spreading

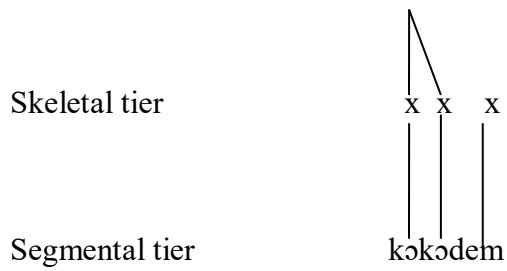


[-ATR] Delinking and segment deletion



Output form

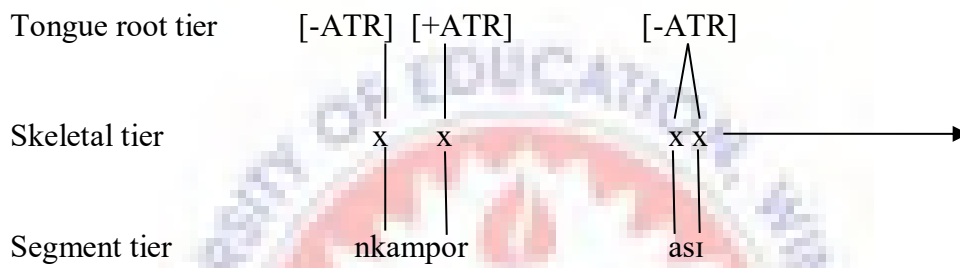




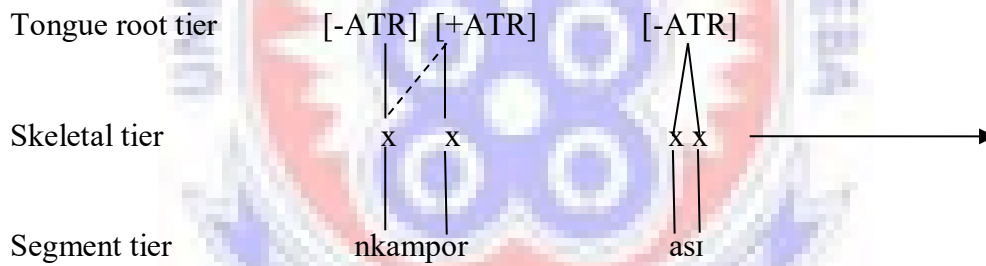
c. **Nkampur -ase** → **[nkemporasɨ]**

Bamboo-under 'Under the bamboo tree'

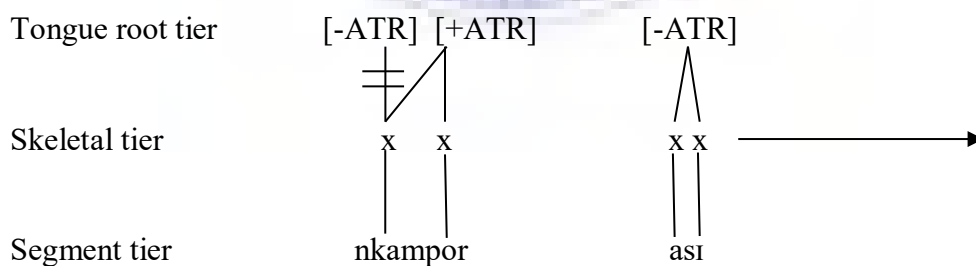
Underlying form



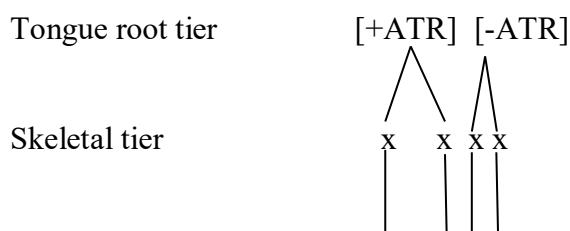
[+ART] Spreading



[-ART] Delinking



Output form

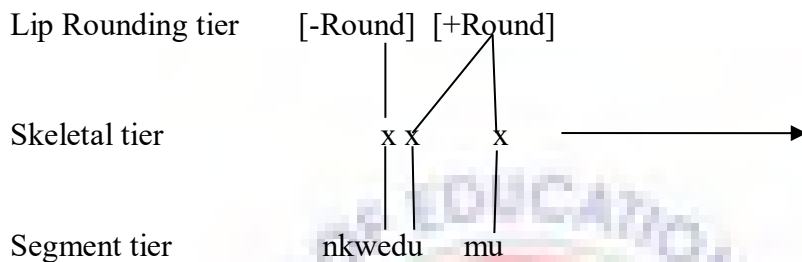


Segment tier nkemporasi

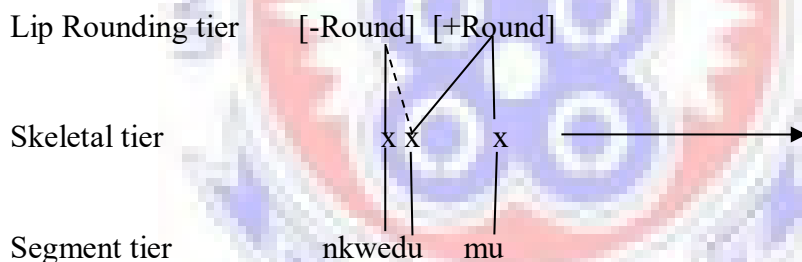
d. Nkwedu-mu → [ŋkwodum]

Banana-in 'In the banana tree'

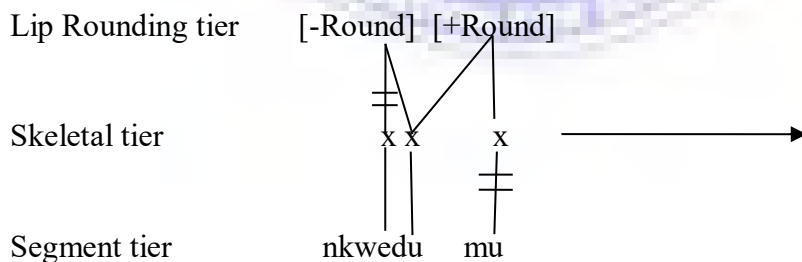
Underlying form



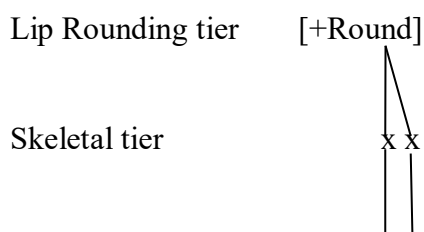
[+Round] Spreading



[-Round] Delinking and segment deletion



Output form



Segment tier ηkwodum

In example (1a) the [-ATR] vowel /ε/ is changed to /e/ under the influence of [+ATR] vowel /u/ to ensure ATR harmony. Example (1b) also shows a similar phenomenon where under the influence /u/ in **mu** at the word boundary regressively assimilates [-ATR] vowel /a/ in **da** to become /e/ for them to be in the same vowel group that is the advanced group [+ATR]. Though the /u/ is elided but its influence is felt on /a/ for vowel harmony to be observed. There was an instance of vowel harmony in a root word. This is seen in example 1 (c) where /a/ in **nkampor** changes to be /e/ under the influence of /o/ in the same word for them to be in the same group (advanced vowel). Apart from the ATR harmony the data reveal an instance of Lip Rounding harmony as in Example 1 (d) where /ε/ in **nkwedū** changes to be /o/ under the influence of /u/ in the same word to observe vowel harmony as a result of the formation of the suburb name.

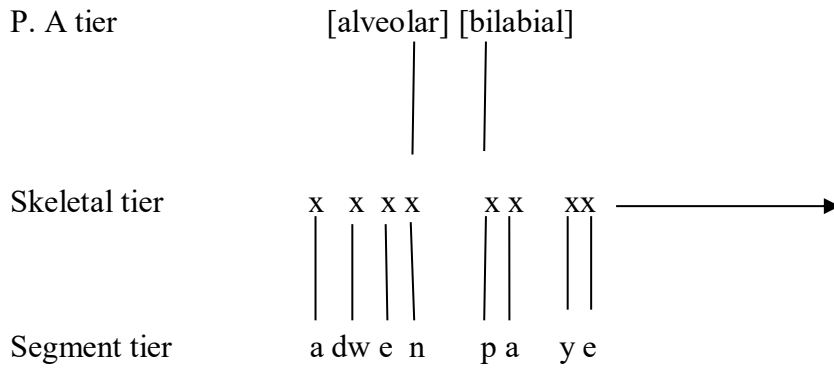
4.2.1.2 Homorganic Nasal Assimilation

Homorganic nasal assimilation process operates during some word formation processes. When two stems are brought together; the preposed stem ending in a nasal consonant and the second beginning with a bilabial plosive to form a compound word, the nasal consonant in the preposed stem, inherits the place of articulation of the bilabial plosive consonant beginning the second stem. In example 2 below are some Agona suburb names, showing the homorganic nasal assimilation process during compounding.

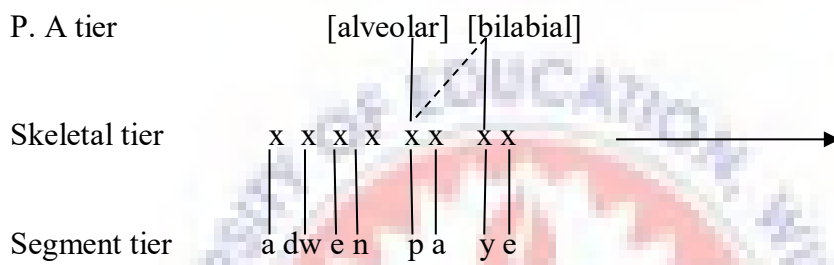
Example 2

- a. **Adwen-pa-ye** → **[adzɔmpaye]**
Mind-good-be ‘Good mind is good’

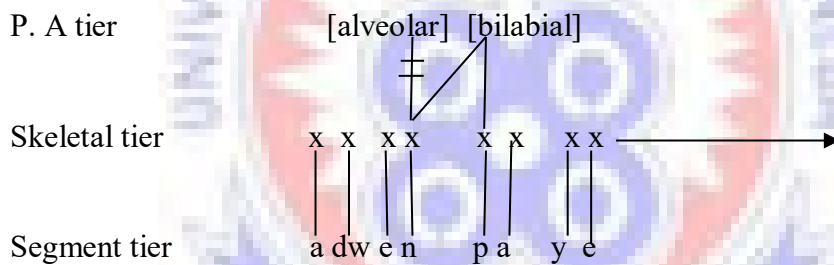
Underlying form



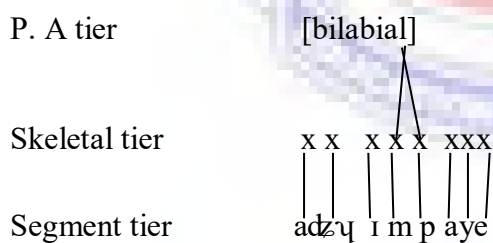
Bilabial feature leftward spreading:



Alveolar feature delinking:

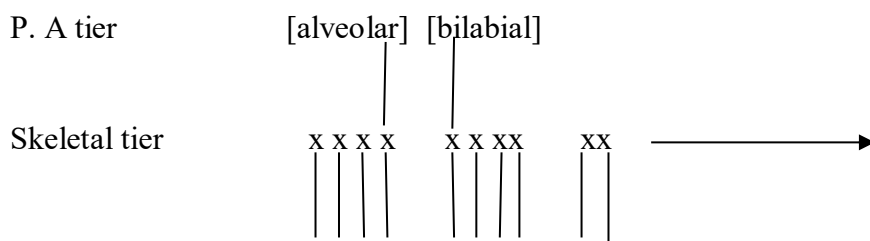


Output form:



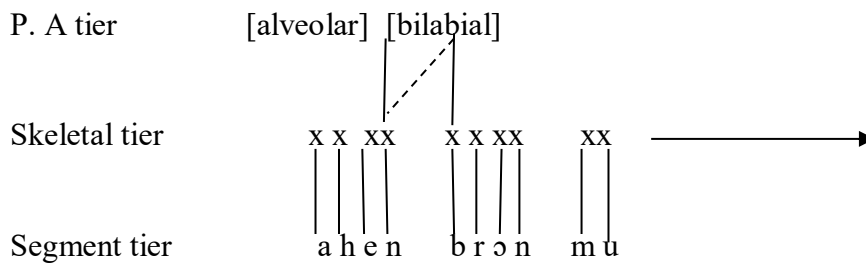
b. **Ahen-brɔn-mu** → **[ahɪmbrɔm]**
 Chief-area-in 'in the chief area'

Underlying form

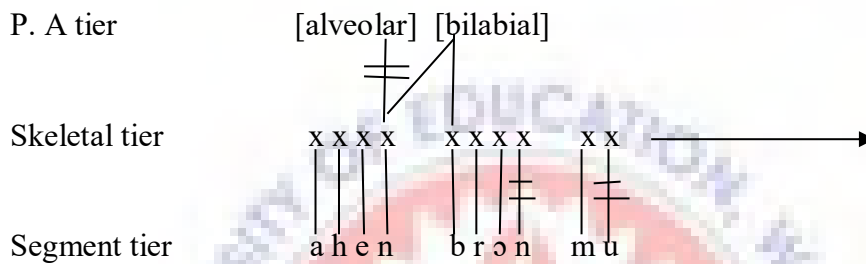


Segment tier a h e n b r ɔ n m u

Bilabial feature leftward spreading:



Alveolar feature delinking and segment deleting:



Output form:



In Example 2 (a) the bilabial-plosive /p/ assimilates the alveolar-nasal /n/ at the word boundary during the word formation to be bilabial-nasal /m/ for them to be at the same place of articulation. Example (2b) also shows a similar homorganic assimilation process when during word formation of **ahen**, **brɔn** and **mu** the bilabial-plosive /b/ regressively assimilates the alveolar-nasal /n/ ending the first word to be a bilabial-nasal /m/ and the /u/ in **mu** is elided. These findings are in line with Kuubezelle (2003) and Fatawu (2018)

4.2.2 Syllable Structuring Processes

In Agona suburb names the data revealed that the most common syllable structure processes elision. The syllable structure processes discussed/analyzed under this section is Elision

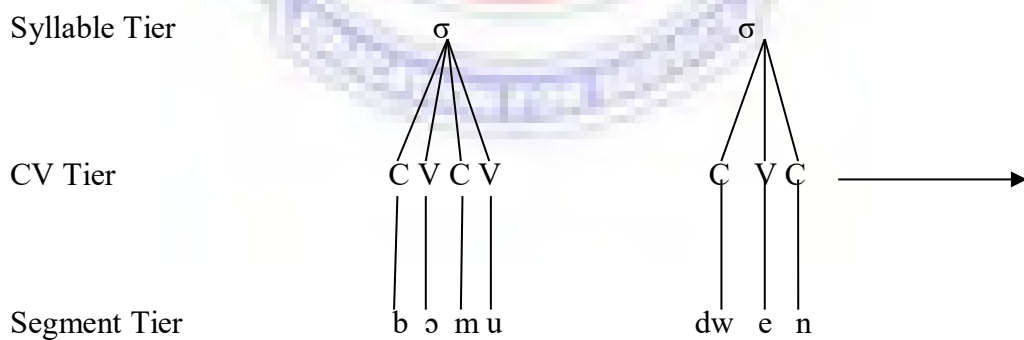
4.2.2.1 Elision

Elision, in Agona suburb names, takes the form of both apocope and syncope. In the data, it is realized that a vowel can be elided in two instances during word compounding. In the first instance, a final vowel of CV syllable shape of an initial stem is elided before the second stem is added in order to form a compound word. It was also realized that elision of vowel and consonant happens at the same time in the formation of some Agona suburb names. The data in Example 3 attest to the above explanation.

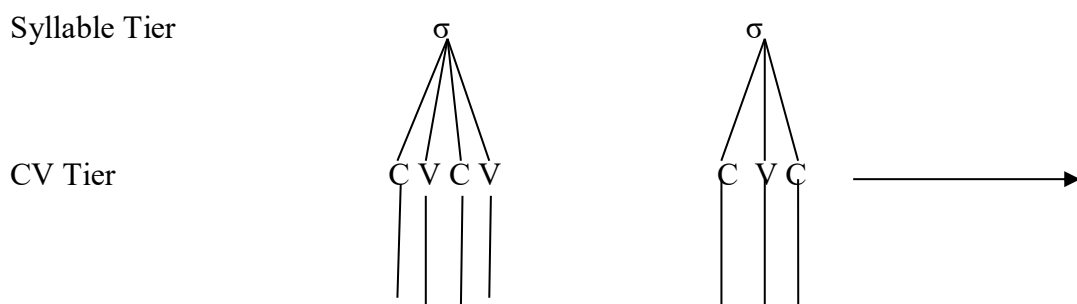
Example 3

a. **bə-mu-dwen** → **[bɔmɔzɥɪn]**
 Beat-in-think 'come together and think'

Underlying form:



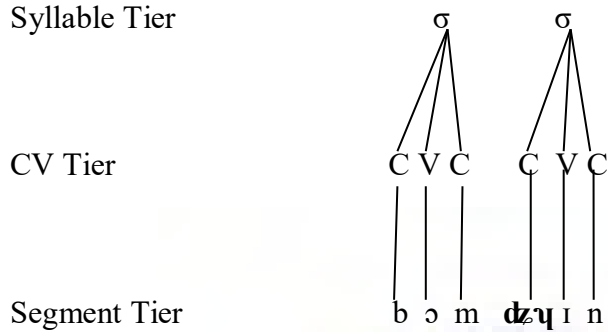
Vowel Elision:



=

Segment Tier b ɔ m u dw e n

Output form:



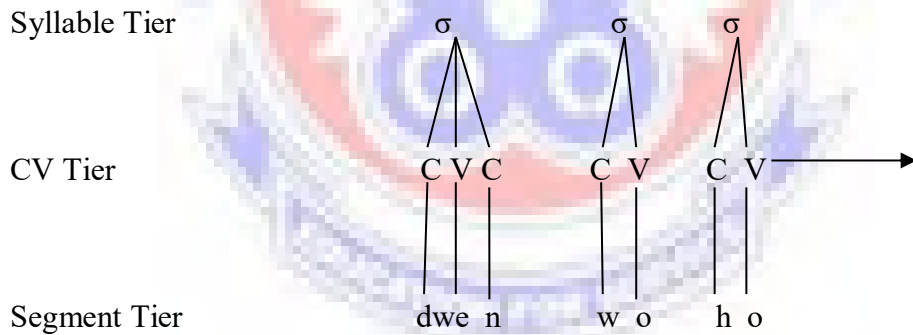
b. **dwen-wo-ho**

→ **[dʒɯmhʊ]**

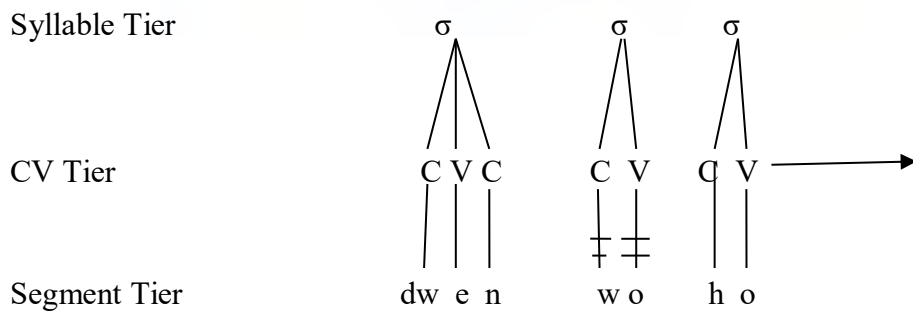
think-you-self

‘Think of yourself’

Underlying Form:



Syllable elision in fast Speech:



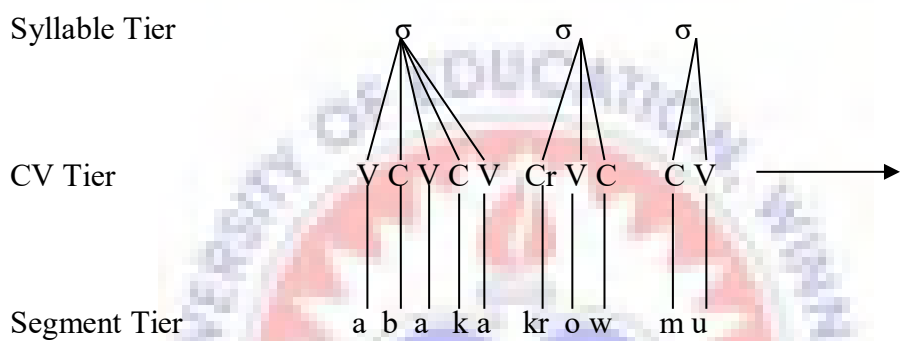
Output Form:



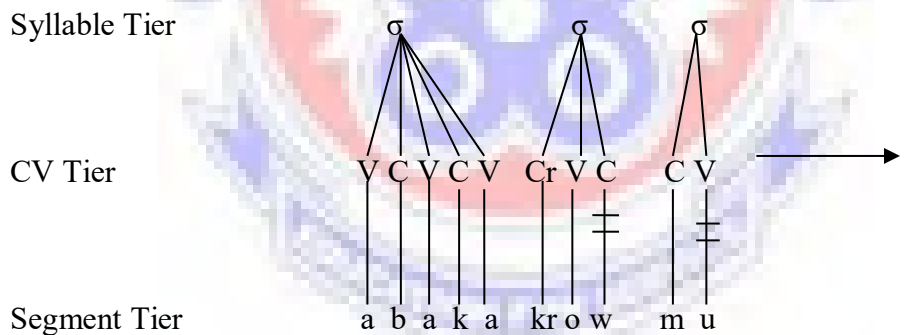


c. **Abaka-krow-mu** → **[abakakrom]**
 Abaka-town-in 'Abaka's town'

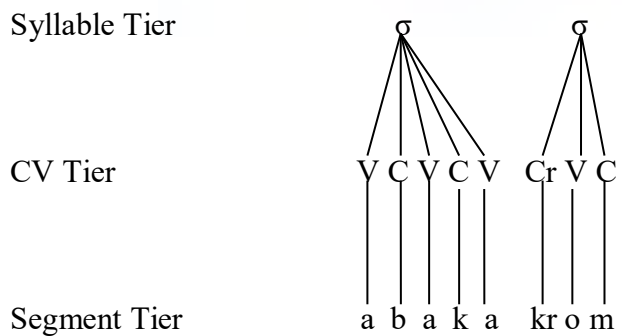
Underlying form



Consonant and Vowel Elision in fast Speech:



Consonant and Vowel Elision in fast Speech:

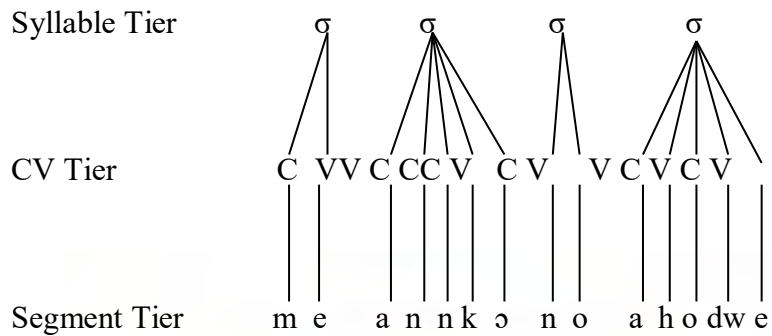


d. **Me -ann-kə -no-ahodwe** → **[māhʊdzɪ]**

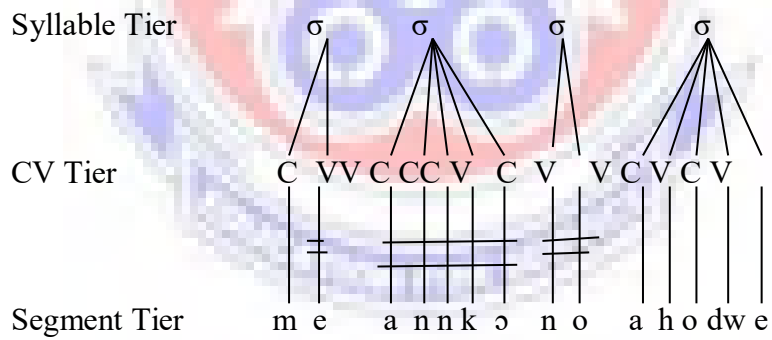
I-did not-go-DET-peace

'I did not go in peace'

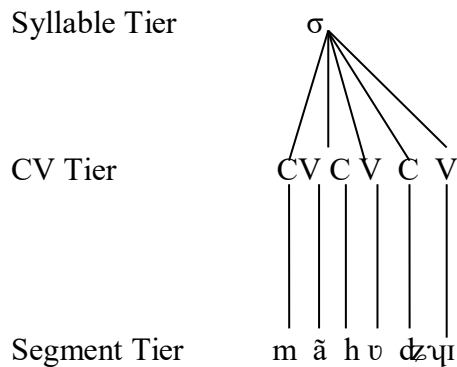
Underlying Form



Syllable and vowel elision in fast speech:



Output form:



In Example (3a) /u/ in *mu* is elided. This is a common phenomenon in Fante when a postposition **mu** ends a word in its pronunciation the /u/ is elided. Example (3b) involves elision of consonant and vowel at the same time. This is evidenced when **kurow** (town/village) has **mu** (in) as a postposition the final vowel [u] is elided and this causes the semi-vowel [w] closing the morpheme **kurow** to be elided because Fante does not allow [wm] (Owu-Ewie, 2014) sequence or CC syllable structure (Abakah, 2004) which makes **kurow** + **mu** to be said and written as **krom**. In Example (c and d) due to fast speech some words tend to be elided. In example (c) **wo** is elided and in (d) **annko** and **no** are also elided due to fast speech to restructure the syllable. In example (c) the nasality of ‘m’ in ‘ma’ influences the ‘a’ in ‘ahodwe’ to become nasalized ‘[māhɔdʒɔ].

4.3 Syntactic Analyses of Agona Suburb Names at the Sentential Level

This part of the analyses looks at the syntactic structure of some Agona suburb names. It analyses Agona suburb names at the sentential level. The data collected indicated that some suburb names are complete sentences. This finding is in line with the findings of Owu-Ewie (2014) and Asamoah (2014). These names were analyzed into two broad categories as indicated in Owu-Ewie (2014) and Asamoah (2014) with an additional finding. Though Agona suburb names are found to be written as single items, as isolated words or as hyphenated, they are made up of more than one word. Analysis of the data revealed that by function some of the suburb names are declaratives, commands and interrogative. The analysis also portrayed that by structure some of the habitation names were compound sentences while others were found to be complex sentences. The following are the analysis.

4.3.1 Sentential Habitation Names and Sentence Function

Sentences by function are divided into declaratives, commands and interrogative in the analysis. According to Crystal (2003) a declarative sentence refers to verb forms or sentence or clause types which are typically used in expressing statement. Sometimes, they are referred to as indicative sentences (Owu-Ewie, 2014). Owu-Ewie (2014) says command has implied subject and the verb is in the imperative mood. Interrogative sentences are typically used in the expression of questions. The analysis of the data indicates that some Agona suburb names can be declaratives, commands and questions (interrogatives). Examples are as follows:

4.3.1.1 Sentential Suburb Names with Declarative Function

A critical analysis of Agona suburb names collected indicates that some are declarative sentences. They are statements used to express thought. This is similar to Owu-Ewie (2014) as they were found to be written as single items, as isolated words or as hyphenated words. Some of declarative sentences seen in the data are made up of a noun, which is the subject, a verb and a noun, which is the object (SVO) while others consist of a noun (subject) and a verb (SV). Others have noun (subject), verb and adjective (used as a subject complement) (SVC.). Examples in 4a-4d attest to this.

Example 4

a. **Mahodwe** → **[Mannkɔ-no-ahodwe]**

Me a-nn-kɔ no ahodwe

1SG SUB PAST-NEG-go DET peace

‘I did not go in peace’

b. **Brofoedur** → **[Brɔfo-yɛ-dur]**

Brɔfo yɛ dur

English be heavy

‘English is heavy’

c. **Mbofra-mfa-adwen** → **[Mbofra-mfa-adwen]**

M-bofra mfaadwen

PL-child should take brain

‘Children should think’

d. **Adwenpaye** → **[Adwen-pa-ye]**

Adwen-pa ye

Brain-good be

‘Good mind is good’

4.3.1.2 Sentential Suburb Names with Interrogative Function

The data also showed an instance of suburb names which function as interrogative sentence. These are exemplified in example 5a and 5b

Example 5

a. **Annkɔbea** → **[Annkɔ-bea]**

Ann-kɔbea a

PST NEG-go place QP

‘Did you not go anywhere?’

b. **Hasowodze** → **[Ha-so-wo-dze]**

Ha nso wo dze a

Here also 2SG POSS thing QP

‘Is this place your territory?’

4.3.1.3 Sentential Suburb Names with Imperative Function

The data revealed an instance of suburb names which are in the form of imperative sentences. This is similar with the findings of Owu-Ewie (2014) and that an imperative

sentence in Fante has an implied subject. The subject in each case is implied in the second person pronoun and is **ɔwo** (you) used. Examples 6a-6c proves this.

Example 6

a. **Gyinaɔye** → **[Gyina-yie]**

Gyina yie

Stand well

‘Stand well’

b. **Tsintsimhwɛ** → **[Tsintsim-hwɛ]**

Tsintsim hwɛ

Plant see

‘Plant and see’

c. **Bɔ̃mdwen** → **[Bɔ̃-mu-dwen]**

Bɔ̃ mu dwen

Beat in think

‘Come together and think’

4.3.2 Sentential Suburb Names and Sentence Structure

The data indicate that by structure some suburb names at the sentential level are simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences. These are exemplified below:

4.3.2.1 Suburb Names with Simple Sentence Structure

Asamoah (2014) explains a simple sentence as a sentence type that is made up of a single main clause. She avers that a simple sentence can be made up of single verb, a noun (subject) and a verb, and most at times a noun (subject), a verb and a noun (object). Using the phrasal structure approach, the simple sentence will be (NP)-VP-(NP/AdjP).

Normally the (NPs) are optional but the (VP) is obligatory. This observation is similar with that of Owu-Ewie (2014) and Asamoah (2014). Examples are as follows:

Example 7

a. **Mbofra-mfa-adwen** → **[Mbofra-mfa-adwen]**

M-bofra m-fa adwen

PL-child should-take brain

‘Children should think’

b. **Gyina-yie** → **[Gyina-yie]**

Gyina yie

Stand well

‘Stand well’

c. **Brɔfoyedur** → **[Brɔfo-yɛ-dur]**

Brɔfo yɛ dur

English be heavy

‘English is heavy’

Example (7a) has a subject ‘**mbofra**’, a verb ‘**mfa**’ and an object ‘**adwen**’ and example (7c) also has a subject ‘**brɔfo**’, a verb ‘**yɛ**’ and an adjective ‘**dur**’ functioning as complement to the subject. Example 7b is made up of verb ‘**gyina**’, an adverb ‘**yie**’ and an implied subject. Examples 7a and 7c have an overt subject with 7c having a covert subject.

4.3.2.2 Suburb Names with Compound Sentence Structure

A compound sentence according to Crystal (2007) consists of two or more main clauses. The data revealed some suburb names with compound sentence structure. They are composed of two main clauses joined with a conjunction **na** (and), **naaso** (but) and **anaa** (or). This phenomenon is prevalence in Fante. Below is an example from the data:

‘If I do not hear, I will not say some’

From example 9 above the suburb name at the sentential level has a complex sentence structure made up of a main clause and a subordinate clause. The subordinate clause is joined with the subordinate conjunction *sɛ.....a*. The subordinate clause in the data above is *sɛ manntse a* ‘if I do not hear’ and the main clause is *mannka bi* ‘I did not say some’. The main clause expresses a complete thought unlike the subordinate clause whose meaning cannot be realized unless it is attached to a main clause but when the subordinate conjunction is dropped it remains a main clause. So *sɛ manntse a* ‘if I do not hear’ becomes *manntse* ‘I did not here’ when the subordinate conjunction *sɛ.....a* is dropped.

4.3.3 Suburb Names with Serial Verb Construction

Different languages have different ways to pattern their language materials in order to express meaning. One of such ways is verb serialization. This is a syntactic phenomenon of multi-verb construction often referred to as Serial Verb Construction (SVC) (Baah, 2015). According to Baah, beside Akan, verb serialization has also been reported in the literature of many other West African languages such as Ewe, Yoruba, and Anyi. The phenomenon is also found in mainland Southeast Asian languages like Chinese, Thai, Khmer etc.

Durie (1997) defines serial verb construction as a sequence of two or more verbs which in various (rather strong) senses, together act like single verb. Foley and Olson (1985) also define serial verb constructions as constructions in which verbs sharing a common actor or object are merely juxtaposed, with no intervening conjunctions. Schachter (1974) posits that sentence that contains a serial verb construction consists, on the surface at least, of a subject noun phrase followed by a series of two or more verb

phrases, each containing a finite verb plus, possibly, the complement(s) of that verb.

The data collected revealed the phenomenon of serial verb construction in Agona suburb names. Examples are in 10a-10d below

Example 10

a. **Dadwen** → [Da-dwen]

Da dwen

Sleep think

‘sleep and think’

b. **Tsintsimhwε** → [Tsintsim-hwε]

Tsintsim hwe

Plant look

‘Plant and see’

c. **Kɔtsebεka** → [Kɔ-tse-bεka]

Kɔ tse bε-ka

Go hear FT-say

‘Go and listen to come and say’

d. **Sankɔfa** → [San-kɔ-fa]

San kɔ fa

Return go take

‘Return for it’

The examples in 10 above have sequences of verbs with no other word appearing between them. It is observed in the examples that they have a covert subject with no object.

4.4 Systems of Naming Agona Suburb Names

Agona suburb names evidently follow a system of naming which is diverse. According to Anindo (2016), to formulate a good typology requires delving deep to find out the namers' motivation for the naming by identifying what the names originally referred to. The traditional knowledge of Agona suburbs origins has been retrieved from the encyclopedic knowledge in the memories of elders who have in-depth knowledge about the suburb names.

This typology considers the Agona socio-cultural motivations for naming places while considering guidelines from other naming systems. It is expected to give an idea of how the originators mind and therefore the process of naming worked. The collected Agona suburb names have different origins and so will belong to different types or classes and searching for the origins of the names helped to identify the meanings of some selected suburbs names stored in the encyclopedic knowledge of speakers using Frame and Causal theories. These classes are referred to as the naming system of the language community (Anindo, 2016). These systems are explained in section 4.7.1 to 4.7.7 below:

4.4.1 Using personal names/eponymous

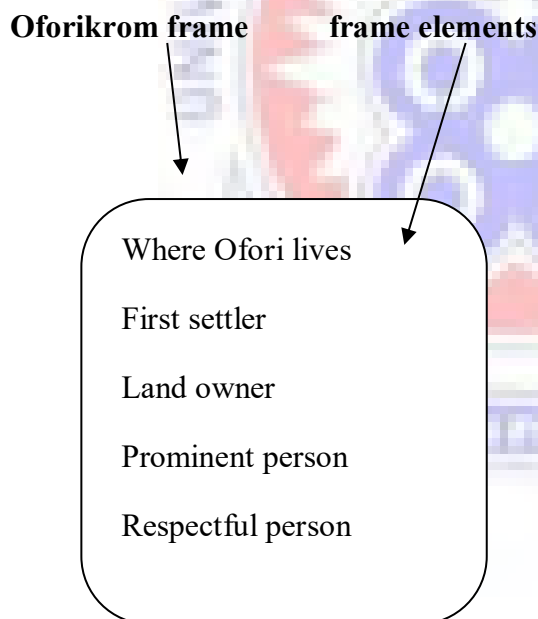
The data revealed that some Agona suburb names are named after some personalities. These suburb names were named after the first settlers. This is in consistent with the findings of Tent and Blair (2009) and Anindo (2016). Examples are in table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6 Suburb Names with Personal Names

Name of suburb	Free English translation
Bronyikrom	In whiteman's town

Abakakrom	In Abaka's town
Kwansakrom	In Kwansa's town
Mensakrom	In Mensa's town
Oforikrom	In Ofori's town
Ankukrom	In Anku's town
Botwekrom	In Botwey's town

All the above suburb names are named after the first settlers of the place for example **Mensa** 'possessor' by adding **krow** which is used to indicate possession and a postposition **mu** 'in'. The use of name is a sign of honoring the person. These suburb names are what the Agona people have accepted to use but when a suburb like *Oforikrom* is mentioned it evokes other meanings as shown in the frame below;



4.42 Using tree/animal names

Another system the Agona people follow in naming their suburbs is by using names of trees or animals. This was the most prominent category. These suburb names were motivated by the dominant presence of a particular type of tree or an animal in the area.

This observation is similar to the Arapaho naming system cited in Anindo (2016) and Kibet (2014). Examples are shown in table 4.7 below:

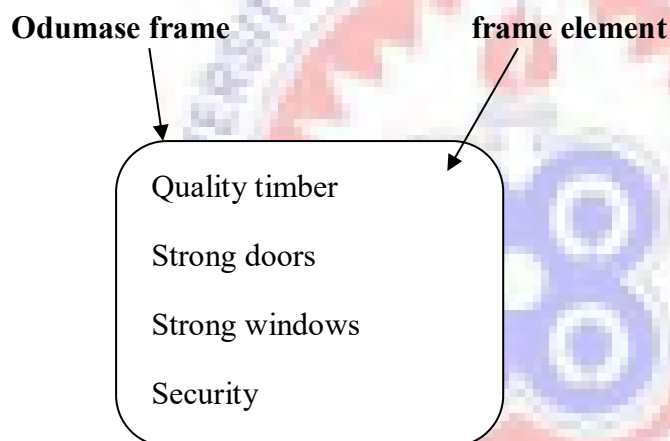
Table 4.7 Suburb names with tree/animal names

Name of Suburb	Free English translation
Mpantuase	Under the mpantu tree
Odumase	Under the odum tree
Ankyease	Under the ankye tree
Ofoase	Under the ofo tree
Mangoase	Under the mango tree
Dankase	Under the calabash tree
Nkemporase	Under the bamboo tree
Nkubease	Under the coconut tree
Wawase	Under the wawa tree
Alasemase	Under the alasema tree
Ekutuase	Under the orange tree
Abɛase	Under the palm nut tree
Besease	Under the cola tree
Awendadze	Lion

Examples 1-13 above suburb names indicate that the early settlement or the community began around or in the vicinity of the tree in question considering the fact that the Agona lands in Central Region were the forest type. With regard to the Agona suburb names most of these names identified were named after trees which comprise the name of the tree and postposition **ase** ‘under’ functioning as a locative. These names are said to be descriptive because they describe the nature of the place when the first settlers came to settle there. According to the respondents, the settlers named the suburbs according to the abundance of the type of trees found in the area. There was one instance of a suburb named after an animal as seen in example 14 above. According to the respondents the place was inhabited by lions when the first settlers settled there but as to how they were able to drive these wild animals away before they settled was not proven.

Odumase is the accepted name of a suburb in Agona Asafo. The name is derived from the common noun **odum** ‘oak’ and **ase** ‘under’ showing the area where the suburb revolved. **Odum** is a type of tree which is hard and used for many purpose. Security is

a key feature in the lives of the Agona people and the tree is a hard wood or very strong and durable so it is used for building and making secure windows and doors. **Odum** trees grew in the area and since they were highly sought after, led to the name Odumase being used as a suburb. Agona speakers are aware of this information about **Odum** trees and the information. When the place name **Odumase** is mentioned, concepts related to the main concept are triggered and produced to give it meaning as indicated below.



4.4.3 Descriptive naming system

A descriptive naming procedure considers the main characteristics of the place. The topographical description of physical appearance of the place is considered during the naming process. The namers associated the place with its physical content. These suburbs were motivated by the unique physical characteristics of the surroundings which set them apart from others. This conforms to the findings of Crystal (2003), Tent and Blair (2009), Letsoela (2015) and Anindo (2016). Examples are

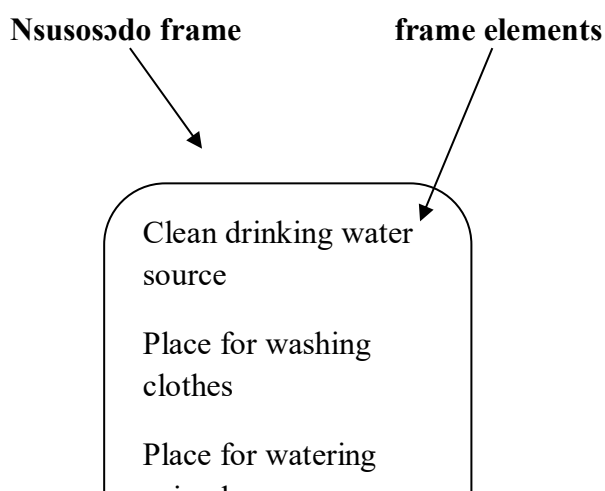
Anafo (swampy)-This place is swampy and the people associate the area with its nature to name the suburb.

Kokodo (on top of the hill)- The name was motivated by the presence of hills at the place.

Mboseabo (gravels) - The place's soil is just gravel. The suburb generated its name from the dominance of gravels at the area. It currently even has a quarry for the locals to use for building and other activities.

Obodanyina (a rock on ciber tree) - The respondents revealed that the early settlers came to discover a big rock lying on top of a big ciber tree. Due to its uniqueness they named the suburb as such.

Nsusosodo (chains of rivers)-According to the respondents the place was dominated by a chain of rivers. The chain of rivers is a unique thing and so the place was named for being an easy source of water. It is derived from the common noun **nsu** 'water' with a verb **sosow** 'follow' showing the nature of the river and a postposition **do** 'on'. The name is used to describe the nature of the rivers found in the area and the frequent use of the name resulted in calling the suburb as such. Water served many purpose in the lives of the Agona people. The frame of **Nsusosodo** is the background functional frame for the suburb that refers to a place where water is sourced. . It evokes the concept chains of river with related concepts indicated in the frame below



4.4.4 Historical Activities or Occupations

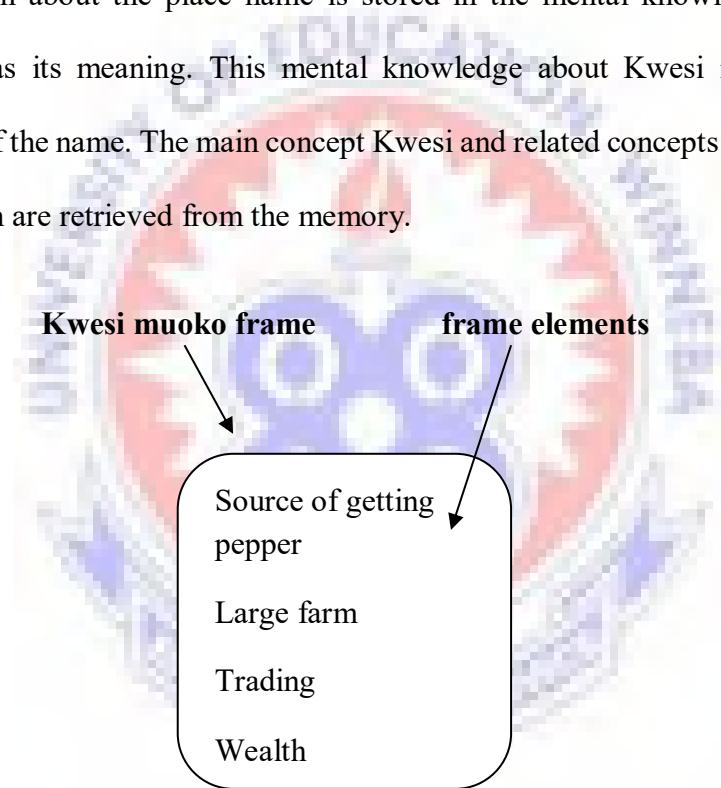
The associative category involves speakers linking a place with a particular frequent activity, or occupation of the people linked to the place. This conforms to the findings of (Anindo, 2016). **Edzifodze nkwanta** (cheap things junction) was a junction where cheap things were sold. According to my respondents it was a very busy trading center due to the price margins of commodities sold there.

Apambusu (place of purification) is a place where a priest is located and he is best known for purification in case someone is cursed or suffering from spiritual sickness. In the olden days the Agona people had no hospitals in their community, so they relied on priests who were also herbalists for medication.

Ayewam (in the earthenware) was a place where earthenware was sold in large quantities. The respondents revealed that women came from different places to buy earthenware to their villages to sell.

Annkɔbea (you did not go anywhere) – Entertainment was part of the Agona community and this place was named for its association with resting and playing draught. It was a place where men go to rest and play draught if they do not go to work. The place became associated with the activity.

Kwesi muoko (Kwesi's pepper)- the naming was motivated by the occupation of a man called Kwesi. Pepper is regarded as a precious vegetable to the people in Agona Swedru and Kwesi was a pioneer pepper farmer in the area. Kwesi was easily known since he was the only pepper farmer in the area. The name **Kwesi muoko** was accepted as suburb name in the community to honor his prominence in pepper farming. All this is in line with the Causal theory of names requirement for a toponyms acceptance and use by the society and providing the information giving meaning to the name. All these information about the place name is stored in the mental knowledge of the Agona speakers as its meaning. This mental knowledge about Kwesi is triggered by the mention of the name. The main concept Kwesi and related concepts like pepper, trading and wealth are retrieved from the memory.



4.4.5 Historical Incident /Event

In this naming category, the Agona people keep alive the memories of the past through associating the place with an event or an incident. This finding is consistent with the findings of Tent and Blair (2009) and Anindo (2016).

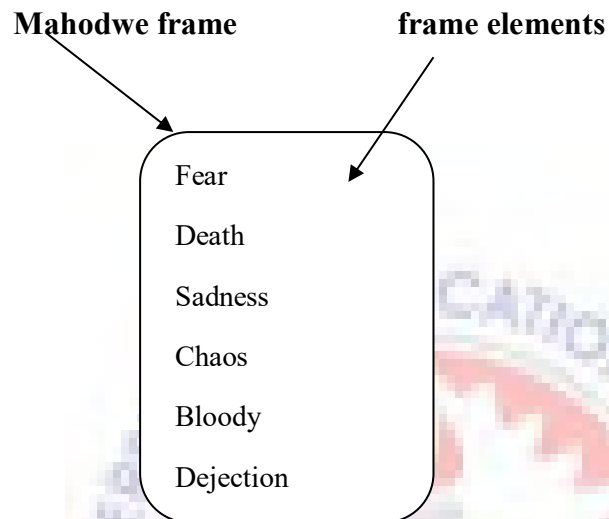
Adwempaye (good mind is good) was named so due to the behaviour of the first settler. The respondents revealed that the first settler helped those who came later to settle there

to build their houses and due to his kindness and the help given them, it attracted a lot of people to settle there. Later, the man's kind gesture was used to name the place which means it was his good minded attitude which attracted a lot of people to settle there.

Okuradu (she holds ten)-The name was motivated by a woman who had ten children who happened to be the first settler of the area. Later, the place was named after the woman and the number of her children.

The Agona people, like other cultures, had their share of battles. This subsection describes aftermaths of battles connected to the place which resulted in the place being named so. From the respondents the present Agona Swedru people migrated from Asante Mampong in the Ashante Region. When they came some settled at a place **Eguaberso** which literally means 'first settlement' and others settled at **Ankyease** 'under the ankye tre' which were all at one side of a river (**Akora**). Later, the king realized the need for them to expand their settlement to prevent foreigners from invading the land. To do this, the King asked the people settling at Ankyease to go and settle at the other side of the Akora river. Because they had settled there for long they refused to move. When the king saw this he ordered his Asafo group (warriors) to force the people to leave the place to settle at the other side of the river. After the battle the people of Ankyease spread to different places at the other side of the river such as **Mahodwe** (I did not go in peace). The name shows that they did not go to the place in peace and the frequent use of this expression motivated the naming. Basically, the suburb name was formed by the people by attaching some emotions. All these coincide with the Causal theory of names requirements that a name should be accepted and used as such and should be the dominant source of knowledge about the name. The knowledge about the war is stored in the minds of the speakers. When the name

Mahodwe is mentioned, it evokes retrieval of concepts about the war and its properties along with other concepts as shown in the frame below



4.4.6 Biblical Naming Systems

Other systems of naming Agona suburb names are by adopting place names from the bible. It was obvious that most of the suburb names that bear biblical place names are new suburbs created. Perhaps the settlers may be Christians unlike in the olden days when they believed in the traditional worship. Examples are New Jericho, New Jerusalem, Paradise and Canaan.

Anindo (2016) avers that during the creation of a naming system of toponyms, many reasons explain why the particular name was selected as a name for a place. These reasons range from cultural beliefs to topographical. Anindo incated that in some cases, the dominant flora and fauna of the place were the ones used to provide the meaning of the place. For instance **Kidundu** denotes a place with many reeds.

These systems of naming borrow from various systems of naming, but it is established using Agona suburb names, and will serve as a basis to classify Agona toponyms into

a system. It may not wholly cover the toponyms adequately but can be used on as many toponyms as possible with minimal conflict. Agona language place-names at times give descriptions of biological and topographic features of the place. The Agona naming system for toponyms has been established as comprising six categories which allow for the classification of suburb names.

The provided meanings of Agona suburb names were identified through going back to the origins using the Causal Theory of Names and the Frame Theory.

4.5 What Suburb Names Reveal about the Agona People

Place names, like other names, are an indispensable part of human language. We use names when we refer to individual objects, such as people, animal, buildings, organizations artifact and places (Helleland & Wilkström (2012). Anderson (1994) posits that names are used in a variety of functions, not only expressions referring to particular objects, but also as a way of communicating cognitively, emotionally, ideologically, and socially. From the discussions so far, it is realized that suburb names of Agona towns reveal their history, culture, past events, past activities or occupation and past and present religious beliefs. These revelations are explained and exemplified below.

A suburb name like **Eguaberso** which literally means ‘first stay’ reveals the history of where the Agona people migrated from. **Eguaberso** according to respondents was the first place the people of Agona Swedru stayed when they migrated from Asante Mampong. This revelation is in the mind of speakers and is revealed when questions are asked as to how the name came about.

Some of the Agona suburb names such as **Mahodwe** did not go in peace’, **Dwenho** ‘think of yourself, **Aboasa** ‘stones have finished’ and **Tsintsimhwe**‘ plant and see’ from the discussions obviously reveal the past happenings of the Agona people.

Suburb names such as **Kwesi Muoko** ‘Kwesi’s pepper’ and **Edzifodze Nkwanta** ‘cheap things junction’ clearly inform the historical activities or occupations that used to be carried out frequently in the place in the past. The data clearly reveal that the Agona people in the past engaged in farming and trading activities.

The data revealed that some suburb names have cultural implication. Names such as Abakakrom, Ankukrom, Mensakrom, Oforikrom, and Kwansakrom are all personal names used to name suburbs in Agona towns. Culturally it is a way the Agona people give prominence to respectful people in their society. It is also used to communicate that the person whose name is used to name the suburb owns the land. **Adwempaye** ‘good mind is good’ communicates to the Agona people to portray good gestures and show kindness to their neighbours. Also **Dwenho** ‘think of yourself’ and **Manntse-mannka-bi** ‘if I do not hear, I will not say some’ culturally is a way of cautioning the Agona people to stay out of troubles.

Discussion of the data also revealed that in the past the Agona people believed in the traditional way of worship. Suburbs like **Apambusu** ‘place of sanctification’ and **Edurso** ‘herbalist camp’ testify to that. Suburb names like Jericho, New Jerusalem, Paradise and Canaan show that Agona people also believe in the Christian way of worshipping God.

4.6 Conclusion

In this chapter, we analyzed Agona suburb names. Linguistic analysis was done to find out the morphological structure, phonological processes and syntactic phenomenon involved in the formation of Agona suburb names. The chapter then looked at the naming systems and the meanings of the Agona suburb names. A naming system with six categories was established to describe the motivations behind the names of Agona suburb names.

The chapter looked at the distinctive meanings of the Agona suburb names from the personal names, tree names, descriptive names, historical activity/occupation names, historical incident/events names and biblical or adoption names.

The Causal theory of Names identified the toponyms as accepted by the community and that the name itself is the dominant source of information known about it as evidenced in all the toponyms. All the toponyms had some referential meaning identified. Analysis of some Agona suburb names was done identifying the word frames that are triggered when a place name is mentioned in order to assign meaning to it. These meanings are identified in a descriptive analysis using The Causal Theory of Names (Evans, 1985) and the Frame theory (Fillmore, 1982). The chapter finally discussed what suburb names reveal about the Agona people in the central region of Ghana.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introductions

This chapter summarizes the findings taking cognizance of the research objectives one after the other. The chapter again makes some recommendations for further researchers and draws conclusion.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The study sought to look at Agona suburb names in the Central Region of Ghana from linguistics perspective. In this study, the morphological, phonological, and syntactic processes that take place in the formation of Agona suburb names are analyzed. The systems of naming and what suburb names reveal about the Agona people were also catered for. The theories of Causal theory of names by Evans (1982) and Frame theory by Fillmore (1985) were employed to do the analysis. From the study the analysis were done to respond to the research objectives in order to answer the research questions one after the other.

- What are the linguistic processes involved in the formation of Agona suburb names?

In the study, the researcher identified some linguistic processes such as morphological processes, phonological and syntactic structures at the sentential level that take place in

the formation of Agona suburb names. From the data, morphological processes such as compounding and affixation commonly take place in the formation of Agona suburb names. In this study, the various forms of compounds have been analyzed based on the names that exhibit these morphological properties. These compounds include the N-N compounds, N-PP compound, N-N-PP compound names; Adj-N, V-V, N-Adj, and N-neg. V-N compound names have been analyzed. From the data, names such as **Kwesi muoko** “Kwesi’ pepper” and **Nana Apaa** ‘Chief of Apaa’ are typical examples of N-N compound names in Agona suburb names which are open compounds. Another N-PP Compound names in Agona Suburb include **Odumase** “under the Odum tree” and **Kokwaado** “on the hill”, N-N-PP compounds names such as **Abakrom** “Abaka’s town” and **Kwansakrom** “Kwansa’s town” from the data have been analyzed. Names such as **Free town** and **Yalewa Zongo** “Peaceful Zongo” are examples of Adj-N compounds, V-V compounds such as **Dadwen** “sleep and think” and **Tsintsimhwe** “plant and see” and N-Adj such as **Woraba** “small river” have been analyzed.

The N- Neg. V-N compound names have also been analyzed. From the data, these types of names usually contain the pre-verbal negative marker that negates the action embedded in the name. Names such as **Mahodwe** ‘I did not do in peace’ and **Annkɔbea** ‘did you not go anywhere?’ and many others have been analyzed. The behavior of these types of names falls in line with Adam (2012) analysis of preverbal negative markers in Dagbani and Fatawu (2018) analysis of Mampruli proverbial names.

Affixation also is found to occur in the formation of Agona suburb names. The analyzed data addressed itself to two types of affixation (prefix and suffix). From the data these affixes are used to denote plurality which follows the claims of Osam (1993) that certain

nouns have double plural marking. Osam (1993) indicated that nouns which behave this way are all human nouns. From the data **Esikafo** ‘wealthy people’ and **Ahemfo** ‘chiefs’ are all human nouns in the plural form marked by a prefix and a suffix (**e-sika-fo** and **a-ɔhen-fo**) are used as a suburb name.

The data also revealed some phonological processes in the formation of Agona suburb names. The main phonological processes that are found in the data include assimilation (vowel harmony and homorganic nasal assimilation) and syllable structuring processes (elision). The data revealed that in the formation of Agona suburb names, it is the [+ATR] vowels that regressively assimilate [-ATR] vowels to harmonize with them and also the [+Rounding] vowels assimilate [-Rounding] vowels in a regressive direction to harmonize with them. In other words [-ATR] stem vowels are usually the targets whilst [+ATR] vowels are the triggers in. In names such as **Brofo-yɛ-dur** [**brofɔyɛdur**] the open-mid vowel /ɛ/ at the word boundary is raised to closed-mid vowel /e/ under the influence of the high/close vowel /u/. In this case /ɛ/ which is an unadvanced vowel becomes advanced vowel due to the influence of /e/ which is an advanced vowel. In **nkwedu-m** [**nkwodum**] where /e/ in **nkwedu** changes to be /o/ under the influence of /u/.

Another assimilation observed in the data is homorganic nasal assimilation. The observation made in the data is that when two stems are brought together; the preposed stem ending in a nasal consonant and the second beginning with a bilabial plosive to form a compound word, the nasal consonant in the preposed stem, inherits the place of articulation of the bilabial plosive consonant beginning the second stem at the phonological level. Examples of such names are

Adwen –pa-ye —————> [**adwimpaye**]

Ahen-brən -mu → **[ahimbrəm]**

Elision is found as a predominant process that occurs in the formation of Agona suburb names. The most common type of elision found in the data is vowel and consonant elision which involves the deletion of a vowel and consonant when two stems are put together to form a suburb name. The observation made here is that the vowels that get deleted occur when 'mu' is used as postposition for a word, the /u/ is elided when the two words are brought together. In names such as **bəmdwen** 'think' together" the vowel (u) in the final syllable of the postposition **mu** 'in' is dropped before the word **dwen** is added. Another observation made in the data was the instance when elision of a consonant and a vowel occurred at the same time. This is evidenced in Abakakrom when **kurow** (town/village) has **mu** (in) as a postposition. The final vowel [u] is elided and this causes the semi-vowel [w] in **kurow** to be elided.

Another observation made from the data is that elision occurs in rapid speech when these names are mentioned rather than in a slow speech. This observation is in line with Roach (2009; 113) that "elision occurs in a more rapid speech than in a slow speech. Names such as **Mannkə no ahodwe** – [Mahodwe] **annkə** and **no** are also elided and **Dwen wo ho-** [dwenho] **wo** is elided due to fast speech.

Though Agona suburb names are found to be written as single items, as isolated words or as hyphenated, it was observed from the data that they are made up of more than one word. Analysis of the data revealed that by function some of the suburb names are declaratives, commands and interrogative. The analysis also portrayed that by structure some of the habitation names were compound sentences while others were found to be complex sentences.

Declarative sentences seen in the data are made up of a noun, which is the subject, a verb and a Noun, which is the object (SVO) while others consist of a noun (subject) and a verb (SV). Others have noun (subject), verb and adjective (used as a subject complement) (SVC.). From the data names such as **Mahodwe** - [Mannkɔ no ahodwe] ‘I did not go in peace’ and **Brofoyedur** - [Brɔfo yɛ dur] ‘English is heavy’. The data also showed an instance of suburb names which function as interrogative sentence. Example of such names are **Annkɔbea** – ‘Annkɔ bea a?’ ‘did you not go anywhere?’ and **Hasowodze** – ‘Ha so wodze a?’ ‘is this place yours?’. The data also revealed an instance of suburb names which are in the form of imperative sentences. It was observed in the data that suburb names with imperative sentence structures have implied subjects. From the data **Gynayie** – ‘Gyina yie’ ‘stand well’ and **Tsintsimhwɛ**- ‘Tsintsim hwɛ’ ‘plant and see’ are found.

From the data, structurally some suburb names have the simple sentence structure. These sentences are made up of single verb, a noun (subject) and a verb, and most at times a noun (subject), a verb and a noun (object). Suburb names such as **Mbofra-mfa-adwen**- ‘mbofra mfa adwen’ ‘children should think’ and **Brofoyedur**- ‘Brɔfoyedur’ ‘English is heavy’ are found. The data showed just an instance of a suburb name with a compound sentence structure. It is composed of two main clause joined with a conjunction **na** (and), but in the formation of the suburb name the **na** (and) component is dropped due to fast speech. From the data a name like **Brahabɔbome** – ‘Bra ha na bɔbor me’ ‘come here and beat me’. The data also revealed a suburb name with a complex sentence structure composed of one main clause and a subordinate clause. The subordinate clause is joined with the subordinate conjunction **sɛ.....a**. an example is suburb name like **Manntse-mannka-bi** - ‘Sɛ manntse a, mannka bi’ ‘ if I don’t hear I

will not say some'. The subordinate clause in the name above is **sɛ manntse a** 'if I do not hear' and the main clause is **mannka bi** 'I did not say some'.

One interesting observation made in the data is that some suburb names have serial verb construction structure. In these names there was sequence of two verbs with no other words appearing between them. The verbs were seen to be in the imperative mood and have an implied subject. Names found are **Dadwen** – 'Da dwen' 'sleep and think', **Tsintsinhwɛ** 'Tsintsim hwe' 'plant and see', **Kɔtsebɛka-** 'Kɔtsebɛka' 'go and listen to come and say' and **Sankɔfa** 'Sankɔfa' 'return for it'.

The data for semantics analysis were analyzed using the Causal theory of names by Evans (1982) and Frame theory by Fillmore (1985). The meanings identified have referential and connotative meaning. Suburb names connect to real life referents in the speaker's society and so carry referential meaning. It was noted that some suburb names carried a particular significance to some speakers depending on personal feelings, it is sometimes for a whole group of people while others had been formed from emotional reactions and so had connotative and affective meanings like **Mahodwe** an exclamation of disappointment for being sacked from a place of abode.

- What are the systems of naming Agona suburb names?

Another objective was to establish a naming system for Agona suburb names. It was noted that Agona suburb names fit into a naming system based on the people's motivations. It emerged that suburb names were named after the first settler of the place, trees/animals which were dominant at the place. Others are characteristics of the physical environment of the place, activities/occupation carried out at the place, events/incidents that happened at the place and using names from the bible to name the

place. The observation made from the data is that major motivations responsible for naming Agona suburb names are descriptions and eponym.

- What do suburb names reveal about the Agona people?

Another objective was to discuss what suburb names reveal about the Agona people. It was observed that through naming of suburb the Agona people share their history and culture. It emerged in the data that the Agona people through suburb naming also tell their beliefs in the traditional worship and Christian worship.

5.2 Main Findings

In this study, the formation of Agona suburb names involves some morphological, phonological, syntactic and semantic processes. The common morphological processes include compounding and affixation. Other phonological processes include vowel harmony, homorganic nasal assimilation and elision. Some possible syntactic processes that occur are that, at the sentential level some suburb names function as declarative, imperative and interrogative sentences, and structurally have the form of simple, compound and complex sentences. Semantically Agona suburb names have denotative and connotative meanings.

Some findings in this study are that compounding and affixation are the major morphological processes through which majority of Agona suburb names are formed. The main types of compounds found in the formation of these names are solid compounds whose meanings do not depend on one compound member but every individual constituent.

Another finding from this study is that affixes used in forming Agona suburbs are made up of prefixes and suffixes. The affixes are used to denote plurality which follows the

claims of Osam (1993) that certain nouns have double plural marking. This is the process in which nouns mark their plural by using prefix and a suffix at the same time.

Another significant finding is that some of the suburb names syntactically are serial verbs which are in the form of an imperative sentence with an implied subject. Interestingly, the study found that the most elision in the formation of Agona suburb names is due to rapid speech.

Another finding is that some of the suburb names with English names were named by the literate folks in the community and are all new suburbs. The study also found that there is a great deal of relationship between morphology, phonology, syntax and semantics as far as Agona suburb names are concerned. Finally, the semantic behaviour of Agona suburb names obeys the principles of the Causal theory of names by Evans (1982) and Frame theory by Fillmore (1985).

The study also found that Agona people have systems of naming their suburb and they also communicate their history, culture and religious beliefs through suburb names.

5.3 Recommendations

The study of place names has received much attention in the literature. However, a lot still needs to be done in the area of linguistic analysis of these place names in some of the languages that have not received significant attention from the various literatures that the researcher contacted. The study therefore, recommends the following:

Linguists who have interest in the study of names should do a comparative study of names in their own languages and Agona in order to help document aspects of the Agona language for a linguistic analysis.

The study also suggests that a lot needs to be done on the linguistic analysis of Agona names in the Central Region of Ghana and other languages because this current work dwells much on the linguistic analysis than other aspects of analysis of names.

Also, researchers can make the same analysis of place and personal names in the Agona language. This will help develop the Agona language a dialect of Fante in the area of linguistic study.

More data on Agona place names should be collected in order to fully compile a naming system and observe any linguistic differences in the toponym structure. In addition symbolic and connotative meanings of the names can be delved into.

5.4 Conclusion

The study shows that Agona suburb names are formed through some morphological, phonological, syntactic and semantic processes. So, names generally are not just formed by speakers for identification purposes but their formation is guided by certain socio-cultural and linguistic properties. So, much as we study names from the perspective of socio-cultural, it is also important for us to study them from the linguistic point of view. This is because the linguistic properties that are exhibited by names contribute greatly to their meaning.

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APPENDIX

SOME AGONA SUBURB NAMES

S/N	SUBURB NAME	ENGLISH GLOSS
1	Mpantsease	Under the Mpantu tree
2	Odumase	Under the Odum tree
3	Kokwaado	On the hill
4	Awendadze	Lion
5	Anafo	Swampy
6	Ayigbe town	Ewe's town
7	New town	New town
8	Asomdweekrom	Peaceful town
9	Nkwodum	In the banana trees
10	Oforikrom	Ofor's town
11	Alasemase	Under the Alasema tree
12	Ntaduase	Under the Nta tree
13	Mighty power	Mighty power
14	Sankofa	Return for it
15	Kotsebeka	Go and listen to come and say
16	Manntsemannkabi	If I do not hear, I will not say some
17	Nkwanta	Junction
18	Bronyikrom	White's town
19	Esikafo-ammba-ntsem	Wealthy people did not come early
20	Hasowodze	Is this place your territory
21	Siwenyim	In front of the hill
22	Edurso	Herbal camp
23	Osu	Personal name
24	Nsuekyir	At the back of a river
25	Ofoase	Under the Ofo tree
26	Mangoase	Under the mango tree
27	Dankase	Under the calabash tree
28	Salem	Peaceful area
29	Gyinayie	Stand well
30	Brɔfoyedur	English is heavy
31	Adwempaye	Good mind is good
32	Kokodem	Go and sleep there
33	Aboasa	Stones have finished
34	Nkemporase	Under the bamboo tree
35	Ahembrɔm	Chiefs area
36	Free Town	Free town
37	Egya Atta	Persona name
38	Zambia	Zambia
39	Ekumfi	Personal name
40	Annkɔbea	Did you not go any where
41	Abakakrom	Abaka's town
42	Estate	Estate
43	Sweet city	Sweet city
44	Lodge	Lodge

45	Paradise	Paradise
46	Nkubem	In the coconut farm
47	Desuenyim	In front of the blacksmith shop
48	Bɔmdwen	Think together
49	Mahodwe	I did not go in peace
50	Dwenho	Think of your self
51	Wawase	Under the Wawa tree
52	Nsusosodo	Chains of rivers
53	Otabilkrom	Otabil's town
54	Kwesi muoko	Kwesi's pepper
55	Woraba	Small river
56	Yaabem	Yaa has come in
57	Beebiara-nye-ha	Here is okay
58	Yalewa Zongo	Peaceful Zongo
59	Sabo Zongo	New Zongo
60	Sankwa	Personal name
61	Eguaberso	First stay
62	Tsintsimhwe	Plant and see
63	Dadwen	Sleep and think
64	Ayewem	In the earthenware
65	Power house	Power house
66	Mbofra-mfa-adwen	Children should think
67	Edzifodze nkwanta	Cheap things junction
68	Mboseabo	Gravels
69	Apambusu	Sanctification camp
70	Koradaso	There is calabash on it