

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF SOME ASANTE HABITATION NAMESⁱ

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This paper is concerned with the morphological analysis of Asante habitation names (AHN's) or toponyms. The study has become necessary because some Asante habitation names are losing their diachronic meanings due to the process of the anglicisation of Akan orthography. However, we know that habitation names are not just arbitrary labels but sociocultural tags that have linguistic information as well as sociocultural functions and meanings in the Akan culture. This paper looks at the linguistic components of Asante habitation names from a morphological perspective. The study uses a descriptive qualitative design to gather data. The data used for this study were elicited from both primary and secondary sources. About 450 habitation names were gathered. Samples analysed, and coded under their various morphological forms. Results show that some of the morphological processes embedded in Asante habitation names were affixation (derivational and inflectional), compounding, and abbreviation. The paper concludes that among the various morphological processes, compounding is the keen morphological process employed in deriving Asante habitation names. Therefore, this paper contributes widely to the study of Akan morphophonology and onomasiology.

Keywords: Asante, Habitation names, Morphology, Toponym.

1.0 Introduction

A name denotes a word or group of words used to identify humans and things (concrete and abstract) (Akrofi 2011, Agyekum 2010, Shopen & Schachter 2007). Names help us to make distinctions among creatures or properties. This is because names are not just arbitrary labels but linguistic and sociocultural tags, that carry some linguistics and sociocultural functions and meanings (Agyekum 2006). They store important linguistic information in Akan morphophonology and onomasiology.

The study of place names is termed toponymy (Owu-Ewie 2014). According to Owu-Ewie (2014), toponymic research contributes greatly to the understanding of the history of a people. It reveals people's identity, history, and social and political relations. Toponymy has been studied cross-linguistically and cross-culturally by scholars such as Flom (1924) who studied Norwegian names, Roden (1974) who studied Ugandan names, and Zwinoiara

(1984) who studied Swazi names. Others are Tent and Blair (2011) who studied Australian names, and Obeng (2000) and Owu-Ewie (2014) who studied Akan names, among others.

As Batoma (2006) posited, the morphology and syntax of names help inform the meanings of the names to a great extent. Thus, aside from the selection of place names by the inhabitants for their communities, there are a lot of morphological, phonological and syntactic processes embedded in their derivations. Asante town names have not received much theoretical attention, especially in the field of morphology. Studies which touch on toponymy in Akan are those by Obeng (2000) and Owu-Ewie (2014). Obeng (2000) discusses vowel harmony and tone in Akan toponyms, while Owu-Ewie (2014) looks at the morphosyntactic analysis of some Fante habitation names. A careful observation of the minimal literature on Akan toponymy points to the fact that there are a lot of morphological processes embedded in the derivation of these toponyms in Asante which have not yet received any scholarly attention. Therefore, this study seeks to fill that gap.

The current study, thus, looks into the morphological processes embedded in the formation of some Asante habitation names. The study shows that though some of the Asante habitation names have been anglicised and are very difficult to identify the actual Akan word(s) from which they were formed, a careful study of the etymology of these words will aid in the identification of the morphological structure(s). The study reveals that morphological processes such as affixation, compounding, and abbreviation among others are employed in the naming process. Morphological process like compounding is the main morphological tool employed in forming Asante habitation names.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows, section 2 discusses the methodology of the study, section 3 presents and analyses the structure and various morphological processes of Asante habitation names and section 4 concludes the whole discussion.

2.0 Methodology

This study is a purely descriptive qualitative research design. The data for the study were collected from both primary and secondary sources. On the primary source, *native residents* of some of the towns and villages whose town names are included in the study were interviewed. The interviews were used as a mode of soliciting actual lexical components of the habitation names. Also, taxi stations that displayed names of some of these towns and villages on their vehicles or advertising boards were visited where some of the habitation names were collated.

On the secondary source, published articles, books, journals, and some internet links which were related to the topic were referred to. About 450 Asante habitation names were collected and sampled. However, 84 names were categorised, coded, glossed, and analysed. The habitation names were analysed and coded under their morphological category.

The data for the study is mainly from the Asante dialect. In the geographical sense, habitation names used in the study were delimited mainly to the Ashanti region of Ghana,

where the native Asantes live. The region is situated between four other regions; Eastern on the east, Bono and Ahafo on the North, Western on the west and Central region at the south. Since the dialects spoken in these other areas are mutually intelligible with the Asante, names used in the data may reflect other names in the border regions. In this case, none of them are the focus of this paper unless otherwise stated.

3.0 Morphological Structures of the Asante Habitation Names

In this section, I examine the morphological structure of the Asante habitation names. It is worth pointing out that, some segmental and tonal morphemes (derivational affixes) are attached to stems to change the category in which they are, or just modify the meanings (inflectional affixes) of those lexical items to form the habitation names. The morphological processes discussed in this paper include affixation (derivational and inflectional), compounding, and abbreviation.

3.1 Derived Habitation Names

Derived Habitation Names as discussed in this section denote habitation names that are formed by the attachment of an affix (prefix, suffix or both) to a base to derive the habitation name distinct from the underlying constituents. Table 1 and 2 below shows that, the habitation names are derived from three lexical categories: verbs, adjectives, and nouns. Data gathered showed that some of the Asante habitation names are made up of free and bound morpheme(s) as illustrated in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Derived Habitation Names

Habitation names	Morphemes	English Gloss	Free Translation
a. Atìmàtìm	à-tìm-à-tìm	Pref. + base + pref. + reduplicant	‘It has stuck’
b. Fúfúó	fúfú-ó	white + Suffix	White colour
c. Nkáwée	̀̀n-káw-ée	Pref. + debt + Suf.	‘Little debt’
d. Ɔféń	ò-fén	3 rd sing. + proper noun	‘Name of a river’
e. Apàá	à-pá-á	Pref. + good + suf.	‘It has faded’
f. Dààkó	dànè- + òkó	Depend + war	‘Depend on war’
h. Nínín	nì-m-tíní	Know + cartilage	Great people

The habitation names as seen in Table 1 are derived from various morphological sources- nominalized reduplicated verb in example (a), class-maintaining derivational construction in example (b, c), nominalized truncated serial verb construction in example (f), and class-changing derivational construction in example (d,e,h). The morpheme {-o} in (b) is normally used as a nominal suffix in [±round] vowel harmony in Asante only. It is worth emphasizing here that, Some respondents gave historical meanings of some town names

like Nkawee, Atimatim, Mprim and emphasised that they are nouns composed of free morphemes whose internal morphological structures cannot be broken down into further morphemes to derive meaningful forms. This implies that the names are non-derivable and therefore have covert affixal markings.

But it is obvious from the table 1, that the Asante habitation names are not arbitrarily formed, but rather carry some linguistic functions which help to account for their internal structures. According to the information I gathered from some respondents who were natives of the communities referred to, the names moreover, carry some sociocultural meanings and functions. For instance, a habitation name like Nkawee (name of a river), means, human beings are bound to own someone and for that matter, if you are owning, it is not a crime. So, if you are owning, you do not need to do yourself bad. It is normal to own. Atimatim is the name of a brook that the community is established around and Mprim is named after the mineral that was mined in the area which is assumed to not grow but always increase.

Moreover, there are other derived Asante habitation names whose inflected and derivational forms are made up of stem(s) and affixes. While the stem carries the core meaning of the word, the affixes are added for inflectional, derivational or augmentative purposes as illustrated in table 2 below:¹

Table 2 – Derived Habitation Names

Item(s)	Morphemes	Gloss	Free Translation
a. Àhyiàém	a-hyià-εε+mú	pref.-PRE-meet-Sufx. +in'	'meeting point'
b. Ahwèrèwá	à-hwèrè-wá	'pref.-PRE.-loose-sufx'	'small sugacane'
c. Asùwá	à-sù-wá	'Pref.-PRE-cry-Sufx.	'small river'
d. Oyèrá	ò-yèrá	'Pref. – PRE-miss'	'missing/lost'
e. Ahùáá	à-hùà-á	'Pref.-PRE-smell-Sufx.	'a glutton'
f. Àdwáfó	à-dwá-fó	Pref.-market-Sufx'	'marketers/traders'
g. Àntòá	à-ñ-tòá	'Pref-NEG-PRE-glue'	'it does not glued'
h. Etíá	è-tiá	'Pref.-short'	'has shortened'
i. Mprim	m-prim	'NEG-PRE-grow'	'does not grow'

In the data above, all the habitation names in the right are derived forms. As discussed in Adomako (2012), nominalization is one of the derivational processes in Akan. The habitation names in (a-d) are all verb forms which were nominalized through prefixation and or suffixation. The habitation name in (a) *Ahyiaem*, for instance, is derived from the verb phrase (VP) *hyia mu*. The verb *hyia* 'meet' is then given a circumfixal morpheme {a-e(ε)} and then the final vowel of the locative noun *mu* is dropped. The circumfixal morpheme changes the VP to a noun phrase (NP) <Ahyiaε mu>. The derived form **a-hyia-**

¹ Tone has been marked to show easy pronunciation of the habitation names.

e(ɛ) cojoins with the locative noun *mu*. The deletion of the advanced back high vowel of the locative noun *mu* is a very common phonetic realisation in Akan (see Odoom & Adomako 2022; Dolphyne 2006; Abakah 2004). It can be seen that apart from the nominal functions of the affixes, some of them are performing a different morphological role. For instance, in examples (b,c), the nominal suffix {-wa} functions as a diminutive (cf. Appah & Amfo 2011). Moreover, in example (f), the suffix {-fo} plays an agentive role and in examples (g, i) too, the morpheme {n-} and {m-} play an inflectional role as a negative marker. These show that Asante habitation names are structurally organized with full linguistic properties. The findings in this section are congruent with most of the findings in earlier studies on Akan morphology like Yeboah et al, (2021), Caesar & Agyekum (2019), Adomako (2018), Appah (2003). Among others.

3.2 Compound Habitation Names

One of the common morphological processes identified in the data gathered is compounding. As in many languages in the world, compounding is one of the productive word formation processes in Akan. In compounding, two or more bases or lexical items are put together to form a new word. This phenomenon has received thorough scholarly attention in Akan literature (cf. Abakah, 2004, 2006; Dolphyne, 2006; Marfo, 2004; Obeng, 2009; Appah, 2013, 2015, 2016a, 2016b, 2016c, 2017a, 2017b; Agyekum 2017). According to Appah (2013), one clear approach to classifying compounds is to use the “constituents form class, which yields N-N, N-A, N-V, and so on, or the compound’s output category, which yields verbal, go to V, adjectival, go to A, and so on. The presence and position of a head element, according to Appah (2013), distinguishes between compounds that are hyponyms of their heads and those that are not, generating endocentric vs exocentric compounds, respectively. As many studies like Hayes, 2009; Lieber, 2009; Appah, 2013; Agyekum, 2017 have also established, compound nominal may either be a solid compound (combinative), open compound (isolative), or hyphenated compound (joined by a hyphen). This section focuses mainly on the syntactic categories of the constituents put together to form the Asante habitation names.

3.2.1 Noun + Noun [N₁+N₂] Compound Habitation Names

Some of the Asante habitation names are solid compounds made up of two noun stems and are written together as one word. Examples of these names are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Noun + Noun Compound Habitation Names

<u>Habitation Name</u>	<u>Morphological Structure Gloss</u>			<u>Translation</u>
	N ₁		N ₂	
a. Adúmàh	Àdú	+	òmání	Adu’s+nation
b. Adùkró	Àdú	+	kùró	Adu’s + Town

c. Afràntwó	Àfrané + ètwónó	Afram's + Bridge	Afram's bridge
d. Adùbéá	Àdú + bèàèé	Adu's + place	Adu's place
e. Ahènkro	Àhéné + kùró	Chief/Royals + Town	Royals' town
f. Sikamáán	Siká + òmáán	Money + nation	Money's nation
g. Adúbòfóó	Àdú + òbòfóó	Adu + Hunter	Adu who's a hunter'

Albeit the habitation names consist of nouns concatenated into one word, however, some of them perform different grammatical roles. Nouns containing personal names (a-d) except the one in example (g) which function as possessive. They [nouns] show ownership. Here, the N₂ acts as the head of the compound. However, habitation names containing common nouns for example (e-f) and (g) function as possessive adjectives. It is quite informative that some of the structures have undergone vowel deletion (a,c,f,g) and derivational (e) processes. Morphologically, *a-hene* is a plural form of *ɔ-here* 'a chief'. Thus, the prefix {a-} is a nominal bound morpheme that functions as a plural marker of a singular nominalizer {ɔ-}.

3.2.2 Noun + Verb [N+V] Compound Habitation Names

The available data in Table 4 shows that some of the Asante habitation names are compounds made up of a noun and a verb, occurring in that order. As shown in data 4, the verbs used in this composition are either in perfect (PERF) or the future (FUT) aspect. This gives a glimpse of the happenings at the time of the formation of these towns or what the founders hoped for. Happenings such as famine, wars, or a search for tranquillity may cause a settler to move and build a new settlement and this will trigger the selection of a name.

Table 4 - Noun + Verb Compound² Habitation Names

Habitation Name	Morphological Structure	Gloss	Translation
a. Kùmàwú	kùm + à-wú	Name of a tree + PERF-die	The little one has died
b. Àkómàdàh	àkómá + à-dáné	Heart + PERF-depend	Heart dependant
c. Bògyàwé	bogya + à-wé	Blood + PERF-shortage	Blood shortage
d. Gyèdùàkó	gyèdú + à-kó	Gyedu + PERF-fight	Gyedu has fought
e. Amòàfó	àmóá + à-fòrò	Amoa + PERF-climb	Amoa has climbed
f. Anòmàànnýé	ànòmàá + à-ñ-gyé	Bird + PERF-NEG-take	Bird has not taken it
g. Nyàmébékyéré	nyàmé + bè-kyéré	God + FUT-Provide	God will provide
h. Adéémrá	àdèé + m-brá	May wealth + OPT-come	May wealth come

²This is the reference for noun-verb compounds in Akan Appah, Duah and Kambon (2017)
The important reference for Verb+Verb compounds in Akan is Appah (2017)

The examples in data 4 show that some of the Asante habitation names are composed of a noun and a verb. The constituents in these constructions have grammatical relations as well as semantic relations. In examples [b,c,e], the perfective morpheme is deleted during the compounding processes. The reduction of the vowels is a common phonological phenomenon in compound constructions in Akan (see Dolphyne 2006, Marfo 2004, and Appah 2003). Phonologically, in examples (f, h), the negative nasal morpheme {n-} and the imperative nasal morpheme {m-} use their nasal feature to assimilate the non-nasal adjacent consonants <gy> and to become nasalised. Consonant nasalization affects compound constructions, negative constructions, pluralization, imperative constructions, reduplication, and among others in Akan, particularly Twi (Asante and Akuapem) (see Odoom & Adomako 2022). The prefix {bɛ-} in example (g) functions as an inflectional future time morpheme providing hope to the inhabitants that God is their provider and sustainer.

Additionally, when the words are joined together, it is very easy to determine the deleted vowel as in àkómá + à-dáné → àkómádàn. Thus, it is worth pointing out that the first syllable of the second stem which carries a low tone deletes at the phonetic level (see Abakah 2004 for further discussions).

3.2.3 Verb + Verb Compound Habitation Names³

Here, two or more verbs are combined to form a habitation name as exemplified in Table 5 below.

Table 5 : Verb + Verb Compound Habitation Names

Habitation Name	Morphological Structure	Gloss	Translation
a. Kónyá	kó + nyá	fight + PRE-get	‘fight and get’
b. Brenya	brè + nyá	struggle + PRE-get	‘suffer and get’
c. Bisànyá	bisà + nyá	ask + PRE-get	‘ask and get’
d. Kòbédá	kó + bé- + dá	go + come + sleep.	‘Go and come and sleep’
e. Atòòdié	à-tó + à-dí	buy-PERF + eat-PERF	‘buy and eat’

It is quite informative that the habitation names above are derived from serial verb construction. In examples (a, b, and c), the derived habitation names involve two independent verb stems. However, in (d) and (e) though we have verb stems, yet, there are bound morphemes attached to either the second stem (d) or both the stems as in (e). In example (d) for instance, the prefix morpheme functions as an inflectional future time marker and that of example (e) functions as an inflectional perfective morpheme respectively. Moreover, in example (e), the final vowel of the first stem and the perfective morpheme of the second stem coalesce to form vowel harmonization through hiatus

resolution. This shows that verbs of the same aspect or different aspects can co-occur to form a habitational name in Asante as discussed above.

3.2.4 Noun + Verb Compound Habitation Names

In Asante, compound habitational names can be formed by combining a noun and a verb as illustrated in (6) below.

Table 6 : Noun + Verb Compound Habitation Names

<u>Habitation Name</u>	<u>Morphological Structure</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Translation</u>
a. Bànká	Bàn + ká	Fence + PRE-say	‘Left at the back of a fence’
b. Asúbóá	Asú + bòà	River + PRE-help	‘Rivers help’
c. Abóátù	Abóá + tú	Animal + PRE-fly	‘Animal flies’
d. Kòhyiá	Kó + hyiá	War + PRE-meet	‘Battle field’
e. Dùásá	Dùà + sá	Tree + PRE-finish	‘Tree finishes’

A noun and a verb cojoin to form habitational names in Asante. The verbs show the action of the noun in present. In example (b), the noun <asu> has a plural prefix morpheme {a-} which depicts the number of the noun. In example (c) too, the noun <aboa> has an inherent singular prefix morpheme <a-> which also shows the number of the noun.

3.2.5 Verb + Noun Compound Habitation Names

Examples of verb+ noun habitation names are presented in Table 7.

Table 7 - Verb + Noun Compound Habitation Names

<u>Habitation Name</u>	<u>Morphological Structure</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	<u>Translation</u>
a. Bòámán	⁴ bòà + òmán	PRE-help + nation	‘help nation’
b. Kyèkyèwéré	kyè-kyèré + wéré	RED-PRE-bind + soul	‘comfort soul’
c. Nyààdé	nyà + àdé	PRE-get + thing	‘get something’
d. Sòámé	sòà + mè	PRE-carry+ me	‘carry me ‘
e. Kyèrènsá	kyèrè + ònsá	PRE-show + wine	‘show wine/alcohol’

⁴ From an informant, the word denotes the verb “help” as the history behind the formation of the town stipulates.

The verb stems identified in the data are all in the present form whereas the nouns are all common nouns. The verbs play a major semantic role in the habitation names discussed in [7]. It emphasizes the meaning of the common name. In example [b], the stem verb *kyere* is reduplicated as *kyekyere*. It can be seen that the syllable *re-* is deleted in the reduplicant, yet, the meaning is maintained. The verbs in the compound construction give us actions information of the noun stems.

3.2.6 Noun+ Adjective Compound Habitation Names

This class of habitation names has two free forms where the first is a noun and the second is an adjective. Here, the adjective refers to an attributive of the referent of the noun. It reveals the size, location or other features of the noun/town.

Table 8 - Noun + Adjective Compound Habitation Names

<u>Habitation Name</u>	<u>Morphological Structure</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	
<u>Translation</u>			
a. Bàrèkésé	Bàrè + kèsée	‘river + big	big river’
b. Akùròpón	À- kùró + pón	‘Prefix-town + big	big town’
c. Màmpon	òmán + pón	‘state + big	big state’
d. Bòsòmkyékyé	Bòsómé + kyèkyé	‘moon + comfort’	‘name of a star’

Appah (2013) and Saah (2004) argue that, in Akan compounding where adjectives form part of the constituents, the adjective is realized as the right constituent in the compound as illustrated in Table 8. In example (b), the prefix {a-} functions as a nominal plural marker. This nominal plural morpheme is quite different from the normal nominal plural {n-} which we usually use to mark the word *kuro* as in *nkuro* ‘towns’. It is informative to know that all habitation names with *kuro* and *pón* joined together select {a-} as their nominal plural prefix morpheme, hence, such compound is lexicalized conditioned.

3.2.7 Noun+ Postposition Compound Habitation Names

In this set of data on habitation names, the constituents of the compound word are analysed as a noun and a postposition. It is identified in the data that the nouns are geomorphic nouns that reflect a geographical location. Some of the natural things that serve as the basis for the naming include; rivers, rocks, mountains and vegetation. It is evidenced that usually, where the town or village is situated about the geographical location, it is represented by the use of the postposition which is the second constituent. Hence, postposition functions as a locative in habitation names as illustrated in Table (8) below:

Table 9 - Noun + Postposition Compound Habitation Names

Habitation Name	Morphological Structure	Gloss	Translation
a. Añkàásé	Añkàá + àsé	Orange + under	‘Under the orange tree’
b. Bépóásé	Bépó + àsé	Mountain + under	‘Under the mountain’
c. Ȯbóásé	Ȯbó + àsé	Rock + under	‘Under the rock’
d. Ȯfénsó	Ȯféñ + só	Name of river + on	‘On the Ofen river’
e. Bépósó	Bépó + só	Mountain + on	‘On the mountain’
f. Àbóósó	Abóó + só	Rocks + on	‘On the rocks’
g. Àmàkóm	Amàkó + mú	Pepper + in	‘In the pepper area’
h. Dótóm	Dótó + mú	Bush + in	‘In the bush’
i. Mmém	Mmé + mú	Palm-nut + in	‘In the palm-nut area’
j. Bóáním	Ȭbóó + àním	Rock + front	‘Front of a rock’
k. Bóóhó	Bóó + hó	Rock + around	‘Around a rock’
l. Pòàno	Ȭpó + àno	Bush + tip/ front	‘Closed to a forest’
m. Asúóntám	Asúó + ntám	Rivers + Between	‘In between rivers’

It is discernible that postposition shows locative in habitation names in Akan. All the habitation names are solid compounds with a noun and a postposition constituent. The postpositions are locatives such as *ase* (under), *eso* (on), *emu* (in), *eho* (around), *anim* (front), *ano* (tip/ front), and *ntam* (between). The postpositions are syntactically noun modifiers. They relate to the nouns (Osam et al 2011).

3.2.7 Compounds within compounds or lexicalized clause constituents

It is not in all cases that the compound habitation names have two constituents. Some of the Asante habitation names identified have more than two constituents. Some of these compounds are binary branching and others are lexicalized clauses. This means that there are two immediate constituents before the other constituent is joined. Moreover, this process of compounds within compounds has compound constituents of compounds. The names of this calibre have the first constituent being the name of a person/object or a verb. The compounds whose first constituent is a noun mostly have another noun or an adjective as its second constituent. In this case, the third constituent is automatically a postposition. In all cases, it is seen that compounds of this nature have at least one of its constituents being a noun as shown in data 10 below:

Table 10 Compound Habitation Names with more than two Constituents

Habitation Name	Morphological Structure	Gloss	Translation
a. Dònkókróm	Dònkó + kùró + mú	PN +town + in	‘Donkor’s town’
b. Kòfikróm	Kòfí + èkùró + mú	PN +town + in	‘Kofi’s town’
c. Kràkróm	Ȯkrà + èkùró + mú	Cat + town + in	‘Cat’s town’
d. Pétédùásé tree’	Peté + dùá + àsé	Vulture + tree + under	‘Under the vulture’s tree’

e.	Hiàmà̀nkyéne	È-hià + má + ñkyéne	It-PRE-require + salt	‘It requires salt’
f.	Nyàmédùásé	Nyàmé + dùá + àsé	God + tree + under	‘Under the God’s tree’
g.	Bòròfóyédífú	Bòròfó + yé + dùrú	English + is + heavy	‘English is difficult’
h.	Fà̀nkyénebrá	Fá + ñkyéne + brá	Take + salt + come	‘Bring a salt’
i.	Krò̀fíró	Kùró + fòfòró + mú	Town + new + in	‘New town’

As noted earlier, all the names have at least one noun constituent in the compound word. It is also seen in the study that, all the solid compound habitation names that have more than two constituents are mostly full clauses or complete sentences as seen in examples (h, i). The one in example (f) too is a binary branching compound [[Nyame+dua] + ase]. This will give us N+N (or N+ locative noun) compound (see example (d) too). The habitation names have undergone vocalic and syllabic deletion processes at the output level as identified in (a-h) and (i) respectively.

3.2.8 Open Compound Habitation Names

Some of the Asante habitation names are compounds that are written as separate words. All the open compounds identified in the habitation names have noun + noun constituents as exemplified in Table 11 below:

Table 11: Open Compound Habitation Names

Habitation Name	Morphological Structure	Gloss	Translation
a. Atá Akùráá	Atá Akùráá	PN + Village	‘Ata’s village’
b. Ñkàwíé Kù máá	Ñ+káw-ée Kù máá	Pref.+debt+Sufx	‘Small debt’s village’
c. Ñkàwíé Pánín	Ñ+káw-ée Pánín	Pref.+debt +Sufx.+ elderly	‘Great debt’
d. Tánó Òdúmásé	Tánó Òdúm-ásé	PN +Teak tree-Under	‘Under the Tano Odum tree’
e. Kwàbèná Ñkwàntá	Kwàbèná Ñkwàntá	PN +road + junction	‘Kwabena junction’
f. Mànsó Adùbéá	Mànsó Adù-béá	PLN+PN-place	‘Manso Adu’s place’

The first constituents in the compound names in Table 11 serve as appositives (a noun qualifying another noun). It is seen in the data that the second nouns in the compounds are the real town names whereas the first constituents give further information about the second ones. Owu-Ewie (2014) identified for Fante habitation names that the first nouns in this compound depict the traditional area or jurisdiction in which the community is found. It is seen in the Asante forms that, the first names do not only indicate the traditional area or jurisdiction in which the community is found; they may also give reference to the founder or first settler of the town as in (a and d) or as a geomorphic noun as in (b, c and e). In this sense, one can omit the first constituent when mentioning or using that town name. It is worthy of note that, the constituents in examples (a-f) are morphologically complex. This is in the sense that, the morphological make-up of the constituents as seen in the data (b,c) is derivational (b-c) forms and others are compounds within compounds. The inflectional morphemes function as nominalizers and plural markers whilst the derivational form changes the verb to a noun (b-c).

3.4 Abbreviated Habitation Names

The section shows that some of the Asante habitation names are abbreviated. The study reveals that, mostly, the youth and taxi drivers use the abbreviated version of the town for economy of efforts, and easy accessibility of the town, however, the older folks maintain the use of the original form. Some of these town names are presented in Table 12 with their abbreviations;

Table 12: Abbreviated Habitation Names

<u>Habitation Name</u>	<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Gloss</u>	
a. Kòkòtèàsúá	KKT	‘Warthog + field	‘In the field of warthog’
b. Kyèkyèwéré	KY	‘Comfort + soul	‘Comforter’
c. Jèdúákó	JK	‘Nimtree + war	‘Place full of nimtree’
d. Bòròfóyèdúú	BD	‘English-is-hard	‘English is difficult’
e. Abònkósù	ABK	‘Rocks + on	Place full of rocks’

We can see from the data that, the first segment in the town name is automatically present in the habitation name (abbreviated form) and other consonants in the noun are randomly selected. Though the selection of the other segments as abbreviations beside the first segment, for now, remains inexplicable, it is identified in the data that vowels are not normally featured except where they are in the first segment. The choice of the consonant sound to represent the habitation names is conditioned by the stress syllables. The researcher accounts that the youth and the drivers in the vicinity mainly use the abbreviated forms but the older folks maintain the use of the long form.

4.0 Summary

This paper has discussed some morphological processes embedded in Asante habitation names. It revealed that Asante habitation names are formed through affixation (derivational and inflectional), compounding, and abbreviation. Among these morphological processes, compounding formation was the main morphological process identified in Asante habitation names. The structure of compound formation identified in this study includes noun+noun (N+N), noun+verb (N+V), verb+verb (V+V), verb+noun (V+N), noun+adjective (N+Adj.), noun+postposition (N+PP), and compounds within compounds or lexicalized clauses. The compound habitation names were discussed under solid and open compounds. The derived habitation names are mainly formed through derivational affixes and partly inflectional affixes. The derivational affixes are either class changing or class maintaining and the inflectional affixes are mainly nominalizers. It is worth pointing out that Asante habitation names are formed structurally through compounding and derivation with compounding being the main. Other morphological processes discussed are peripheral to Asante habitation names. Finally, most of the Asante habitation names discussed are names of trees, rivers, and objects and these revealed the diachronic meanings of the names.

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Appendix 1:

CORPUS OF SOME ASANTE HABITATION NAMES

Abaase	Abasi	Abesewa	Aboabo
Aboabogya	Aboaboso	Abodom,	Abofrim,
Aboma,	Abonu	Abori,	Abotanso
Abosamso	Abɔfoɔ	Abotan	Abrofirim,
Abuakwa	Abuakwaa	Aboantem,	Abrakaso
Akyease	Akyinakrom	Adankwamu,	Adanse Praso
Adanwomase	Adeɛmmra	Ahwerewam	Adomfe,
Adonso,	Adugyanso,	Aduman	Adumanu
Adwafo	Aduyaw	Afamanso,	Aframso
Afrante	Afrantwo	Agogo	Agona
Ahenkro	Ahinsan	Ahodwo	Ahwerewa
Ahwiaa	Ahwiren,	Ahyireso	Akurofoso
Akurofrom	Akrokere	Akrokyere	Akropɔn
Akrowi	Akuakrom	Akumadan	Akutuase
Akwansrem	Akyerekyekrom	Amankyia	Amenso
Amentia	Amoako	Amoaman	Amoawi
Amormoso	Amponya	Ampunyase	Aniamoa
Ankaase	Ankam	Antoa	Antoakrom
Anunuso	Anwiafutu	Anwiankwanta	Anwiaso
Anyinamso	Anyinasu	Anyinasuso	Anyinofi
Apagya	Apapaso	Apatratom	Apiadu
Asaam	Asakraka	Asaman	Anyanso
Asamankama	Asankari	Asarekrom	Asempanaye
Asisiriwa	Asiwa	Asokore	Asokore Mampɔn
Asonomaso	Asuboi	Asubua	Asubuaso

Atonsu	Atonsuagya	Ata Akuraa	Atakro
Aworoso	Babaso	Balana	Banka
Bankame	Banko	Banso	Bantoma
Bari	Bari Kese	Bedomase	Begoro
Begoroase	Bekwai	Bemi	Benim
Bepoase	Beposo	Berem	Besease
Betenease	Biemso	Bindom	Bimma
Bipoa	Bisiase	Boahenkwan	Boamang
Boanim	Boankra	Bodwesango	Bogyawe
Bomfa	Bompata	Boni	Bonsaaso
Bonteso	Bontomruso	Bonwire	Bosafo
Bosomkyekye	Bowohomodien	Brahabeome	Breman
Brodekwanho	Brofoyedru	Bronikrom	Bunaso
Bunyum	Daaso	Daban	Dampon
Danso	Darko	Datano	Densubon
Denyase	Didaso	Dindindusi	Domasi
Dome	Domeabra	Domi Keniango	Dompoase
Dotiem	Drabon	Drobonso	Dukusen
Dumienu	Dwinyankwanta	Dwinyama	Dwiasi
Dwoanim	Dwaso	Dwaben	Dwuahaw
Dwuansa	Ebira	Ebiram	Eduadin
Eduaniyede	Edubiase	Edumasa	Edwenase
Efiduase	Ehwia	Egyian	Edwiso
Esaase	Esaso	Esiana	Esumegya
Esuonwin	Etia	Fankyenebra	Fawoade
Fawoman	Fenanso	Feyiasi	Fiankoma
Foase	Fomena	Freboye	Freso

Fufuo	Fumisua	Fumso	Hwidiem
Hansoyewode	Heman	Heman Boɔho	Hia
Hiakwasi	Hiawoanwu	Hiawu Besease	Hun
Hwidiem	Hwireso	Gyakyɛ	Gyakobu
Gyadiako	Gyamase	Gyimiso	Kakraba
Kankanfriasi	Kasaam	Kasei	Katie
Kenseri	Kenyase	Kobreso	Kodie
Kofiase	Kodwotrako	Kokoben	Kokodie
Kokofu	Kokote	Kokotro	Komeso
Kona	Koniyaw	Konongo	Konongo-Odumase
Kotokuom	Krofa	Kubease	Kubekrom
Kumase	Kumawu	Kumpese	Kunso
Kuntenase	Kwadaso	Kwaman	Kwamo
Kwapeni	Kwaso	Kyebi	Kyekyebon
Kyekyewereɛ	Kyenkyenase	Kyereyaaso	Kyeyiase
Kyeremfaso	Maase	Maban	Mampon
Manesuso	Manfo	Manhyia	Mankranso
Manso Adubea	Manso Nkwanta	Manukrom	Mayera
Mem	Mensonso	Memenase	Meyenwaikosimeyie
Mfensi	Mile 14	Miminaso	Mmerɛdane
Moseaso	Mpantuase	Mpatuam	Mpesaso
Mpesetia	Mpobi	Naama	Namon
Nerebehi	New Koforidua	Nimreso	Nkaneku
Nkawie Kumaa	Nkawie Panin	Nkenkansu	Nkwanta
Nkwantakese	Nkwanten	Nsiakrom	Nsonyameye
Nsutam	Ntobroso	Ntonso	Nubuom
Nukwasa	Nwineso No.1	Nyameadom	Nyameani

Nyamebekyere	Nyankyerenease	Nyinahin	Obo
Obogu	Obuase	Odaho	Odumase
Ofe	Ofinso	Ofoase	Onyimso
Oseikrom	Owabi	Owuokrom	Oyoko
Pakoso	Pankronu	Pasaro	Patakro
Patase	Patriensa	Patrikrom	Pekyerekye
Pekyi	Pemenasi	Penten	Peteduase
Piase	Pipiiso	Poanu	Pokukrom
Pomposo	Pra River	Praaso	Saabum
Saabuso	Sabonline	Sabronum	Sampreso
Samso	Sasebonso	Sawia	Sedi
Sehwikura	Seikrom	Sekyedumase	Senfi
Seniagya	Senkye Asante	Sepasi	Sikaman
Sireso	Soko	Sokoben	Sraneso
Soami	Sukuumu	Suntreso	Surukrom
Swedru	Taabuom	Takorase	Takwaim
Tanodumase	Tikyakrom	TebesoNo.1	Tebeso No. 2
Tepa	Tetrem	Toase	Tontokrom
Trede	Twedie	Twepease	Wamase
Watreso	Wawase	Wiamoase	Wiawso
Winiso	Woraso	Yabi	Yireso
Yoribon	Yuabra		

ⁱ This paper is an excerpt from the authors Mphil dissertation that was submitted to the Department of Akan-Nzema education, University of Education, Winneba in 2017. Though most of the discussions and analysis have been updated, all the data is from the thesis.

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