

***Kèdụ* Interrogatives in Igbo**

Abstract

Kèdụ interrogatives are one of the strategies deployed in Igbo to achieve constituent questions. Although this type of content word question is prevalent in the language, extant studies mainly focused on yes-no and wh-interrogatives with little attention paid to *kèdụ* interrogatives. This study, therefore, re-examines *kèdụ* interrogatives with a view to determining their structures based on the split complementiser phrase hypothesis. Primary data were collected using observation and introspection while secondary data were gathered from existing relevant literature. The split complementiser phrase hypothesis was adopted as the framework. The study argues that *kẹ* and *dụ* have [+wh] and [+Foc] features respectively and project maximally as *kẹ*P and *dụ*P but lack EPP because they do not require their specifier to be filled overtly. The study also shows that it is not only wh-suppletives that undergo displacement to the left periphery in *kèdụ* constructions, rather, other types of determiner phrases including pronominals are potential attractees as long as they are marked [+Foc] or questioned. *Kedụ* interrogatives manifest the competence of native speakers as an alternative means of achieving content word questions in Igbo.

Keywords: *Kedụ* interrogative, Igbo, Wh-suppletives, Split complementiser Phrase

1.0 Introduction

Interrogative constructions are those constructions used to express questions so as to elicit answers in natural speech. They mark one of the force types expressed by sentences across languages. Research on this phenomenon has occupied a central place in generative grammar especially in the last three decades (see Watanabe (2001: 203). Existing studies show that interrogatives are not similarly achieved across languages due to some parametric differences. In wh-questions for instance, wh-phrase may occur in different positions. Hence, the distinction between wh-in-situ and wh-ex-situ languages (see Aboh 2007: 287). In the former, wh-words remain in their base position, but in the latter, they are displaced to the complementiser phrase (CP) domain. Consider data (1&2) below.

- (1) a. John wonders [what_i Mary bought t_i].
- b. **Zhangsan xiang-zhidao [Lisi mai-le shenme]**
Zhangsan wonder Lisi bought what
'Zhangsan wonders what Lisi bought.'

Watanabe (2001:203).

In English as in (1a), the wh-phrase is displaced to the CP domain in overt syntax. Movement is indicated by the indexed trace. In Japanese, however, the wh-phrase *shenme* remains in-situ.

In Igbo, the nature and behaviour of Igbo interrogatives have attracted the interest of scholars such as Goldsmith (1981), Uwalaka (1991), Obiamalu (2007), Mbah (2011), Nwankwegu (2015), and Xxxx (2018). The authors differ in their approaches and analyses of the syntactic structure of interrogatives. In these studies, the two most studied types of interrogative constructions are yes/no or polar question¹ and constituent or wh-question. Consider the data below:

- (2) a. **O ri-ē-la nrī**
 3SG eat-PST-PRF food
 ‘S/he has eaten.’
 (Xxxx 2018: 155)
- b. **Ò rì-ē-la nrī?**
 Q.3SG eat-PST-PRF food
 ‘Has s/he eaten?’
 (Xxxx 2018: 155)
- c. **Ùgò ò rì-ē-la nrī?**
 Ugo Q eat-PST-PERF food
 ‘Has Ugo eaten?’
- d. **Ì hụ-rụ ònye?**
 2sg.Q see-PST who
 ‘Who did you see?’
 (Uwalaka 1991: 186)
- e. **Ònye kà Ike hụ-rụ**
 who FOC Ike see-PST
 ‘Who did Ike see?’
 (Xxxx 2018: 164)

In the data above, (2a) is a declarative sentence while (2b&c) are its yes/no interrogative counterparts. There are two processes that are involved in the derivation of Igbo yes/no questions: the insertion of a pronominal element and the use of obligatory low tone (see also Mbah 2011:186-190, Nwankwegu 2015: 141-229, Xxxx 2018:155-165). The main difference between (2a) and (2b) is that the subject in (2a) bears a high tone (HT) while that of (3b) bears a low tone (LT). In (3c), however, the LT question morpheme is borne by the pronominal element that surfaces when the subject is a referential expression (see also Uwalaka, 1995:188 and Nwankwegu, 2015:231).

In contrast to yes/no interrogatives, wh-interrogatives involve wh-phrases which may occur in-situ as in (2c) or ex-situ as (2d). In the former, the wh-phrase occupies its base position, however, the phrase is displaced to the left periphery in (2d). In both cases, it is assumed that

¹ Although there are other types of questions such as tag questions and non-discourse initiating questions, this study does not dwell on these since they do not provide information about *kèdụ* interrogatives

Igbo is a West Benue-Congo Igboïd language (Blench, 2019) spoken in the South-eastern and some parts of South-south Nigeria with an estimated population of about 35 million speakers (Emenanjo et al. 2011:2). The language has a number of dialects with varying degrees of intelligibility (Nwaozuzu, 2008: 3). It has three distinctive tones- low (è), high (é) and a downstep (ē) that indicate lexical and grammatical distinctions (Emenanjo, 2015: 107). The language distinguishes between [+ATR] vowels (i, u, o, e) and [−ATR] vowels (ĩ, ỹ, ɔ̃, ẽ); within a phonological word, ATR-harmony applies (Mbah and Mbah, 2010: 102-103, Xxxx, 2015: 153). The word formation processes are driven by verbal morphology (see Uwalaka, 1988; Emenanjo, 2015). However, verb–argument agreement in the language is impoverished.

Studies on *kèdù* interrogatives have discussed some of its structural features. Mbah (1989:50) for instance, observes that *kèdù* is a basic Igbo free relative (always in a topicalised position) with other relative clauses (fully realised when *kèdù* is demoted) as its suppletive. No account of it is adequate without the identification of wh-forms because it combines with wh-relatives in certain constructions. The table below is a summary of wh-words and their relative alternatives in standard Igbo (see Nwankwegu 2015:117).

The relative can combine with *kèdu* to form a *kèdu* interrogative variant of wh-questions. Hence, Mbah's (2011) postulation that *kèdu* comfortably applies concurrently with the wh-nouns which wh-relatives always refer to as in (4).

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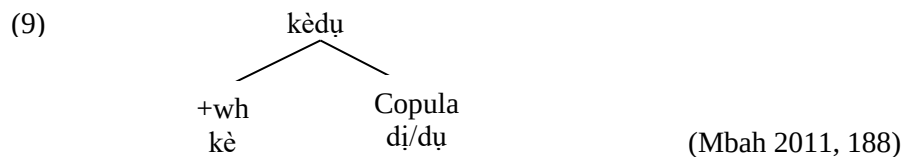
In (4), *kèdụ* combines with wh-forms to produce wh-phrases. Considering that all the wh-question possibilities in Igbo are available to *kèdụ* –interrogatives, Nwankwegu (2015: 121-124) classifies them into *kèdụ*-argument *kèdụ*-adjunct and *kèdụ*-predicate *kèdụ*-manner; *kèdụ*-frequency, *kèdụ*-price/rate, *kèdụ*-type, *kèdụ*-process and *kèdụ*-predicate. Some of these are exemplified below.

- (5) a. **Ì hụ-rụ ònye?** (wh-argument)
 2sg see-PST who
 ‘Who did you see?’
- b. **Kèdụ onye ì hụ-rụ ònye?** (*Kèdụ*-argument)
 kèdụ person 2sg see-PST who
 ‘Who did you see/what person did you see?’
 Nwankwegu (2015: 121)
- (6) a. **Ezè gà-rà èbeē?** (wh-adjunct (locative))
 Eze go-PST where
 Where did Eze go?
- b. **Kèdụ ebe Eze gà-rà èbeē?** (*Kèdụ*-adjunct (locative))
 kèdụ place Eze go-PST place
 Where did Eze go/To what place did Eze go?
 (Nwankwegu 2015: 121)
- (7) a. **Ì biara mgbe ole**
 2sg come-pst time which
 When did you come?
- b. **kedụ mgbe ì biara**
 kèdụ come-pst time which
 When did you come?
- (8) a. **Nkịta mè-rè Nweke gini?**
 dog do-PST Nweke what
 ‘What did a dog do to Nweke?’
- b. **Kèdụ ihe nkịta mè-rè Nweke?**
 wh-OP thing dog do-PST Nweke
 ‘What did a dog do to Nweke?’
 (Nwankwegu 2015: 122)

The data above is a representation of *kèdụ*-interrogatives as highlighted by Nwankwegu (2015). The first observation about the data is that *kèdụ* does not manifest in the sentence final position. Rather, it is base generated in the left periphery of the clause. Apart from Uwalaka 1991:189-190) who argues for a movement analysis of *kèdụ*, there seem to be a convergence on this observation among analysts (see Goldsmith 1981, Mbah 2011 Nwankwegu 2015 and Xxxx 2018). These studies postulate that *kèdụ* differs from other types of wh-elements in direct wh-interrogative, in that it has a fixed position in a matrix clause and does not seem to be amenable to the kind of syntactic processes undergone by the others.

In this regard, Nwankwegu (2015) posits that the option of leaving a wh-element in-situ is not possible except in a multiple wh-interrogative construction, and thirdly, there is no overt complementiser intervention between the wh-element attracted to *kèdụ* and the root clause. He agrees with other studies that *kèdụ* is base generated. However, he aligns with Uwalaka's (1991) claim that though *kèdụ* itself does not move, its presence triggers the movement of other relevant elements. He, therefore, postulates that *kèdụ* is an empty semantic element that serves only to give wh-interrogative force to the sentence. In other words, it is not a wh-proform because it does not substitute for any item in the base form. These studies indicate that *kèdụ* attracts only wh-relatives. However, we shall demonstrate later in the analysis that other DPs are also potential attractees.

Generally, two analyses have been put forward to argue that *kèdụ* consists of two morphemes. The first is Mbah (1989) which analyses *kèdụ* as having the features [+wh +copular] as shown below:

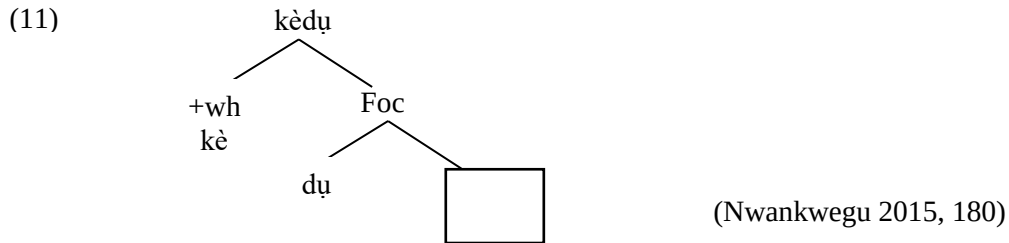


According to Mbah, *kèdụ* is a basic Igbo free relative having other relative clauses (i.e. *onye* 'person', *ebe* 'place', *nke* (particulariser), *mgbe* 'time' etc.) as its suppletives. These features enable it to merge with the wh-relatives just as the copular verb does in cleft constructions. Consider the sentences below.

- (10)
- | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| a. | Ke | dụ | onye | unu | chọrọ? | ‘Who do you want?’ |
| | Q | Q | person | 2pl | want | |
| b. | Onye | bu | onye | unu | chọrọ? | ‘Who is the person you want?’ |
| | Q | be | person | 2pl | want | |
| c. | Ke | dụ | ihe | i | chọrọ? | ‘Who do you want?’ |
| | Q | Q | thing | 1sg | want | |
| d. | Gịni | bụ | ihe | i | choro? | ‘Who do you want?’ |
| | Q | be | thing | 1sg | want | |

In these examples, **ke** has the same distribution as **gini** which is a wh-element while **dụ** has the same distribution as the copular verb, **bụ**.

In a related discussion, Nwankwegu (2015) characterises *kèdụ* as having the features [+wh, +Foc, +Q]. He schematises it as shown below:



The schema shows the position of the wh-feature and the Foc-feature, while the box represents the complement position and the landing site of internally merged DPs.

Nwankwegu (2015: 180) further explains that during computation, *kèdụ* is selected with a corresponding focus marked wh-phrase for the targeted argument of adjunct. The strong F-feature of *kèdụ* attracts the internal constituent of the targeted wh-phrase to its complement position instead of its spec since the spec is already filled. In this way, the c-selection requirement of *kèdụ* is satisfied. Although, the two postulations are based on the unitary CP, (11) has some advantage over (10) in that the structure is analysed in terms of X-bar and the focus feature of *kèdụ* is captured in the diagram.

3. On the Morphological Structure of *Kedụ*

From the forgoing, there is hardly a direct morphological evidence in support of the assumption that *ke* and *dụ* are free morphemes in Igbo. In this regard, the claim that *kèdụ* consists of two morphemes is both interesting and controversial. It is interesting because *ke* and *dụ* conform to the structure of Igbo morphemes especially as monosyllabic morphemes like *de* ‘write’ *di* ‘husband’ and *ji* ‘yam’. However, it is difficult to determine their meaning as different morphological units. Independently, they both have meanings that are not associated with question. Consider the examples below:

- (12)
- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| kè | ‘share’ | ke | ‘tie |
| dụ | ‘pinch’ | dụ | ‘survive’ |

In these contexts, the two morphemes only bear verb associated meanings. As question morphemes, however, they lack descriptive content unlike the other question words like *onye* ‘who’, *gini* ‘what’ etc. However, their morphological structure could be traced to other related Benue Congo languages where they occur as question morphemes and express a wh-meaning Armstrong and Jungrathmeyr (1980: 7)

- (13)
- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| Nupe | ke; ki | ‘what’ |
| Gwari | kīí | |
| Yoruba | ki | |
| Twi | dén | ‘what’ |
| Lelemi | dè | |

The data shows that there are Protoforms of *ke* and *dụ* that express wh-meaning in other Benue-Congo languages. Based on this observation, it is plausible to argue that *ke* and *du*

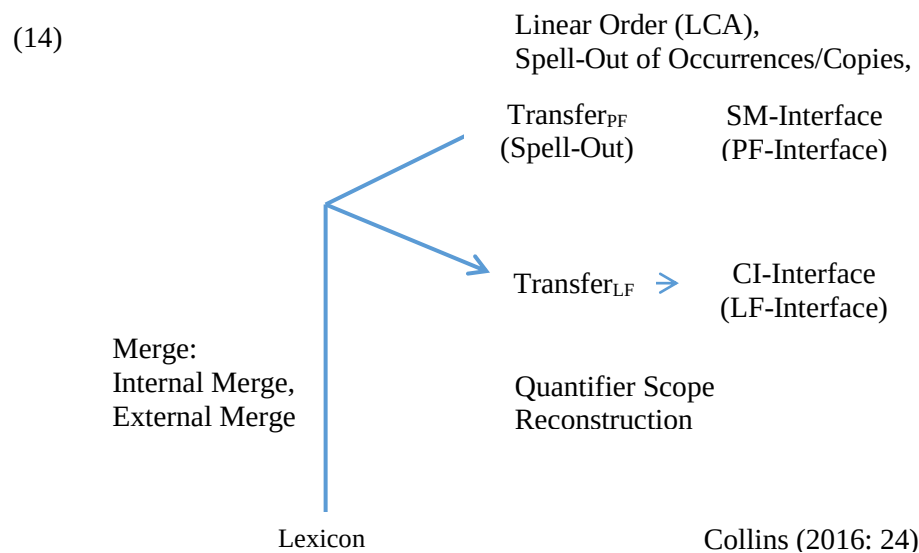
were originally independent morphemes used to express different meanings of which question is one. The morphemes later lost their original status after fusing together.

4.0 Methodology

Data for this study were gathered from primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected through observation and native speaker introspection. Data gathered from the native speaker introspection were subjected to validation by other native speakers. Secondary sources included extant grammar and literary texts. The variety of Igbo used for the study is the standard variety often used in formal domains. Data were subjected to interlinear glossing and syntactic analysis based on the principles and operations of Chomsky's (1993) Minimalist Program with insight from Rizzi's (1997) Split Complementiser Phrase (CP) hypothesis. The tone marking convention adopted is that where low and down-step tones are marked while high tones are left unmarked.

5.0 Theoretical Framework

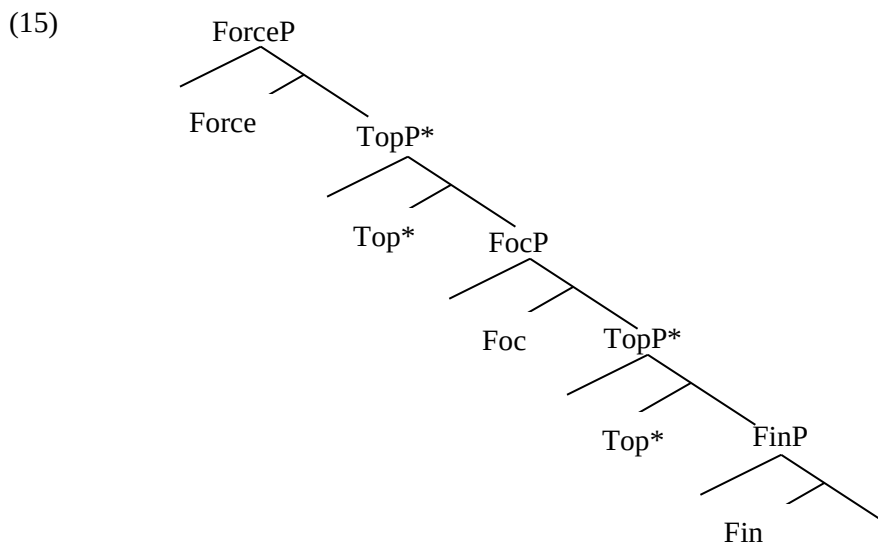
The theoretical framework used for the analysis is the Minimalist Program (MP) advanced by Chomsky (1993, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2008, 2013 and 2015) and works by other linguists such as Kayne (1994); Collins and Stabler (2016); and Collins and Kayne (2023). Chomsky (1993:168) assumes that the performance system of language falls into two types, PF and LF which are the interface levels. The language determines the set of pairs drawn from the PF and LF levels. The program has two basic components of language: a lexicon and a computational system with their idiosyncratic properties as shown in the schema below.



In the schema above, the basic computational process takes pre-selected lexical items (LIs) with their idiosyncratic properties from the numeration and builds them into a structure by a succession of *merge* operations. Merge is external when either or both of the items are selected directly from the numeration and joined together as a single structure and internal when an element from already built structure is joined with another element from the domain of the existing structure. At the point of spell-out, the derivation splits into two where the phonetically relevant materials are transferred to PF interface and the grammatical and

semantically relevant features transferred to LF interface. In this model, there are two points of *Transfer*, $\text{Transfer}_{\text{PF}}$ and $\text{Transfer}_{\text{LF}}$. Two main things have to take place at $\text{Transfer}_{\text{PF}}$ /spell-out: (i) ordering of terminals for appropriate interpretation following the principle of the linear correspondence axiom (LCA)² (ii) and spelling out of occurrences/copies. The rule for spelling out copies says that only the last created occurrence is spelled-out. For Igbo type languages, tonal modification also takes place at $\text{Transfer}_{\text{PF}}$. At $\text{Transfer}_{\text{LF}}$, parts of the occurrences are deleted to create interpretable structures (i.e. structures that have meaning). Occurrences enable one to determine the scope of quantifiers and source of moved items for the purpose of reconstruction. The computational procedure continues to apply similar processes to build fully formed structure at the PF and LF interfaces. At these points, the syntactic objects are presented for appropriate interpretation. If the PF is phonetically interpretable and the LF semantically interpretable, the derivation converges, otherwise, it crashes.

In addition to the basic operations of MP, the study also adopted the split complementiser phrase (CP) hypothesis. This idea, championed by Rizzi (1997) and further developed in Rizzi (2001, 2004, and 2013), suggests a CP-system that is more articulated in structure, where each of the elements traditionally associated with the CP-layer (within the GB-framework) becomes the head of a maximal projection. This is to accommodate the complementiser and other items that occur at the left edge of the sentence also called the *left periphery*. With regard to this, Rizzi (1997) assumes that each of the force, topic, focus, and finiteness features that appear in the left-periphery is the head of a functional projection ForceP, TopP, FocP and FinP, which projects within the C-system. Rizzi (1997: 297) presents this proposal as shown in the schema below:



In this structure, each of the elements that manifests in the left-periphery projects the C-system. The asterisks that appear on the right side of the topic indicate the recursive nature of topics in Italian and is called *kleene Star* (see Crystal 2008:42). Rizzi argues that this structure could be used to account for the ordering constraints involving the elements of the C-system. Insight from this proposal has attracted scholarly research into the expanded or articulated left periphery across languages. These studies provide pieces of evidence in support of this

² The LCA proposed in Kayne (1994) assumes that phrases are ordered similarly across languages in. S>H>C order. Every other kind of arrangement is as a result of movement.

Hypothesis (See also Haegeman, 2012.) However, not all languages' CP has the expanded CP as the one proposed by Rizzi in terms of features and their hierarchy. For instance, Olaogun (2016) argues that FocP dominates InterP in Ñkò-kóo. Nevertheless, this study demonstrates that the constituent features of the CP in KI can project maximally.

6.0 Data Analysis

This subsection describes the structure of KIs as well as how they are derived based on the split CP assumption. With regards to its structure, the study examines the syntactic distribution of *kedù* and the elements that combines within the construct. With regard to its derivation, the study describes the derivational procedure of KIs based on the principles and operations of the Minimalist Program.

6.1 The Structure and Derivation of *Kèdù* Interrogatives

As was earlier noted, KIs are employed in Igbo to derive content word questions as an alternative to wh-questions. In this regard, it is often merged with any of the wh-suppletives in order to seek information about an argument or an adjunct in the sentence. Consider the following examples.

- (16) a. **Èbee gbà-rà ọkụ ùnyaahụ?**
 where burn-PST fire yesterday
 'Where did fire burn yesterday?'
 b. **Kèdù ebe <ebè> gba-ra ọkụ ùnyaahụ?**
 Q place where burn-PST fire yesterday
 'Where did fire burn yesterday?'
- (17) a. **Ònye bìà-rà?**
 Q come-PST
 'Who came?'
 b. **Kèdù onye <onye> bìà-ra?**
 Q person who come-PST
 'Who came?'
- (18) a. **Ì jè-rè èbee?**
 2SG go-PST where
 'Where did you go to?'
 b. **Kèdù ebe ì jè-rè <ebè>?**
 Q place 2SG go-PST where
 'Where did you go to?'
- (19) a. **Ì nà è-me gịnị?**
 2SG PROG PART-do what
 'What are you doing?'
 b. **Kèdù ihe ì nà è-me <gịnị>?**

Q thing 2SG PROG PART-do what
 ‘What are you doing?’

- (20) a. **Ike** **ọ** **nwù-rù?** **mgbe ole?**
 Ike Q die-PST when
 ‘When did Ike die?’
- b. **Kèdụ** **mgbè Ike** **nwù-rù** **<mgbe ole>**
 Q time Ike die-PST when
 ‘When did Ike die?’
- (21) a. **Kèdụ** **etu/kà** **ị** **mè-rè** **<etu ole>)?**
 Q how 2SG do-PST how
 ‘How do you do?’
- b. **Kèdụ /Kèdụ -kwanụ-keekwanụ?**
 how/how-EMPH
 ‘How are you?’

Data (16) through (21) are instances of in-situ wh-questions with their KI counterparts. In (16a and 17a), the external arguments were queried with *ebée* ‘where’ and *onye* ‘who’ respectively; while (16b and 17b) are the KI counterparts where the suppletives of the wh-word were attracted to the CP domain. Similarly, in (18a and 19a), the internal arguments were queried with *èbee* ‘where’ and *gini* ‘what’ respectively; while, (18b & 19b) represent their KI counterparts where the wh suppletives *ebe* ‘place’ and *ihe* ‘thing’ were merged with *kèdụ* in the CP domain resulting to KIs. In (20a), the wh-phrase, *mgbe ole* ‘when’ queries the adjunct. But in (20b), it’s suppletive, *mgbe*, is merged with *kèdụ* to derive the KI counterpart. In (21a) as well, the wh-phrase *etu ole* is used to query the manner adjunct but its KI counterpart is achieved by merging its suppletive, *etu/ka* with *kèdụ*. Lastly (21b) is common in informal conversations. In this case, only *kèdụ* may be spelt out for competence and economy. Generally, the data show that KIs are derivable from in-situ wh-constructions. Another notable observation is that when the external argument or the subject is queried with *kèdụ*, as in (16a & 17a), the tone of the verb (*biàrà*) changes from low to high (see 16b and 17b). This may be attributed to the fact that there is no syntactic object intervening between the verb and the wh-suppletive as in (16b, 18b, 20b & 21b). Hence, the tone of the wh-phrase influenced the tone of the verb.

Aside merging with wh-suppletives or the DP component of Wh-phrases to derive KI, this study also observed that *kèdụ* also attracts non wh-relative DPs. There is hardly any discussion of this property of KI in previous studies. Consider the examples below.

- (22) a. **Kèdụ** **ego** **m̄** **(nyè-rè** **gị** **<égō>)?**
 Q money 1SG give-PST 2SG money
 ‘Where is the money I gave/lent you?’
- b. **Kèdụ** **mmā** **e** **jì** **<mma>** **è-si** **nrī?**
 Q knife 3IMP use knife PART-cook food

‘Where is the kitchen knife?’

- c. **Kèdụ** **ụkwụ** **m̄** **gà** **e-ji** **<ụkwụ>** **je ebe** **ahụ?**
 Q leg 1SG PROG PART-take leg go place DEM
 ‘Which leg will I use to visit there’ (literal meaning)
- d. **Kèdụ** **Ìkèchi?**
 Q N.
 ‘Where is Nkechi?’
- e. **Kèdụ** **akwụkwọ** **ahụ?**
 Q book DEM
 ‘Where is the/that book?’

These examples show that it is not only wh-suppletives that are attracted by **Kèdụ**. Other DPs are also potential attractees. Data (22a-c) show that DPs **ego** ‘money’, **mmà** ‘knife’ and **ụkwụ** ‘leg’ moved from their positions in the vP to the CP domain. Observe also that (22b-c) are serial verbal constructions. In (22b), there are two verbs: **ji** ‘use’ and **si** ‘cook’. There are also two verbs in (22c): **ji** ‘use’ and **je** ‘go’. Data (22d-e) are the radically shortened forms of KI that are not easily re-constructible without paraphrasing. However, it is plausible to posit that they are elliptical structures where the only available DP in the constructs has to be displaced to the CP area for the derivation to converge.

It was also observed that pronouns are potential attractees in KIs. In other words, **kèdụ** can attract pronouns in the absence of referential DPs because they have the same syntactic distribution. This postulation is exemplified in (23) below.

- (23) a. **Kèdụ** **m** **nà** **fòto** **à?**
 Q 1SG P picture DEM
 ‘Where am I on this picture?’
- b. **Kèdụ** **kwanụ** **anyị** **nà** **fòto** **á**
 Q Encl 1PL P picture DEM
 ‘Where are we positioned in the picture?’
- c. **kèdụ** **gị?**
 Q 2SG
 ‘Where are you?’
- d. **Kèdụ** **unu?**
 Q 2PL
 ‘Where are you?’
- e. **Kèdụ** **ya**
 Q 3SG
 ‘Where is it?’
- d. **Kèdụ** **ha?**

Q 3PL
 ‘Where are they?’

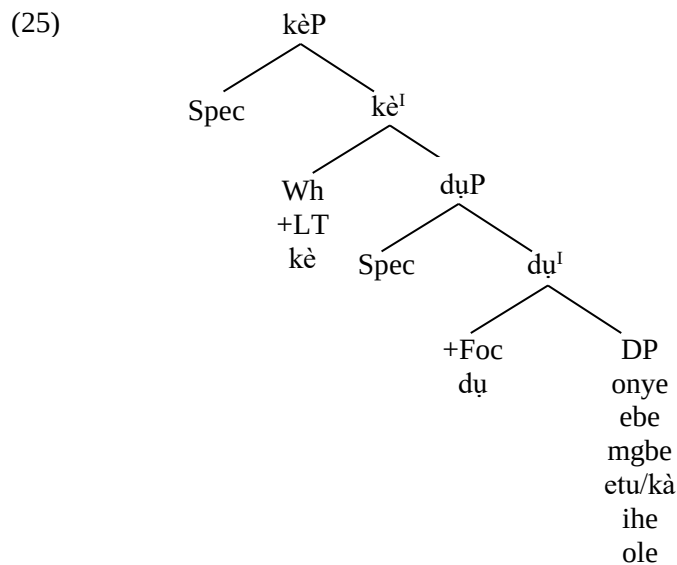
The sequence *kèdụ*-PRON seems to be related to the wh-phrase, *eebe* ‘where’ or its KI counterpart ‘*kèdụ ebe* ‘where’. This is evident in the fact that they all express locative meaning as the gloss show. In addition, it indicates that *kèdụ* has [+WH] feature as Nwankwegu (2015) pointed out. Structurally, it is plausible to argue that they are contracted forms which speakers employ for the sake of economy. For instance, compare the two structures in (24) below.

- (24) a. **Kèdụ** **m** **nà** **fòto** **à**
 Q 1SG P picture DEM
 ‘Where am I on this picture?’
- b. **Kèdụ** **ebe** **m** **nọ** **nà** **fòto** **à**
 Q place 1SG be P picture DEM
 ‘Where am I on this picture?’

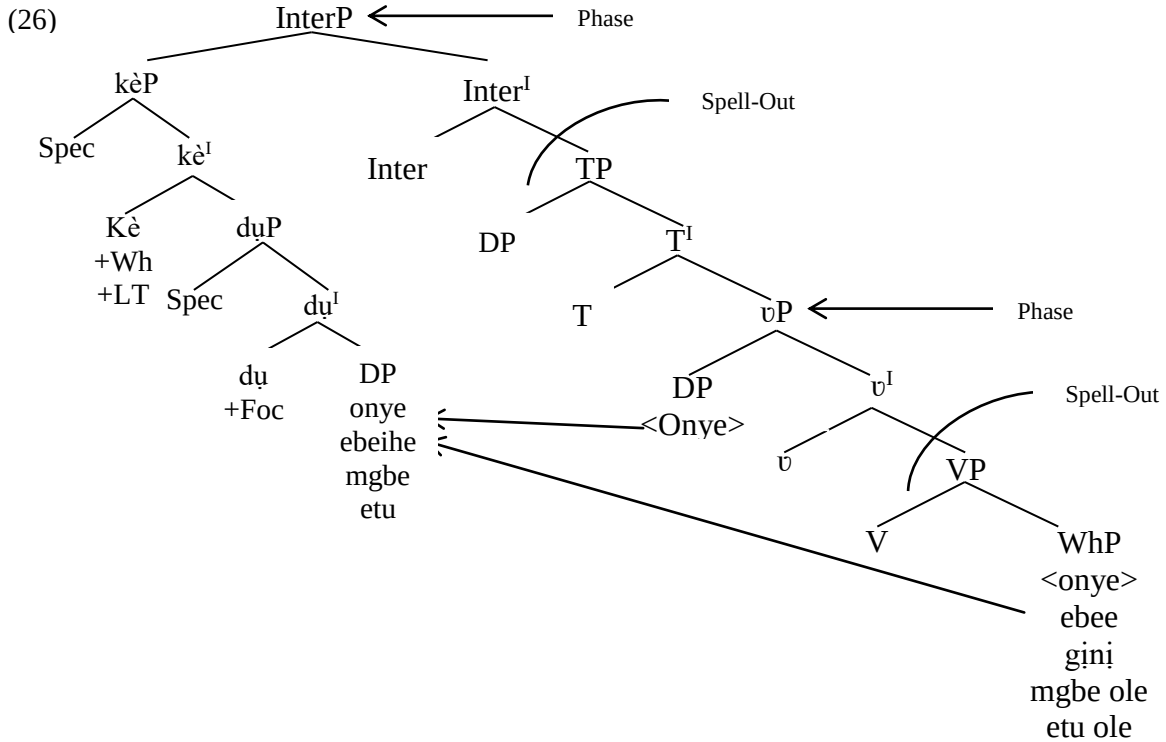
Observe that the construct in (24b) differ from (24a) although they are similar in meaning. The bolded elements in (24b) are covert in (24a). In other words, it is more economical to use (24a) than to use (24b) because the former involves less number of derivational steps.

6.2 The Derivation of *Kedụ* Interrogatives

With regard to the derivation of *kedụ*, this study postulates following that *kèdụ* has two heads, *kè* and *dụ* which are fused together (see Mbah, 1989; Nwankwegu, 2015 and section 4 above). The former expresses [+Wh] while the latter expresses [+Foc]. In contrast to previous assumption, however, this study posits that each head projects maximally as schematised below:



In this proposed structure *kè* and *dù* are re-interpreted in terms of X-bar in line with the LCA which suggests S>H>C order in phrases. In the structure, both *kè* and *dù* lacks EPP, hence, an item cannot move overtly to occupy their spec positions. +F feature of *dù* triggers a DP marked with [+Foc] to internally merge in its complement position and satisfy its c-selection requirement. This assumption is captured in (26) below.



The schema above captures the assumption that *kèdù* attracts a DP bearing an unvalued focus feature. The *dùP* with F-feature probes for a matching goal in its c-command domain. The suppletive of the wh-phrase satisfies this requirement. Hence, they both value their unvalued features. Thus, the c-selection requirement of the *dùP* is satisfied. Nwankwegu (2015) rightly observes that this movement is not a kind of remnant movement since no copy is left behind. The remnant is deleted from the structure to save the derivation from crashing. Having described the derivation of the *kèdù* phrase, it is pertinent to also demonstrate how KI construction is derived proper.

For the sake of exemplification, consider (18b) repeated here as (27)

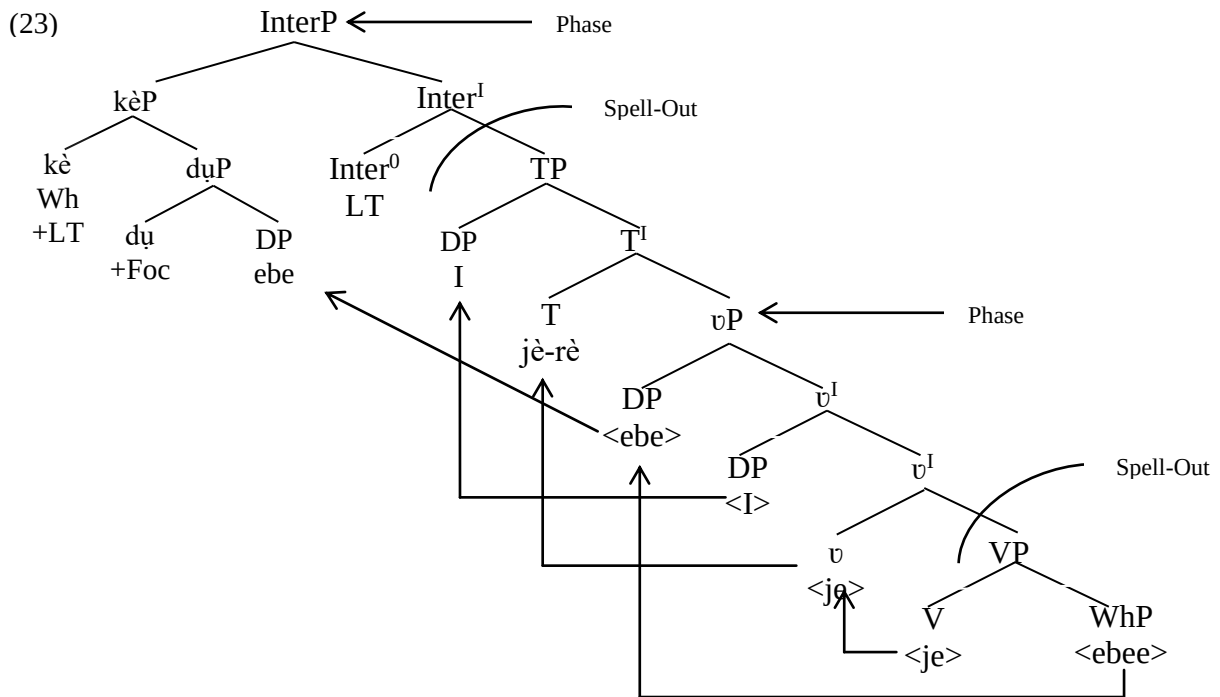
- (27) **Kèdù ebe ì jè-rè <ebee>?**
 Q place 2SG go-PST where
 ‘Where did you go to?’

To derive (27) the numeration of lexical items can be presented as (28)

- (28) N: {*kè*₁; *dù*₁; *ebee*₂; *I*₁; *je*₁ -rVpast}

The numeration in (28) represents the pre-computational operation where lexical items are initially selected from the lexicon with an index indicating the number of times they will be used in the derivation. Operations select and merge apply successively in the following

manner. The verb *je* is merged with *ebee* ‘where’ to form VP satisfying the c-selection requirement of V. *v* is merged with VP to form *v*^I satisfying the c-selection requirement of *v*. The verb features of *v* triggers the lexical V, *je* ‘go’ to adjoin to it. The derived *v*^I is merged with a DP to derive another *v*^I. This is to create an escape hatch for the long distance movement of the DP component of the *wh*-phrase. At this stage, the DP *ebe* ‘place’ is internally merged with *v*^I to form *v*P, satisfying the EPP feature of *v*. The complement of the phase is then transferred to the interfaces for interpretation. In furtherance, the tense suffix is merged with the *v*P to form *T*^I. The verb moves via head movement from *v* to *T* in order to value its tense feature. Afterwards, *T*^I probes for a matching goal to value its unvalued phi features. The pronominal subject DP occupying spec *v*P satisfies this requirement so they simultaneously value their unvalued features while the DP moves to spec, TP so that the EPP feature of *T* is satisfied. The derived structure is merged with the Inter to form *Inter*^I. At the this point the *kèdu* structure is computed by merging *du* with *ebe* ‘place’ to form the *du*P, satisfying the c-selection requirement of *du*. Spec, *du*P is not projected since it lacks EPP. Rather the structure is merged with *kè* to derive *kè*P whose spec is not also projected for lack of EPP. The structure is now merged with *Inter*^I yielding *Inter*P. It is assumed the LT of *Inter* percolates unto the *kèdu*-phrase for clause typing the structure as interrogative. At this point, the entire structure is transferred to the interfaces for interpretation. This derivational steps are schematised in the diagram below.



It is pertinent to note that the focused DP or wh-suppletive may originate from spec, vP especially if the external argument is the item queried in the derivation. For instance, the interrogative clause parsed above shows that the wh-suppletive attracted by *du*P originated from Spec, vP. Based on this observation, this study posits that the queried item determines the source of the displaced DP as shown in (23).

6.0 Summary and Conclusion

This study has re-examined the morpho-syntactic structure of *Kèdu interrogatives*, a variant of Igbo wh-interrogatives. The study re-interpreted *Kèdu interrogatives* in terms of X-bar with insight from Rizzi's (1997) Split CP hypothesis. It was observed that it is not only wh-suppletives that are attracted to *kedu* in *kèdu* constructions, rather, other DPs including pronominal DPs are potential attractees as long as they are marked [+Foc] or queried. The study also postulates that since *kè* and *du* has [+wh] and [+Foc] features respectively, they are permitted to project maximally as *kè*P and *du*P based on the split hypothesis proposal which permits one head to one feature and one feature to one head. Therefore, each projects maximally, they both lack EPP since they do not require their specifier to be filled overtly.

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