

TENSE-ASPECT AND NEGATION IN ỌWỌ DIALECT; FOCUS ON VERB YÚ, RÈ AND GBÀNRÈ**Olóro Táyé Oláńrewájú**

Department of Linguistics and Languages, Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State, Nigeria

<https://doi.org/10.59009/ijllc.2025.0141>*Received Date:25 July 2025/Published Date:31 August 2025***ABSTRACT**

Tense-aspect and Negation in Yoruba and its dialects, there are controversial issues on it. This is not resolve till date due to the structure of Yoruba dialects. Trudgill (1994) stated that dialectologist needs to expose rules and systems that typical of a particular dialect. Which means to find the distinctive qualities of a particular dialect. In this paper we are going to examine the tense-aspect of some verbs in Ọwọ dialect which are rẹ, yú and gbànrẹ in the dialect. Some scholars thought that those verbs mentioned above are synonym of each other in our discussion, they believe that. they can replace each other in a sentence. This paper will also reveal that they are not synonymous words. One of these verbs can be align with negation marker while the remaining two are not; in any sentence that the other two co-occur with negation marker the sentence is not grammatical in the dialect. The paper will reveal how the verb gbànrẹ and rẹ cannot be negated in any sentence in the dialect. The paper will also show how the verbs analyse the past, present and the future as is in English Language; go, gone and went. Not only the pronouns inflected tense and aspect but the verbs always choose its subject pronoun to inflected tense-aspect in the dialect.

Keywords: Gbànrẹ, Yú, Rẹ, Ọwọ, Verb.**1. INTRODUCTION**

Radford (1997) stated that functional categories are words lack idiosyncratic descriptive, content or properties; they primarily serve as information carriers coded in the grammatical properties of expression within the sentence. Functional categories are essential to the structure and meaning of sentences, but they don't carry unique descriptive content or properties like lexical categories (e,g nouns, verbs, adjectives) do. Awóyalé (1995) claimed that the following are functional categories in languages: preposition, determiner, conjunction, complementizer, tense, aspect, modal, agreement markers, negation markers, focus markers and genitive markers. In this paper we only attend to just three out of the functional categories in Ọwọ dialect known as tense, aspect and negation markers.

Ọwọ is spoken in all towns and villages within the local government area, Olúmúyìwá (1994:3) identified some sub dialects to Ọwọ dialects named Ùsùàdà, Ùpelẹ, Uté, Ifón, Ọkẹlúsẹ, Ùpẹnmẹ and many others. In a geographical location of some towns mentioned are not in the local area of Ọwọ township, they are Ifón, Uté and Ọkẹlúsẹ are at Ọsé local government area, Ìmòrú also among the town in Ọsé Local Government spoken Ọwọ dialect. Some town in Àkókó South-West Local Government Ares such as Ọbà Àkókó, Àfò Àkókó and Ìfira Àkókó area the town also speaking sub Ọwọ dialect. According to 2006 census Ọwọ residential is about 222,000.

Adétùgbó (1967 and 1982), Oládògún (2011) and Oshòdì (2017) worked on tense-aspect and negation in the dialect respectively. We are not going to check and fault their work but to identify some verbs that are not mentioned in their research; namely *yú*, *rè* and *gbànrè* how the verbs can also be the inflector together with pronouns in the dialect to project its tense and aspect. We also identify how the verbs cannot be replacing each other in any sentence. Till now no scholar notice the verbs *rè*, *yú* and *gbànrè* in SEY dialect especially Òwò dialect, that the verbs inflected for tense and aspect in the dialect along with pronouns. The scholars only focus on tense-aspect and negation of the dialect. The effects of subject pronouns on tense-aspect are minimal on the verbs. That is the subject pronouns are not the only inflected tense-aspect in the dialect.

The clarion call of Awóbùlúyì (1992) stated that Yoruba scholars should start studying the structurally diverse dialects of Yoruba in order to discover new things. This research is an effort to fill this gap and it is prompted by Crystal's (2000) clarion call that linguists should explore endangered languages for the purpose of documentation before the languages go into extinction.

3. METHODOLOGY

In this research work gives room for interaction and interview with selected age group in native speakers of Òwò dialects and its sub. Even we sample through argument of elderly person in the community, where names, pronouns, and negation markers were discovered how they occur with the verbs mentioned. Palm wine joints, buka, market etc were selected places where the research work target to study and analysed words. The work did not only have just a specimen. We make sure all the data were captured and recorded in video and audio recorder in other to listen when playing back. The visual shows the lip and manner of pronunciation while audio let us to collect the data by written it down to access. During the arguments we discover the fact that correct usage of the verbs is attend to.

4. TENSE

Tense is a grammatical concept that connects events to the time of action, specifying when an event occurs in relation to the time of utterance. It establishes a link between the time of the action and the period of speaking, enabling us to communicate when an event takes place, took place, or will take place. By using tense, we can accurately convey the timing of event and create a clear understanding of the relationship between the action and the time of utterance. Lyons (1979:304) state that the essential characteristic of the category of tense is that it reveals the time of action, event or state of affairs referred to in the sentence to time of utterance being now.

Omamor (1982) shown the three points with reference to time; the points are retrospective point (RP), the time anterior to the time of initiation of speech, anticipated point (AP), the time posterior to the point of initiation of speech and the point present (PP). Comrie (1985: 9) opined that tense is a grammatical category that relates the time of an event to the moment of utterance. Chomsky (1957, 1965) based tense and aspect on English language in his analyses, this makes scholars like Comrie (1976), Welmers (1975) and Banjo (1969) stated that Yoruba Language had no tense. In Comrie (1976:2) stated that tense related to the time an event occurred to the moment of speaking. Tense can be defined as time specification in a sentence. The specification often reflects on the verb shows whether the action is past, present or future. It may be immediate, on-going or complete. Odunuga (1982:264) pointed to the confusion generated among linguists on the number of tenses in Yoruba Language. Deferent numbers of tenses were giving out by scholars some give three, five and even more, and we

noted that if scholars are confused about tense and aspect, how the Yoruba background is going to cope with another language. Bamgbose (1990:167) stated that there are two tenses in Yoruba language: Àsikò ọjọ iwájú and àsikò afànmóní (the future and past/present) Lamidi (2010:350) stated that verbs are often inflected for tense in English language, but this is not so in Yoruba language. Awobuluyi (1998) and Adeniyi (2005) stated that South-East Yoruba dialects are Ijebu, Ikale, Ilaje, Ondo, Ọ̀bà-Ikare and Ọ̀wò. Scholars like Adetugbo (1967 and 1982), Adesuyan (1991), Ajongolo (2005) and Olaogun (2011) opined the area of tense-aspect and negation in the SEY dialects. Those scholars did not attempt to discuss any of the verbs (yu, re and gbanre). Oyebade and Agoyi (2007) and Oshodi (2017), that attempted to discuss one of the verbs which is (yu). Here we are to point to the three times that tense is known for which past, present and future tense of the verbs and its inflectors is.

4.1. Past Tense in Ọ̀wò dialect.

Past tense is a verb form that describes an action that occurred in the past. It is used to express completed or ended action or event. Yuka and Omorege (2011) state that past tense signals an event frame that proceeds the moment of speech. In Owo dialect **yú** is use for past tense without using any inflector if a noun used as a subject case in the sentence. Example;

1. (a) Adé ó yú
Ade HTS go
Adé went
- (b) Olú ó yú
Olú HTS go
Olú went
- (c) Idàda ó yú
Idàda HTS go
Idáda went

In example 1 a-c, when noun (a person) used as a subject to verb **yú**, it shown that no inflector before the verb to give us past tense in the dialect.

A. First person singular	First-person plural
(i) èmi I	(v) àwa we
(ii) mòó	(vi) àá
(iii) mǐí	(vii) àá
(iv) màá I HTS	(viii) àá we
B. Second person singular	Second person plural
(i) ùwọ you	(v) èghẹn you
(ii) wòó	(vi) èghẹn ẹn
(iii) wèé	(vii) èghẹn ẹn
(iv) wàá You (sg) HTS	(viii) èghẹn ẹn you (pl) HTS
C. Third person singular	Third person plural
(i) òun He/she	òghọn they
(ii) ó	òghọn ọn
(iii) é	òghọn ọn
(iv) á	òghọn ọn

	He/she (HTS)		they HTS
	In Ọwò dialect, examples A to C have shown the pronouns in subjective case that appear before the verbs /yú/, /rè/ and /gbànrè/.		
2	(a) Èmi ó yú I HTS go I went	(b)	Mò ó yú I HTS go I went
	(c) àwá yú We go We went	(d)	àá yú we go we went
	(e) ùwọ yú You (sg) go You (sg) went	(f)	wòó yú You (sg) go You (sg) went
	(g) Èghen en yú You (pl) HTS go You (pl) went	(h)	èghen en yú You (pl) HTS go You (pl) went
	(i) òun ún yú He/she HTS go He/she went	(j)	ó yú Ø HTS go He/she went
	(k) òghon on yú They HTS go They went	(l)	òghon on yú They HTS go They went

In example 2 (a) and (b) the pronouns are (*1st sg*) in long and short form in the dialect, in 2 (c) and (d) the pronouns are (*1st pl*) in long and short form in the dialect, 2 (e) and (f) the pronouns are (*2nd sg*) in long and short form, in example 2 (i) the pronoun is (*3rd sg*) while in example 2 (j) Ø this sign means that the NP is empty only HTS and the verb shown Awóbùlúyì (2008). In example 2 (g) and (h) the pronoun has no long and short form in the dialect unlike Yoruba Standard *èyin* and *e*. Example 2 (k) and (l) the pronoun also has no long and short in Owo dialect, *àwon* and *won* in YS Olórò (2018). The only inflected tense of past is the verb *yú*. The two remaining verbs *rè* and *gbànrè* cannot use as past tense in the dialect if they replace *yú* either not grammatical or giving another tense.

4.2 Future Tense

The future tense always indicates an event ahead from the moment of utterance. In respect of this we notice that there are strong relationship in-between pronouns, tense-aspect and negation in the dialect. Oshodi (2017) clear the fact that what Adetugbo (1967, 1982) and Olaogun (2011) used as data was either inadequate or incorrect. Oyebade and Agoyi (2007) in their attestation in Owo dialect is future and non-future tense. Oshodi (2017) states many examples in tense-aspect in the dialect but not notice the verb and how they select the inflector of tense. Jelili (2020) stated that, the future tense is morphologically marked in Igasi, and continues that the morpheme *á* is used to mark future action and it precedes the verb in the sentence. What Jelili (2020) did in his work is that he used noun as the subject in his work. As it shown below;

3a Adé á ve
Adé FUT go
Ade will go

3b Òjọ á ju ití
Òjọ FUT eat yam
Òjọ will eat yam

Jelili (2020: 5)

Also, Oshodi (2017) mention it that the marker of future tense in Owo dialect is **á**, the only thing that we observed is, he did not test the verb randomly to know that some verb inflected tense and aspect in the dialect and some of these verbs cannot be negated as other verbs. In this research we strongly accept with Oshodi (2017) that the morpheme **á** is the marker of future tense in the dialect.

- 4a** Adé á yú
Adé FUT go
Adé will go
- 4b** Òjọ́ á yú yá jeun
Òjọ́ FUT go eat
Òjọ́ will go and eat

In example 4a and b. It shown that; Ìgásí and Òwò dialects have something in common in term of structure of future marker. In our early discussion it's stated that the verb cannot replace other in the sentence, either not grammatical or has different meaning in tense.

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----|--|-----|--|
| 5 | (a) | Èmi á yú
I FUT go
I will go | (b) | Mà á yú
I FUT go
I will go |
| | (c) | àwá á yú
We FUT go
We will go | (d) | àá á yú
we FUT go
we will go |
| | (e) | ùwọ́ á yú
You (sg) FUT go
You (sg) will go | (f) | wà á yú
You (sg) FUT go
You (sg) will go |
| | (g) | Èghẹ́n á yú
You (pl) FUT go
You (pl) will go | (h) | èghẹ́n á yú
You (pl) FUT go
You (pl) will go |
| | (i) | òun á yú
He/she FUT go
He/she will go | (j) | á yú
Ø FUT go
He/she will go |
| | (k) | òghọ́n á yú
They FUT go
They will go | (l) | òghọ́n á yú
They FUT go
They will go |

In example 5 above, **á** and the verb **yu** are the inflector of future tense in Owo dialect, the two verbs cannot replace by **yú**. If they replace by them either we have another meaning of tense or the sentence is not grammatical in the dialect. The preverbal particle **á** which precedes the verb **yú** in the examples 4 and 5 shows that the events discussed in the sentences indicate future occurrences. It can be observed that **yú** always followed the preverbal **á** in the dialect which the two verbs cannot. Ogunmodimu (2013) claims, that in Ahàn, affirmative sentences are divided into future and non-future tense. Similarly, Bamgbose (1990) notices a similar situation in Yorùbá. However, Nkemnji (1995) claims that future tense is graduated in Nweh where he identified three types of future tense type, that is, immediate (today) future, near (tomorrow) future and distant (remote) future.

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 6 | (a) | *Èmi ó rẹ̀
I HTS go
I went | (b) | *Mò ó rẹ̀
I HTS go
I went |
| | (c) | àwá rẹ̀
We go
We are going | (d) | àá rẹ̀
we go
we are going |

(e)	ùwọ rẹ You (sg) are going You (sg) going	(f)	*wòó rẹ You (sg) going You (sg) are going
(g)	Èghẹn ẹn rẹ You (pl) HTS going You (pl) are going	(h)	ẹghẹn ẹn rẹ You (pl) HTS going You (pl) are going
(i)	òun ún rẹ He/she HTS going He/she is going	(j)	ó rẹ Ø HTS going He/she is going
(k)	òghọn ọn rẹ They HTS going They are going	(l)	òghọn ọn rẹ They HTS going They are going

In example 6 shown when *yú* is replace by *rẹ* as a synonymous word. Either the sentence is not grammatical or giving another meaning of tense in the dialect. In example 6 (a), (b) and (f) the sentence is not grammatical in the dialect that is why they are stared. In example 6 (c), (d), (e), (g), (i), (j), (k) and (l) give us present progressive tense not past tense.

7	(a)	*Èmi ó gbànrẹ HTS go I went	(b)	*Mò ó gbànrẹ I HTS go I went	I
	(c)	*àwá gbànrẹ We go We went	(d)	*àá gbànrẹ we go we went	
	(e)	*ùwọ gbànrẹ You (sg) go You (sg) went	(f)	*wòó gbànrẹ You (sg) go You (sg) went	
	(g)	*Èghẹn ẹn gbànrẹ You (pl) HTS go You (pl) went	(h)	*ẹghẹn ẹn gbànrẹ You (pl) HTS go You (pl) went	
	(i)	*òun ún gbànrẹ He/she HTS go He/she went	(j)	*ó gbànrẹ Ø HTS go He/she went	
	(k)	*òghọn ọn gbànrẹ They HTS go They went	(l)	*òghọn ọn gbànrẹ They HTS go They went	

In example 7 all the sentence is not grammatical in the dialect, if the verb *gbànrẹ* followed by preposition or object then the tense will be past perfect tense. We will discuss this later.

8	(a)	*Èmi á gbànrẹ I FUT go I will go	(b)	*Mà á rẹ I FUT go I will go
	(c)	*àwá á gbànrẹ We FUT go We will go	(d)	*àá á rẹ we FUT go we will go
	(e)	*ùwọ á gbànrẹ You (sg) FUT go You (sg) will go	(f)	*wà á rẹ You (sg) FUT go You (sg) will go
	(g)	*Èghẹn á gbànrẹ You (pl) FUT go You (pl) will go	(h)	*ẹghẹn á rẹ You (pl) FUT go You (pl) will go

(i)	*òun á gbànrè He/she FUT go He/she will go	(j)	*á rè Ø FUT go He/she will go
(k)	*òghon á gbànrè They FUT go They will go	(l)	*òghon á rè They FUT go They will go

In example 8 both *gbànrè* and *rè* cannot replace *yú* with inflector *á* to give us future tense in the dialect whether followed by preposition and object or not.

5. ASPECT

Aspect refers to the grammatical category that expresses the duration, completion or repetition of an action or state. Lamidi (2020) stated that aspect is one of the functional categories that is attested. Huddleston and Pullum (2002:117) explained that aspect applies to a system where the basic meaning has to do with the internal temporal constituency of the situation.

5.1 Progressive Aspect

Another name for progressive aspect is continuous aspect. Always describes an action that is ongoing or progress at a specific point in time. Lamidi (2020) opined that progressive aspect primarily shows that the action specified by the verb is ongoing as at the time of the utterance or was on-going in the past. Obiamalu (2015) succinctly describes progressive aspect as an on-going process at the time of speaking, traditionally referred to as present continuous. It could also refer to an on-going action at a point in time in the past, is also referred to past continuous. The progressive marker in Owo dialect is the verb *rè*. No preverbal particle occurs between the subject and the verb as it shown in the examples below:

- 9a** Adé é rè
Adé PROG go
Ade is going
- 9b** Òjó ó rè
Òjó PROG going
Òjó is going

In example 9a and b, it shown that *rè* in Owo dialect is the inflector for the progressive aspect, the HTS always in-between NP and the verb in most of Yoruba Dialect Awobuluyi (2008), Olumuyiwa (2014) and Oloro (2018). *Gbànrè* and *yú* cannot replace with *rè* in the sentence, either not grammatical or has different meaning in tense.

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 10 | (a) Èmí rè
I PROG going
I am going | (b) Míí rè
I PROG going
I am going |
| | (c) àwá rè
We PROG going
We are going | (d) àá rè
we PROG going
we are going |
| | (e) ùwọ rè
You (sg) PROG going
You (sg) are going | (f) wèé rè
You (sg) PROG going
You (sg) are going |
| | (g) Èghen rè
You (pl) PROG going
You (pl) are going | (h) èghen rè
You (pl) PROG going
You (pl) are going |
| | (i) òun rè
He/she PROG going | (j) é rè
Ø PROG going |

	He/she is going		He/she is going
(k)	òghòn rè	(l)	òghòn rè
	They PROG going		They PROG going
	They are going		They are going

In example 10 the progressive aspect is present continuous aspect, the only inflector for the aspect is the verb *rè*. In example below indicate past progressive aspect in the dialect.

11(a)	Èmi tí rè kòghòn wá	(b)	Míí tí rè á jeun kOjó ké sí mi
	I PROG going when they came		I PROG going to eat when Ojo called me
	I was going when they came		I was going to eat when Ojo called me
(c)	àwá tí rè kayà mòó wá	(d)	àá tí rè kòó kóbè
	We PROG going when my wife arrived		we PROG going when he left
	We were going when my wife arrived		we were going when he left
(e)	ùwọ tí rè kèè jeun	(f)	wèè tí rè kèè ké
	You (sg) PROG going when he ate		You (sg) PROG going when he was shouting
	You (sg) were going when he ate		You (sg) were going when he was shouting
(g)	Èghèn tí rè kòó sá	(h)	èghèn tí rè kòó tsubú
	You (pl) PROG going when he ran		You (pl) PROG going when he fell
	You (pl) were going when he ran		You (pl) were go when he fell
(i)	òun tí rè dúù wá	(j)	é tí rè dúù jeun
	He/she PROG going before he came		Ø PROG going before she ate
	He/she was going before he came		He/she was going before she ate
(k)	òghòn tí ròkò dúù sá	(l)	òghòn tí rèlí dúù gbe wá
	They PROG going to farm before he ran		They PROG going home before he brought it
	They were going to farm before he ran.		They were going home before he brought it

In example 11 *tí* and verb *rè* are the inflector for the past progressive aspect in Òwọ dialect. it also shown that the progressive aspect is not limited to on-going actions in the present but also in the past actions. In effect, one can argue that progressive aspect in Òwọ relates on-going actions or events in the present in example 8 while 9 shows an on-going event in the past, using the *tí* with the verb *rè* as progressive marker. In example 10 and 11 can *re* replace by *yú* and *gbànrè* in the sentences, the answer is no, either to give us another meaning of non-grammatical sentence. See example below:

12a	*Adé é gbànrè
	Adé PROG go
	Ade is going
12b	Òjó ó yú
	Òjó NEG go
	Òjó does not used to go

In example 12a the sentence is not grammatical in the dialect, while in example 12b is grammatical but giving us another meaning, which is negation with habitual aspect.

13(a)	*Èmi tí yú kòghòn wá	(b)	*Míí tí gbànrè á jeun kOjó ké sí mi
	I PROG going when they came		I PROG going to eat when Òjó called me
	I was going when they came		I was going to eat when Òjó called me
(c)	*àwá tí gbànrè kayà mòó wá	(d)	*àá tí yú kòó kóbè
	We PROG going when my wife arrived		we PROG going when he left
	We were going when my wife arrived		we were going when he left
(e)	*ùwọ tí yú kèè jeun	(f)	*wèè tí gbànrè kèè ké
	You (sg) PROG going when he ate		You (sg) PROG going when he was shouting
	You (sg) were going when he ate		You (sg) were going when he was shouting

(g) *Èghẹn tí gbànrè kòó sá You (pl) PPROG going when he ran You (pl) were going when he ran	(h) *èghẹn tí yú kòó tsubú You (pl) PROG going when he fell You (pl) were going when he ran
(i) *òun tí yú dúù wá He/she PROG going before he came He/she was going before he came	(j) *é tí gbànrè dúù jẹun Ø PROG going before she ate He/she was going before she ate
(k) *òghón tí gbànrè ròko dúù sá They PROG going to farm before he ran They were going to farm before he ran.	(l) *òghón tí yúlí dúù gbe wá They PROG going home before he brought it They were going home before he brought it

In example 13, it shown that the examples are not grammatical in Ọ̀wọ̀ dialect.

5.2 Habitual Aspect

The habitual aspect always describes an action that is regularly or habitually performed in the past or present. It also used to indicate that an action was a regular or habitual occurrence, rather than a one-time event or action. Lamidi (2020) stated that habitual aspect indicates an action that occurs often or regularly. Fabunmi (2009) refers to habitual aspect as an action with an indefinite occurrence. The verb *yú* is used to mark this particular action in Ọ̀wọ̀ dialect.

- 14a** Adé yú oko
Adé HAB goes farm
Adé used to go to farm
- 14b** Ọ̀jọ́ yú yee jẹrún
Ọ̀jọ́ HAB goes eat yam
Ọ̀jọ́ used to go and eat yam

Example 14 and 4 they look alike in their structure, in example 4 (past tense) the HTS always occurred in-between NP and the verb mentioned before it can give us past tense in the dialect. It does not mean that the HTS is an inflector of past tense. See example below;

- 15a** Adé ó yúko
Adé HTS go farm
Ade went to farm (past tense)
- 15b** Adé yúko
Adé HAB go farm
Adé used to go to farm (habitual aspect)
- 15c** Adé é yúko
Adé NEG go farm
Adé does not used to go to farm (habitual with negation)

In example 15a is past tense with HTS /ó/, in example 15b we have habitual aspect while in example 15c is habitual with negation with negation marker /é/, note it is always the long vowel of last vowel of the noun before the verb *yú*. We will discuss this later.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 16 (a) Èmí yú
I HAB go
I used to go | (b) Míí yú
I HAB go
I used to go |
| (c) àwá yú
We HAB go
We used to go | (d) áá yú
we HAB go
we used to go |
| (e) ùwọ́ yú
You (sg) HAB go
You (sg) used to go | (f) wèé yú
You (sg) HAB go
You (sg) used to go |
| (g) Èghẹn yú | (h) èghẹn yú |

	You (pl) HAB go		You (pl) HAB go
	You (pl) used to go		You (pl) used to go
(i)	òún yú	(j)	é yú
	He/she HAB go		Ø HAB go
	He/she used to go		He/she used to go
(k)	òghòn yú	(l)	òghòn yú
	They HAB go		They HAB go
	They used to go		They used to go

What we notice in example 16 a, c, e, g, h, i, k and l is all the NP (long form of pronouns) the root structure are èmi, àwa, ùwọ, èghen and òghon, and they were end with mid tone (MT), whenever they followed by yú to give us habitual aspect the mid tone always change to High tone (HT) in the dialect. The sentences in 16 cannot be replace by the two other verbs which are *rè* and *gbànrè*.

5.3 Perfect Aspect

The perfect aspect is a grammatical aspect that describes an event or an action that stated in the past and has a connection to the present. Perfect aspect indicates a completed action of the verb Lamidi (2020). The grammatical item for perfect aspect in Owo is *ti* and verb *gbànrè*. See the examples below:

- 17 (a) Olú ti gbànrè yá jẹun
Olu PERF go to eat
Olu has gone to eat
- (b) Òjọ ti gbànrè sóko
Òjọ PERF go to farm
Ojo has gone to farm
- (c) Adé àtÒjọ ti gbànrè sojà
Adé and Òjọ PERF go to market.
Adé and Òjọ have gone to market.
- 18 (a) Èmi ti gbànrè duu wa (b) Mò ó ti gbànrè duu sun
I PERT go before s/he came I PERF go before s/he came
I have gone before s/he came I have gone before s/he came
- (c) àwá ti gbànrè ki Şola yú (d) àá ti gbànrè dúu jẹun
We PERF go when Şola went we PERF go before s/he ate
We have gone when Şola went we have gone before s/he ate
- (e) ùwọ ti gbànrè yá sùn kòó wá
You (sg) PERF go to sleep when he/she came
- (f) wòó ti gbànrè ki iye è kú
You (sg) PERF go when his/her mother died.
You (sg) have gone when his/her mother died.

In example 17 and 18 indicate the perfect aspect in Owo dialect.

6. NEGATION

Negation is a linguistics operation that has the effect of; reversing the meaning of a sentence, phrase or word. Crystal (2008) opined that negation is a process or construction in a grammatical or semantic analysis which typically expresses the contradiction of some or all sentence meaning. Jelili (2020) defined negation as the contradiction of the assertion made in a sentence. The facts that the verbs are not synonymous words bring this negation in every

form in the dialect to see how only verb *yú* can occur with negation markers. The negation markers in the dialect are **dì**, **má** and the long vowel of the last vowel of subject noun.

- 19 (a) Òjọ́ ó dì yúbẹ̀
Òjọ́ NEG go
Òjọ́ is no longer go there
- (b) *Òjọ́ ó dì rẹ̀bẹ̀
Òjọ́ NEG go
Òjọ́ is no longer go there
- (c) *Òjọ́ ó dì gbànrẹ̀ síbẹ̀
Òjọ́ NEG go
Òjọ́ is no longer go there
- 20 (a) Adé íí, dí Òjọ́ má yùú
Ade said that, Òjọ́ NEG go
Ade said that, Òjọ́ should not go
- (b) *Adé íí, dí Òjọ́ má rẹ̀
Ade said that, Òjọ́ NEG go
Ade said that, Òjọ́ should not go
- (c) *Adé íí, dí Òjọ́ má gbànrẹ̀
Ade said that, Òjọ́ NEG go
Ade said that, Òjọ́ should not go
21. (a) Adé é yú
Adé NEG HAB go
Adé did not used to go
- (b) *Adé é rẹ̀
Adé NEG HAB go
Adé did not used to go
- (c) * Adé é gbànrẹ̀
Adé NEG HAB go
Adé did not used to go
22. (a) Òjọ́ ó yù
Òjọ́ NEG HAB go
Òjọ́ did not used to go
- (b) *Òjọ́ ó rẹ̀
Òjọ́ NEG HAB go
Òjọ́ did not used to go
- (c) *Òjọ́ ó gbànrẹ̀
Òjọ́ NEG HAB go
Òjọ́ did not used to go
23. (a) Ikọ́lá ní í yú
Ikọ́lá FUT NEG go
Kọ́lá will not go
- (b) *Ikọ́lá ní í rẹ̀
Ikọ́lá FUT NEG go
Kọ́lá will not go
- (c) *Ikọ́lá ní í gbànrẹ̀
Ikọ́lá FUT NEG go
Kọ́lá will not go

In Oshodi (2017) the verbs **rè** and **gbànrè** did not used in his examples when is discussing negation. It shows that the verbs cannot be negated. Only **yú** can be negated in the dialect, this also shown that they are not synonymous words.

Basic affirmative sentence

24. (a) [NP] Á yúbè

25 (a) Òghon á yúbè

Negation sentence

(b) [NP] É è ní yúbè

(b) Òghon òn ni yúbè Oshodi (2017:115)

In examples 24-25 if **yú** is replace by **rè** and **gbànrè** in the sentence, the sentence is not grammatical in the dialect.

Table 1. The table below show how the verbs work with tense-aspect and negation in the dialect.

	Past tense	Future tense	Hab. Aspect		Prog. Aspect		Perf. Aspect		Negation
	Past tense	Future tense	Present	Past	Present	Past	Present	Past	Negation
yú	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+
rè	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
gbànrè	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-

Key:

Plus (+) means the verb can be used

Minus (-) means the verb cannot be used

7. CONCLUSION

In this article, we have examined the structure of tense-aspect and negation focusing on the verbs (**yú**, **rè** and **gbànrè**) means *lò* in Yoruba standard. The paper shown how the verbs are not synonymous words, they cannot replace each other in a sentence to give the same meaning. It is also examined that not only the subject pronouns are inflected tense in the dialect but the said verbs also. It is shown in the paper that tense in Òwò polarises future and non-future tense like Yorùbá Standard. It is further established, in the dialect that habitual aspect relates to past in Òwò whereas it relates to present in Standard Yorùbá. It also recorded in the paper that verb go has mutually exclusive variant with **yú** occurring past and future in the dialect as it shown in table 1. The speech form uses the preverbal particle **á** to mark its future tense with verb **yú** only. This paper just gives a brief of negation, how negation cannot negate **rè** and **gbànrè** in the dialect only **yú** can be negated in Òwò dialect.

List of Abbreviations

FUT- future tense for affirmative

HAB -habitual aspect marker for both affirmative

NEG- sentence negation

HTS- high ton syllable

NP- noun phrase

MT- mid tone

LT- low tone

REFERENCES

- Adeoye, Jelili (2018): "The Structure of Negation in Uwu" *Kansas Working Papers in Linguistics* 39: 40–56.
- Ajiboye, Jacob (2012): "À-ì-Derived Nominals in Yorùbá." *Lagos Notes and Records* 18/1: 117–138.
- Akíńkúgbé. O. (1976): "An Internal Classification of the Yoruboid Group (Yoruba, Isekiri, Igala)". *Journal of West African Languages* 11: 1–19.
- Awóbùlúyì, Oladele (1992): "Aspect of Contemporary Standard Yorùbá in Dialectological Perspective" in Akínwùmi, Ishola (ed.) *New Findings in Yorùbá Studies*. J. F. Oḍúnjò Memorial Lectures Organizing Committee: 1–76.
- Awóbùlúyì, Oladel (1998): "Àwọ̀n Èka-èdè Yorùbá". Paper read at Yorùbá Studies Association of Nigeria, Pastoral Institute, Bodija, Ibadan.
- Awobuluyi, Oladele (2005): "Mofiimukanşoşoni 'àì' àbí meji". *Journal of Yoruba Studies Association of Nigeria*. 3/1: 1–6.
- Awobuluyi, Oladele (2008): *Èkọ Işeda-Oro*. Akure (Nigeria): Montern Paperbacks.
- Awoyale, Yiwola (1995) "The Role of Functional Categories in Syntax: The Yoruba Case", Owolabi Kola (ed.) *Language in Nigeria: Essay in Honour of Ayo Bamgbose*. Ibadan, Group Publishers: 113–127.
- Bamgbose, Ayo (1967): *A short Yoruba Grammar*. Ibadan: HEB
- Bamgbose, Ayo (1990): *Fonoloji ati Girama Yoruba*. Ibadan: UPL.
- Capo, Hounkpati (1989): "Defoid". In: Bendor-Samuel (ed.): *The Niger-Congo Languages: Classification and Description of Africa's largest Language family*. Lanham (Maryland), University Press of America: 2275–2900.
- Constantine, Yuka/Esohe, Omoregbe (2011) "Tense and Aspect in Edo." *Journal of Linguistics Association of Nigeria* 14/2: 365–377.
- Comrie, Bernard (1985): *Tense*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chomsky, Noam (1991): "Some Notes on Economy of Derivation and Representation". In: Robert, Freidin (ed.): *Principles and Parameters in Comparative Grammar*. Cambridge (MA), MIT Press: 417–454.
- Chomsky, Noam (1993): "A Minimalist Program for Linguistic Theory". In: Hale, Kenneth/Keyser, Samuel Jay (eds.): *View from Building 20: Essays in Linguistics in Honor of Sylvain Bromberger*. Cambridge (MA) /London, MIT Press: 1–52.
- Crystal, David (2000): *Language Death*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. *Linguistik online* 100, 7/19 ISSN 1615-3014 18
- Crystal, David (2008): *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. 6th eds. Malden (MA) /Oxford: Blackwell.
- Fabunmi, Felix (2009): *A GSPG Structure of Aspect in Yorùbá Àkókó*. *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 18/4: 258–285.
- Fadoro, Jacob (2010): *Phonological and Lexical Variation in Akokoid*. Unpublished PhD Thesis, Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria
- Fadoro, Jacob (2012): "Towards Akokoid Orthographies" *Papers in English and Linguistics (PEL)*, 13/2: 223–240.
- Huddleston, Rodney/Pullum, Geoffrey (2002: 117): *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hoffman, Carl (1974): *The Language of Nigeria by Language Families*. Mimeograph. Ibadan: University of Ibadan.
- Ìlòrí, John (2010): *Nominal Constructions in Igala and Yorùbá*. PhD thesis, Adekunle

Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko.

Obiamalu, Greg (2015): *Functional Categories in Igbo: A minimalist perspective*. Port Harcourt: M & J Grand Orbit Communications.

Ogunmodimu, Morakinyo (2013): *Tense, Aspect and Negation in Ahan*. Hawaii University International Conference, Arts, Humanities and Social science, Honolulu. [www. huichawaii. org/assets/ogunmodimu_morakinyo_ahs_2013. pdf](http://www.huichawaii.org/assets/ogunmodimu_morakinyo_ahs_2013.pdf) [22. 11. 2019].

Olaogun, Simeon (2016): *Information Structural Categories of the Njò`-Kóo Language in Akoko North-West of Ondo State, Nigeria*. Unpublished PhD Thesis, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

Olúmúyìwá, Temitope (2013): “Tense/Aspect and Negation in Mòbà (A Yorùbá Dialect)”. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences*. 3/1:118–123.

Olórò, T. O (2018); “Àgbéyèwò Àpólà Ọ̀rò-orúkọ́ nínú Èka-Èdè Ọ̀wọ̀” M. A Thesis Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo State.

Omamor, Augusta (1982): “Tense and Aspect in Isekiri”. *JWAL* XII 2: 95–129.

Oshodi B (2017): “Tense-Aspect and Negation in Owo Dialect” *Journal of English, Linguistics and French*, Police Academy, Kano, Nigeria.