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# Nominalization as a derivational process in Gìdírɛ̀

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**Abstract**
The paper discussed Nominalization in Gìdírɛ̀ (Adele). Gìdírɛ̀ is one of the "Ghana-Togo-Mountain (GTM) Languages." This language is spoken in the Krachi East and Nkwanta South Districts in the Volta Region of the Republic of Ghana and also in some parts of the Republic of Togo. Data for the study was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Item-and- Process (IP) model of the Struturalist's Approach to Morphology was used to analyze data for the study. The study revealed that in Gìdírɛ̀, when (gE-) is prefixed to an action verb, we derive a noun that indicates the act of performing the action denoted by the verb. It was also evident that when e……lɛ or be……lɛ are simultaneously attached to an action verb, we derive a noun with means, "the one who performs the action denoted by the verb. Additionally, it was revealed that by attaching the prefix gE- and the locative suffix –kùn to the stem of an action verb, we derived "a noun that indicates the place where the action designated by the verb is performed. Another notable morpho-phonlogical process identified in the study was that selecting an affix as a prefix for a particular stem depends on whether the stem vowel is +ATR or –ATR. +ATR stem vowel takes ge- as a prefix whereas –ATR stem vowel takes the prefix gɛ-.

**Keywords:** nominalization, derivational, process, Gìdírɛ̀

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Language name and genetic classification

Gìdírɛ̀ is one of the group of fourteen languages which are currently been referred to as Ghana-Togo-Mountain (GTM) Languages (Williamson and Blench 2000) [25]. Prior to this name however, several opinions have been expressed on the classification of the language group. Ameka (2002) [3, 13] noted that these languages were first seen as a group and referred to as "Togorestsprachen" by Struck (1912) [24]. This name, he noted, was first translated in English as "Togo Remnant Languages" and later referred to as "Central–Togo Languages." Dakubu (1988:119) [8], citing the works of Heine (1968) [12] and Ring (1981), noted that the Central -Togo Languages comprises languages such as Adele (Gìdírɛ̀), Buem (Lelemi), Bowili, Likpe, Logba, Avatime, Sele, Siwu, Ahlo, Kposo, Nyangbo, Tafi, Kebu and Animere.

Gìdírɛ̀ is spoken in the Krachi East and Nkwanta South Districts in the Volta Region of Ghana as well as in some parts of the Republic of Togo. The indigenous people call their language Gìdírɛ̀ and they refer to themselves (speakers of the language) as Bɛ̀dírɛ̀, However, because they live in multi-lingual communities, the other language groups with whom they live call the language Adele and they call the speakers of the language Adeles. Throughout this paper however, I will like to use Gìdírɛ̀ and Bɛ̀dírɛ̀ because these are the names by which the indigenous people call their language and themselves respectively.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gìdírɛ̀, is not studied in Ghanaian school as a Ghanaian Language. As a result, there is not enough data on the language. Though, "The Bible League" in collaboration with 'The Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literature and Bible Translation—GILLBT' has translated the New Testament of the Holy Bible and other Christian Literature from English Language into Gìdírɛ, they do not constitute much ground for linguistic study of the language. Kleiner, Leonhard and Adinyah have also conducted some linguistics study into some aspects of the language. There is still the need to add to what they have done in the language. It is for this reason that I want to explore "Nominalization as a Derivational Processes in Gìdírɛ̀."

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This study will add to the limited literature in the language. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: I began by proposing two research questions which the paper sought to answer in 1.3 with the objectives of the study 1.4. I touched on the Theoretical framework briefly in 1.5. In 2, I looked at the overview of Nominalization. A brief discussion of methodology is presented in 3 while the various forms of Nominalization in Gìdírɛ̀ are discussed in 4 with summary, conclusion and recommendation presented in 5.

## 1.3 Research Questions
The study sought to find answers to the following questions:
1. How is nominalization realized in Gìdírɛ̀?
2. What morphological processes take place in Gìdírɛ̀ nominalization?

## 1.4 Objective
The paper intends to
1. Examine how words are nominalization is done in Gìdírɛ̀.
2. Identify and discuss the various forms of nouns derived in Gìdírɛ̀ through nominalization.
3. Identify and discuss the phonological processes involved in nominalization in Gìdírɛ̀.

## 1.5 Theoretical Framework
The 'Item-and-Process (IP) model of the Structuralists' Approach to Morphology was chosen for this study. This approach, propounded by Hockett (1958) was adopted by several scholars such as Mark and Fudeman (2005) [5], Mark and Kirsten (2005), and Spencer (1991) [22] among others and has been very useful in linguistics analysis. All these intellectuals agreed that the IP theory is an approach to morphology in which complex words result from the operation of a process on simpler words. This model has been very effective in analyzing data for this study. The model has function:] $_{\text{NOM}}$ X]$_V$ ⟶ [NOUN]$_N$.
This rule is interpreted in Gìdírɛ̀ as follows:

gE-]$_{\text{NOM}}$ X]$_V$ Noun. (gE- represents both ge- and gɛ-)

## Literature review
Various Scholars have expressed several views on Nominalization as a derivational process in different languages. I present below a few of these scholars whose works were the inspiration behind this study.
Payne (1997:223) [19] defined nominalization as "the operation that allows a verb to function as a noun" with the formula: V [V] $_N$ or simply V ⟶ N.
He further explained action nominalization as "the action, usually in the abstract, expressed by the verb root." He noted that action nominalization can be formulated as:

V ⟶ N$_{\text{ACTION designated by V}}$

Spencer (1991:66) [22] defined nominalization as "the process through which nouns are derived from verbs by means of affixation." It can be inferred from this definition that when an affix, be it a prefix, infix, suffix or circumfix is added to an action verb and changes the action verb to a noun, the process can be called action nominalization. He was however quick to add that "not all verbs form nominals because the only nominalization we can create for certain verbs are the gerunds" which he defines as "a verb inflected like a noun."

Dorvlo (2008:54) [9] agrees that nominalization is "a process of forming a noun from some other word class." Kafui (2002:173) [13], citing the work of Crystal (1985), observed that nominalization is "the process of forming noun(s) from other word classes including nouns." Comrie and Thompson (2007:334) [7] did not think different as they explain that the term nominalization means "turning something into a noun." They added that "the resulting noun may be the name of an activity or state designated by the verb or adjective, or may represent one of its arguments."
Payne (1997:58) [19] defined action verbs as "verbs which describe voluntary acts, but which do not involve an overtly affected patient." He cited "dance," "sing," "speak" and "read" among others as examples of action verbs in English language to back his point. He observed that action verbs can either be dynamic, that is, they involve change (such as "dance," "sing," "speak") or non-dynamic such as "rest" and "look at." Givón (1993:106) [10] defined action verbs as "events that are deliberately initiated by an active agent," whilst Simmons (2010) described action verbs as "words that express action or something that a person, animal, force of nature or a thing can do." He explained further that action verbs specifically describe what the subject of a sentence is doing or what the subject intends to do. Considering the view of the above mentioned authorities, we may conclude that action verbs are verbs that show what a person or thing does, intends to do or can do. The above views and others to be seen later in the work will form the basis for discussing nominalization in Gìdírɛ.

## 3. Methodology
### 3.1 Research design
The type of research design adapted for the study is qualitative research and it based on the ethnographic approach. I chose this type of research because it enabled me to collect data primarily from the natural setting.

### 3.2 Method of data collection
Both primary and secondary data were used in the research work. The primary data was obtained from native speakers of the language through informal (unstructured) interview/ conversation. The secondary data on the other hand was elicited from the existing literature on Gìdírɛ. Majority was obtained from Gìdírɛ phonetic wordlist by Kleiner (1989) and others from Adinyah (2008).

### 3.3 Population and sampling
Gìdírɛ̀ is spoken in seven towns in the Nkwanta South and three in the Krachi East Districts making a total of ten towns. The data for the study was however collected in only four of these communities. They are Dormabin in the Krachi East, Nkwanta, (which is the Nkwanta South District capital which also doubles as the trade center for Bɛ̀dírɛ̀), Tutukpene, (the paramouncy of Bɛ̀dírɛ̀), and Dadiase (the spiritual town (spiritual centre) of Bɛ̀dírɛ̀, all in the Nkwanta South Districts. The towns were selected because of their significant influence on Bɛ̀dírɛ̀.

### 3.5 Data analysis procedure
The Item-and-Process (IP) model of the Strucuralist's Approach to Morphology mentioned earlier was adopted for this study. Data for this work is presented alongside discussion of the processes involved in normalization in Gìdírɛ̀. (That is, the data will be presented and followed by a

discussion which aims at explaining the processes involved in the data presented.)

## 4. Presentation of findings
From the data collected, it was realized that various forms of nouns could be derived through nominalization. These forms are discussed one after the other with appropriate examples.

### 4.1 Action nominaliser in Gìdírɛ̀ with the prefix gE
(Throughout this work, gE- is used to represent both ge- and gɛ-)
In Gìdírɛ̀, action verbs are nominalised by prefixing {gE-} to them. The derivand (derived word) then becomes a noun that indicates the act (or process) of performing the action indicated by the verb to which the prefix is attached. Therefore, one can say that from any action verb, we can derive a corresponding noun with meaning 'the act of performing the action expressed by the verb' by attaching the prefix {gE-} to the action verb. In 4.1.1 below, I provide examples of some action verbs in Gìdírɛ̀ with their English glosses.

### 4.1.1 Some action verbs in Gìdírɛ̀.

| Gìdírɛ̀ | English Gloss | Gìdírɛ̀ | English Gloss |
|---|---|---|---|
| kpele | "to cook" | lila | "to ask |
| wula | "to teach" | tabʊrʊ | "to talk" |
| len | "to dance" | tira | "to pull" |
| kpa | "to fetch/ to help" | kalan | "to read" |
| tunla | "to push" | tiba | "to beat" |
| kunla | "to dig" | ŋwara | "to write" |

The following sentences illustrate how some action verbs are used in the language.

### 4.1.2 Action verbs in sentences
a.  Kofi e kpelè Kwame Kofi call-$_{SMP\ PST}$ Kwame Kofi called Kwame
b.  Ama e Kpélé anyɪlɛ fɔ Ama cook-$_{SMP\ PST}$ food the Ama cooked the food
c.  Akua ɛɛ́ kpá Akua sweep-$_{PRG}$ Akua is sweeping
d.  Mansa ɛ̀ɛ kpà butu Mansa fetch-$_{PRG}$ water Mansa is fetching water
e.  Kwaku è Kunla Difwe Kwaku dig-$_{SMP\ PST}$ hole Kwaku dug a hole

The underlined word in each sentence is the action verb.
I will proceed with the discussion on action nominalization. I present below how the action verbs identified in 4.1.1 above and others to be identified later are nominalized using the Item-and-Process (IP) model. In Gìdírɛ̀, the structure of the IP model to be used in the study as mentioned earlier will read as:

### 4.1.3 gE-]$_N$ X]$_V$ Noun. (gE- represents both ge- and gɛ-)
In Gìdírɛ̀, when (gE-) is prefixed to an action verb, we derive a noun that indicates the act of performing the action denoted by the verb. Examples of such processes are provided in 4.1.4 through the IP model.

### 4.1.4 Nominalization of action verbs through the IP model
a.  ge-]$_N$ wula]$_V$ ]$_N$ gewula $_{NOM}$–teach "teaching"

b.  ge-]$_N$ len ]$_V$]$_N$ gelen $_{NOM}$–dance "dancing"
c.  ge-]$_N$ kpenti]$_V$]$_N$ gekpenti $_{NOM}$–shake "shaking" (something)
d.  gɛ-]$_N$ ŋwara]$_V$ ]$_N$ gɛŋwara $_{NOM}$–write "writing"
e.  gɛ-] $_N$ kasɪ]$_V$]$_N$ gɛkasɪ $_{NOM}$–learn "learning"
f.  gɛ-]$_N$ kpa]$_V$]$_N$ gɛkpa $_{NOM}$–sweep "sweeping"
g.  gɛ-]$_N$ kpa]$_V$]$_N$ gɛkpa $_{NOM}$–fetch "fetching"
h.  ge-]$_N$ kpele]$_V$]$_N$ gekpele $_{NOM}$–cook "cooking"
i.  ge-]$_N$ lila]$_V$]$_N$ gelila $_{NOM}$–ask "asking"
j.  gɛ-]$_N$ kʊla]$_V$]$_N$ gɛkʊla $_{NOM}$–gather "gathering"
k.  ge-]$_N$ firingi]$_V$]$_N$ gefiringi $_{NOM}$–jump "jumping"
l.  gɛ-]$_N$ kpaara]$_V$]$_N$ gɛkpaara $_{NOM}$–grind "grinding"
m.  ge-]$_N$ bugiti]$_V$]$_N$ gebugiti $_{NOM}$–search "searching"
n.  ge-]$_N$ tuma]$_V$]$_N$ getuma $_{NOM}$–meet "meeting"
o.  ge-]$_N$ tuna]$_V$]$_N$ getuna $_{NOM}$–rest "resting"
p.  ge-]$_N$ tunla]$_V$ ]$_N$ getunla $_{NOM}$–push "pushing"
q.  ge-]$_N$ yo]$_V$]$_N$ geyo $_{NOM}$–share "sharing"
r.  ge-]$_N$ seba]$_V$]$_N$ geseba $_{NOM}$–cut "cutting"
s.  gɛ-]$_N$ kalan]$_V$]$_N$ gɛkalan $_{NOM}$–read "reading"
t.  gɛ-]$_N$ ŋwara]$_V$]$_N$ gɛŋwara $_{NOM}$–write "writing"
u.  gɛ-]N ŋwara]V]N gɛŋwara NOM–write "writing"

It is noted from 4.1.4 above that the derived noun, (the output) is related to the base word (the input). Thus by prefixing gE- to the verb, we derive a noun which means; "the act of performing the action described by the verb. It also worth mentioning here that the choice of gɛ- or ge- depends the type of vowel in the verb stem. Whereas ge- is prefixed to verbs that have +ATR vowel in the stem, gɛ- is prefixed to verbs with -ATR vowels in the stems. This nominalization process of derivation is very productive in the language because almost all action verbs can be nominalised in this way by attaching the prefix gE- to them.

### 4.2 Circumfixation in Gìdírɛ̀
Beard (1998:62) described circumfixation as "a mere exponence involving a prefix and a suffix simultaneously." Haspelmath (2002:19) [11] explained circumfixes as "affixes that occur on both sides of the base." Spencer (1998:128) [6, 23] also observed that circumfixation is "a morphological operation in which a given morphological property is signaled by a simultaneous prefixation and suffixation process" Almost, all the three scholars agreed on one thing about circumfixation. That is, attaching prefixes and suffixes to stems of existing words simultaneously. As a morphological process, circumfixes are mostly used to derive nouns from verbs in Gìdírɛ̀. Some of these circumfixes in Gìdírɛ̀ are used to derive agentive and locative nouns. We will begin by looking at how agentive nouns are derived in the language.

### 4.3 Agentive Nominalization in Gìdírɛ̀
Mugane (1997:41) worked on Gĩkũyũ and defined agentive nominalization as "a process which involves a simultaneous prefixation of a noun class and marker to the stem and the suffixation of a nominaliser." Though, Mugane's definition is in reference to Gĩkũyũ language, it fits into Gìdírɛ̀ also because the process of deriving agentive nouns involves simultaneous affixation of prefixes and suffixes to verbs just as Mugane noted in Gĩkũyũ. Payne (1997:226) [19] argued that "a nominalization that refers to the agent of the nominalised verb is an agent nominalization." He noted that in English, agent nominalization is realised through the function:

V ⟶ N$_{\text{AGENT of V}}$

(Payne 1997:226) [19]

The function above is interpreted as follows: V stands for the verb, while N stands for the agentive noun of the Verb Comrie and Thompson (2007:336) [7] observed that "a number of languages have productive process whereby action verbs can be made into meaning 'one which "verbs." 'One which verbs' in this context means, one who performs the action expressed by the verb from which the noun is derived. They referred to this process as 'agentive nominalization.' They noted for example that, in English, the suffix –er derives nouns meaning 'one which "verbs"' with examples such as "sing singer" and "hear hearer"

In Gìdírὲ, agentive nominalization is realised by simultaneously attaching E……lɛ, or be……lɛ to the stem of an action verb. From every action verb, we can derive a corresponding agentive noun by simultaneously attaching e……lɛ, or be……lɛ to the stem of the action verb. Whereas the circumfixes e…lɛ (ɛ…lɛ) is attached to action verbs to derive singular agentive nouns, be……lɛ (bɛ….lɛ) are attached to action verbs to derive plural agentive nouns. This process of agentive nominalization establishes a relationship between the verbs and the derived nouns. That is the derived agentive noun becomes the performer of the action expressed by the verb from which it is derived. This is what Comrie and Thompson 2007 [7] refer to as action verbs can be made into meaning 'one which "verbs.") I present below derivation of singular agentive nouns as shown in (4.3.1) below:

### 4.3.1 Examples of singular agentive nouns

a. e-]wula]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ ewulalɛ]$_N$ SG -teach- AGT NOM "one who teaches"
b. ɛ-]kasɪ]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ ɛkasɪlɛ]$_{NSG}$ -learn- AGT NOM "one who learns"
c. ɛ-]tabʊrʊ]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ ɛtabʊrʊlɛ]$_{NSG}$ -talk- AGT NOM "one who talks (talkative)"
d. e-]len]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ elenlɛ]$_{NSG}$ -dance- AGT NOM "one who dances"
e. e-]ton]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ etonlɛ]$_{NSG}$ hold- AGT-NOM "one who holds"
f. ɛ-]ŋwan]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ ɛŋwanlɛ]$_{NSG}$ - sow- AGT NOM "one who sows" (broad casting method)"
g. ɛ-]ŋwara]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ ɛŋwaralɛ]$_{NSG}$ -write- AGT NOM "one who writes"
h. ɛ-]kpa]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ ɛkpalɛ]$_{NSG}$ -help- AGT NOM "one who helps"
i. ɛ-]sa]$_V$ -lɛ ɛsalɛ]$_{NSG}$ -wear- AGT NOM "one who wears"
j. ɛ-]mara]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ ɛmaralɛ]$_{NSG}$ -build- AGT NOM "one who builds (mason)"
k. e-]tunla]$_V$-lɛ]$_{NSG}$ -push- AGT NOM "one who pushes"
l. e-]kpele]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ ekpelelɛ NSG -cook- AGT NOM "one who cooks (cook)"
m. ɛ-]kɔrɔ]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ ɛkɔrɔlɛ NSG-chew- AGT NOM "one who chews"
n. e-sila]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ esilalɛ]$_{NSG}$ -break- AGT NOM "one who breaks"

From the example in 4.3.1 above, it is observed that when the circumfixes e……lɛ and ɛ….lɛ are attached to their respective verbs, they change them to nouns that function as agentive, doer or subject of the action described by the various action verbs to which they are attached. For instance, when ɛ….lɛ is attached to the verb ŋwara "to write", we derive the noun ɛŋwaralɛ "writer" (one who writes). Similarly, when e……lɛ is attached to the verb ton "to hold", we derive the noun etonlɛ "holder" (one who holds). Again, we derived elenlɛ "dancer" and ɛkasɪlɛ "learner" by adding the circumfixes e…..lɛ and ɛ…..lɛ from len "to dance" and kasɪ "to learn" respectively. While ɛ….lɛ is attached to verbs in which the first vowels in the stems are –ATR vowel, e….lɛ is attached to verbs in which the first vowels in the stem are +ATR.

As mentioned earlier, the circumfixes be…..lɛ (bɛ…..lɛ) are the plural form of the e…..lɛ (ɛ…..lɛ). They used to derive agentive plural nouns. In (4.3.2) below, I present examples of plural agentive nouns derived by attaching be…..lɛ (bɛ…..lɛ) to action verbs.

### 4.3.2 Plural Agentive Nouns

a. be-]wula]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ bewulalɛ]$_{NPL}$ -teach- AGT NOM "people who teach"
b. bɛ-]kasɪ]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ bɛkasɪlɛ]$_{NPL}$-learn- AGT NOM "people who learn"
c. bɛ-]tabʊrʊ]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ bɛtabʊrʊlɛ]$_{NPL}$ -talk- AGT NOM "people who talk (talkatives)"
d. be-]len]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ belenlɛ]$_{NPL}$ -dance- AGT NOM "people who dance"
e. be-]ton]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ betonlɛ]$_{NPL}$ .hold- AGT NOM "people who hold"
f. bɛ-]ŋwan]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ bɛŋwanlɛ]$_{NPL}$ - sow- AGT NOM "people who sow" (broad casting method)"
g. bɛ-]ŋwara]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ bɛŋwaralɛ]$_{NPL}$ -write- AGT NOM "people who write"
h. bɛ-]kpa]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ bɛkpalɛ]$_{NPL}$-help- AGT NOM "people who help"
i. bɛ-]sa]$_V$ -lɛ bɛsalɛ]$_{NPL}$ -wear- AGT NOM "people who wear"
j. bɛ-]mara]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ bɛmaralɛ]$_{NPL}$-build- AGT NOM "people who build (masons)"
k. be-]tunla]$_V$-lɛ]$_N$ betunlalɛ]$_{NPL}$-push- AGT NOM "people who push"
l. be-] kpele]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ bekpelelɛ]$_{NPL}$ -cook- AGT NOM "people who cook (cooks)"
m. bɛ-]kɔrɔ]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ bɛkɔrɔlɛ]$_N$ PL -chew- AGT NOM "people who chew"
n. be]-sila]$_V$ –lɛ]$_N$ besilalɛ]$_N$ PL -break- AGT NOM "people who break"

The choice of be…..lɛ or ɛ …lɛ depends on the type of vowel that is found in the stem of the verb. When the first vowel in the stem is +ATR, then the derived noun "derivand" takes the circumfix be…..lɛ in the plural form as in be-wula$_V$-lɛ. On the other hand, if the first vowel in the stem (operand) is –ATR, then the derived noun takes the circumfix bɛ…..lɛ to derive the plural agentive noun as we saw in bɛ-kɔrɔ$_V$ -lɛ. It should be noted however that if any of the circumfixes alone is attached to a verb, no meaningful word would be derived. Both circumfixes must be attached simultaneously to derive a meaningful word.

### 4.4 Locative Nominalization with the prefix gE- and the locative suffix –kʊn

This section is labeled "Locative Nominalization" because by attaching the prefix gE- and the locative suffix –kʊn to the stem of an action verb, we derive a noun that indicates the place where the action denoted by the verb is performed. In this case, the prefix gE- is the nominalising prefix whilst

–kʋn which means "place" is the locative suffix. The types of nouns derived here have some kind of relationship with the verbs from which they are derived as we shall soon see. Another observation made in this type of derivation is that, unlike the circumfixes that are used to derive agentive nouns, where both the prefix and suffix must be attached to the verb simultaneously to derive a meaningful noun, in the type of derivation being discussed here, the prefix gE- and the locative suffix–kʋn are not attached to the action verbs simultaneously. Rather, the prefix gE- is first attached to the action verb to derive a noun that indicates "the act of performing action denoted by verb." This noun is then suffixed by the locative suffix –kʋn to derive the locative noun as shown in (4.4.1) below.

### 4.4.1 Locative nouns derive through the (IP) module
a.  ge-]kpele]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  gekpelekʋn]_NNOM-cook-_LOC  "a place where cooking is done"
b.  ge-]tuma]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  getumakʋn]_NNOM-meet-_LOC  "a meeting place"
c.  gɛ-]mara]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  gɛmarakʋn]_NNOM-build-_LOC  "a building place"
d.  gɛ-]nʋma]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  gɛnʋmakʋn]_NNOM-sing-_LOC  a singing place
e.  gɛ-]kasɪ]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  gɛkasɪkʋn]_NNOM-learn-_LOC  "a learning place"
f.  ge-]wula]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  gewulakʋn]_NNOM-teach-_LOC  "a place where teaching is done"
g.  ge-]kunla]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC  gekunlakʋn]_NNOM-dig-_LOC  "a place where digging is done"
h.  ge-]wolo]ᵥ]ₙ-kʋn]_LOC gewolokʋn]_NNOM-kill-_LOC "a place where killing is done"
i.  ge-]di]ᵥ]ₙ kʋn]_LOC  gedikʋn]_NNOM  eat _LOC  "eating place/ a place where eating is done"
j.  ge-]ku]ᵥ]ₙ kʋnₙ gedikʋn]_NNOM bath _LOC "bathhouse"

The processes that actually take place in this type of nominalization is that, first of all, the prefix gE- changes their respective verbs to which they are attached to nouns. The derived nouns indicate the act of performing the action expressed by the verb. The locative suffix "-kʋn" is then attached to the derived noun to derive a locative noun as saw in 4.4.1 above. The derived locative noun then assumes the meaning; "the place where the action indicated by the verb is performed.

### 4.5 Other Circumfixes as Nominalisers in Gìdírὲ
There are other circumfixes in Gìdírὲ which are attached to verbs to derive other nouns. However, unlike the agentive and locative circumfixes discussed earlier, the nouns derived from the affixation of the type of circumfixes discussed in this section do not share any semantic relationship with the base from which they are formed. Some of these types of circumfixes in the language include o…..n, o….le, e……a, ɛ….ra, and ɔ...n. A list of action verbs to which these circumfixes are attached to derive the nouns are provided in (4.5.1) below.

### 4.5.1 Gìdírὲ verb
| Gìdírὲ verb | English Gloss |
|---|---|
| yo | "to share" |
| se | "to buy" |
| kpa | "to sweep" |
| ya | "to pluck" |
| kpen | "to shout" |
| ta | "to sting" |

The nouns derived from the above listed verbs by attaching the circumfixes identified in the section are provided in (4.5.2) below.

### 4.5.2 Nouns derived by circumfixation
a.  o-]yo]ᵥ-n oyon]_NNOM-share-_NOM "tree"
b.  ɔ-]kpa]ᵥ -n ɔkpan]_NNOM-sweep-_NOM "wasp"
c.  c. a-] ya]ᵥ-n ayan]_NNOM-pluck-_NOM "cloths"
d.  d. ɔ-ta]ᵥ-n ɔtan]_NNOM-sting-_NOM "fire"
e.  o-]ₙ se]ᵥ -le]ₙ osele] _NNOM-buy-_NOM "path"
f.  ɛ-]kpa]ᵥ -ra ɛkpara]_NNOM-sweep-_NOM "squirrel"
g.  e-]kpen]ᵥ-a ekpena]_NNOM-shout-_NOM "ghost"

From the examples above, we notice that when the various circumfixes are attached to their respective verbs, they change them to nouns. However, the nouns derived do not share any semantic relationship with the base to which they are attached. For example, when o…..n is attached to yo "to share", we derive oyon "tree", whose meaning is nowhere near the root yo "to share." Similarly, when o….le is attached to se "to buy", we derive osele "path" which has no relation with the root from which it is derived. Again we see that when e……a is attached to kpen "to shout", we derive ekpena "ghost"; whose meaning is far different from the root from which it is derived. Similar explanation can be given to the other derived nouns in this section. These circumfixes are seen as ordinary circumfixes that are used to derived nouns which do not actually share any semantic relationship with the verbs from which they are derived.

### 5.1 Summary of Findings
The study revealed that prefixes and circumfixes are attached to verbs to drive various forms of nouns the language. First of all, it noted that in Gìdírὲ, when (gE-) is prefixed to an action verb, we derive a noun that indicates the act of performing the action denoted by the verb. It was further noted that agentive nominalization is realised in Gederɛ by simultaneously attaching E……lɛ, or be……lɛ to the stem of an action verb. It should be noted however that while E……lɛ is attached to verbs to derive singular agentive nouns, be……lɛ derives plural forms. Additionally, it was revealed that in Gìdírὲ, locative nominalization is realized by attaching the prefix gE- and the locative suffix –kʋn to the stem of an action verb. From this process, we derive a noun that indicates "the place where the action designated by the verb to which the affixes are attached is performed." It was also evident that in selecting an affix as a prefix for a particular stem, you need to consider whether the stem vowel is +ATR or –ATR. That is, when the vowel in verb stem to which a prefix is attached is +ATR, then the prefix ge- will be used. On the other hand, when the vowel is –ATR, the prefix gɛ- will be used. Similarly, e……lɛ, (be…..lɛ) or ɛ……..lɛ (bɛ……lɛ) are selected whether the stem vowel is +ATR or –ATR

### 5.2 Conclusions
In Gìdírὲ, vowel harmony plays a crucial role in the nominalization as a derivational process in the language. The vowel in the stem always determines the type of affix to be attached to stem to derive the new word. Morphologically, the prefixation of [gE-] to action verbs to derive nouns that denote "the act of performing the action

denoted by the verb," and circumfixation of gE………..kʊ̀n and e…… lɛ (ɛ….lɛ) to action verbs to derive locative and agentive nouns respectively, have been identified as being critical in affixation as a derivational processes in Gìdírɛ̀.

## 5.3 Recommendation for Future Study

This study concentrated solely on nominalization as a derivational process in Gìdírɛ̀. Future research into the language will focus on other aspects such as inflectional processes, tonal structure, and other in the language.

## Glossary/Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| ADJ | Adjective |
| ADV | Adverb |
| +ATR | Advanced Tongue Root |
| -ATR | Unadvanced Tongue Root |
| Dtn | Determiner |
| FTU | Future |
| HAB | Habitual |
| LOC | Locative |
| N | Noun |
| NOM | Nominaliser |
| PL AGT | Plural agentive |
| PRG | Progressive |
| Pron | Pronoun |
| PST PRG | Past progressive |
| PST | Past tense |
| S | Subject |
| SG AGT | Singular agentive |
| SMP PST | Simple past |
| SPron VO | Subject pronoun Verb Object |
| SVO | Subject Verb Object |
| V | Verb |

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