| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Linguistics Properties of Adjectives in Iraqw

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| ABSTRACT

The main focus of this study was to investigate linguistic items representing adjectives in Iraqw, a southern Cushitic language spoken in Manyara region and in some parts of the Arusha region. The study was conducted in Babati district council, specifically in Daredakati and Gajal villages. Sentence questionnaires were used as the main method of data collection, complemented by extraction from written materials and elicitation methods that included Iraqw narrations and songs. This study was qualitative, guided by the prototype theory proposed by Elianor Rosch in (1970s) and involved five respondents who are native speakers of Iraqw and competent in Kiswahili. Adjectives are classified based on their prototypicality. This study employed three criteria for word categorization: semantic, morphological, and syntactic. The researchers found only 44 prototype adjectives, 10 derived from adjectives and nouns, 11 flexible adjectives, 10 cardinal numbers, four quantifiers, and two represented by nouns, and concluded that Iraqw adjectives form an independent word category.

| KEYWORDS

Adjective, Iraqw, Semantics, Morphology, Syntax, Predicative, Attributive.

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

1. Introduction

There are different ways in which property concepts can be expressed in world language. Certain languages use adjectives to convey adjectival meanings, whereas others use verbs and nouns to convey the same meaning. Linguists (Baker, 2001, 2003; Dixon & Aikhenvald, 2004) have long acknowledged that word categories exist in all languages. According to these studies, adjectives belong to the universal lexical category. Baker (2003) argues that all natural languages have lexical categories of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. In their earlier works, other scholars (Chafe, 2012; Dixon, 1982) claimed that the category of adjectives is not universal. Linguists can arrive at sound judgments regarding the category of adjectives by describing and discussing how adjectival meanings are expressed in various languages. Cross-linguistic heterogeneity in the expression of adjectival meanings is why linguists cannot agree on the status of adjectives as universal categories. Koreans are reported to have no adjectives. According to Kim (2002), what may be regarded as adjectives in Korean are stative verbs, as exemplified in (1).

    1.   a)   *Nanun hayngbokhata*

       Na – nun   hayngbokha-ta

             I - top   happy -Dcl

             'I am happy'.

      b) *Hayngbokhan haksayng*

          hayngbokha-n haksayng

          happy-N student

          'a happy student'

         Source: Kim (2002)

In Korean, *hayngbokha* 'happy' is said by Kim to be represented by a stative verb. Thus, adjectives vary across languages. This made us curious to conduct this study to categorize adjectives and determine how adjectival concepts are presented in Iraqw.

2. Adjectives in different languages

The identification of adjectives is a challenging task in many languages. According to Dixon (1999, p. 1), adjectives are a significant word class that comprises words that characterise attributes or properties. According to Betti (2021), a linguist who studied English adjectives, an adjective (Adj) is a term that alters a noun or noun phrase or characterises its referent. Its semantic function is to modify the information provided by a noun (p. 25). Betti commented that an adjective can come either before a corresponding noun on a prepositive basis or after a corresponding noun on a postpositive basis, depending on the language. In a particular instance, an adjective's pre- or post-position can be affected by structural, contextual, and stylistic factors.

Adjectives in Bantu languages are among the word categories whose openness is not predictable. In Kiswahili, Dixon (1970) and Welmers (1973) suggested that adjectives are a minor class. A minor class is one whose members are few and to which no new members (or not many new members) may be added. The typological consideration that Niger-Congo languages generally have a small class of adjectives (Welmers, 1973) supports this idea. Rugemalira (2008) argued that there are only a few non-derived adjectives, which in other cases may be expressed through verbs and nouns in Bantu languages. He derived this conclusion from seven languages including Runyambo. Conversely, Goodness (2014), Kahigi (2008), and Mpofu (2009) assert that in Bantu languages such as Nyiha (spoken in Tanzania and Zambia), Shona (spoken in Zimbabwe), and Kiswahili (spoken in Eastern Africa), adjectives are independent and open lexical categories. Mpofu (2009) analyzed 90 adjectives in Shona. Goodness (2014) found approximately 45 core and 45 derived adjectives *in Nyiha.*

According to Mpobela (2018), Runyambo has only 13 adjectives in a closed class. There are just six essential adjectives, three flexible adjectives, two adjectives derived from verbs, and two adjectives derived from nouns (p. 263 – 264). This study set out to determine the linguistic properties of adjectives in Iraqw, which belongs to a different language family.

Studying adjectives in Nyakyusa, Lusekelo, and Mpobela (2017) provides the following examples: Following Dixon (2004), a few instances of property roots in Nyakyusa are provided in (2):

2.   a) The quality associated with height (*-pimba* 'short') as in
        A-βa-ndu   *a-βa-pimba*
        AU-2-person[1]   AU-2-short
        'Short persons'

     b) Quality associated with color (*-elu* 'white') as in
        I-mi-enda   *i-mi-elu*
        AU-4-cloth   AU-4-white
        'White garments'

     c) the quality associated with age (*-kʊʊlu* 'old').
       I-fɪ-kota   *i-fi-kʊʊlu*
       AU-7-chair   AU-7-old
       'Old chairs'
     Source: Lusekelo and Mpobela (2017, p. 5)

Nyakyusa adjectives are said to belong to different semantic fields such as quantity associated with hight such as *-pimba* 'short,' quality associated with age such as *-kʊʊlu* 'old,' and quality associated with color such as *-elu* 'white' as suggested by Dixon (2004).

Goodness (2021) conducted a study on Kiswahili adjectives by examining the aspects of meaning: semantic classes, gradability, antonyms, and intensification. He said that Kiswahili adjectives have rich meanings, and when pragmatics are taken into consideration, Kiswahili adjectives may express an infinite number of meanings. Goodness (2021) used only semantic criteria to classify adjectives. This study concentrated on Adjectives in Iraqw, a Cushitic language, by applying three criteria of word categorization: semantic, morphological, and syntactic.

The identification of Adjectives in Cushitic languages also appears challenging. Banti (1986) described adjectives in East Cushitic in general and concluded that the Cushitic group does not generally have adjectives. Adjectival functions are performed using adjectival words that are either noun or verb classes. In discussing adjectives in Diraytata, a Cushitic language spoken in southern

Ethiopia, Tesfaye (2010) groups adjectives into five groups following Dixons semantic classification, such as dimension, physical property, human propensity, color, and value (pp. 2-4). Tesfaye (2021) asserted that not all languages in the Cushitic family fall neatly into the adjective group. Two criteria were used to reach this conclusion: grammar and semantics. He submits that the language has 29 adjectives, of which 21 are core and eight are non-semantic. His research, however, supports the existence of a distinct adjective category in Diraytata, distinct from noun and verb categories, an idea contrary to Banti (1986). To him, adjectives perform adjectival functions and not adjectival words that fall under noun or verb categories (Tesfaye, 2021).

Mous (2017) "The Sketch of Iraqw Grammar" addressed issues related to adjectives in Iraqw. He said that adjectives follow nouns and agree with gender in which they are modified. He does not provide a clear number of adjectives in Iraqw (pp 12-13). Alphonce (2016) "The structure of Iraqw Noun Phrase'' also addressed the issue related to adjective as a word that describe the quality or attributes of nouns and should agree with number and gender. She does not give the exact number of adjectives in Iraqw (pp 12 - 13). Again, Alphonce and Lusekelo (2021) discuss adjectives in Iraqw and conclude that Iraqw has an open class of adjectives with 73 core adjectives and 180 derived adjectives, making a total of 253. In their discussion, however, only 29 core adjectives were discussed and not 73 adjectives as they claimed. Also, what they term reduplicated adjectives possesses the features of the adjective phrase eg. *Ququmamaar* "very short" *boo/amboo/* "very black" (see p 258) which in this study are not discussed as we concentrated on the adjectives and how they are formed from other word categories and how they derive into other categories but not the intensification of the same adjectives. In addition, compound adjectives like *sagainsaahh* "a stupid man" have features of NP. They appear to have more nouns than adjectives. Again, derived adjectives discussed in pp 260 - 261 like *sooni* "barren girl or cow" and *na/ari* " barren farm or field" were discussed in this study as property concepts with more than one word category since there is no any derivation process included. In this study, adjectives and property concepts like *niina* which possess several meanings as "small, young, little" were treated as one adjective. That being the case, this study is important, as we discuss adjectives intensively and add other adjectives that they have not discussed in their chapter.

It has been claimed that there are different ways in which property concepts can be expressed in other languages. Certain languages use adjectives to convey adjectival meanings, whereas others use verbs and nouns to convey the same meaning. This paper aims to investigate how adjectival meanings are presented in Iraqw, a Cushitic language spoken in Northern Tanzania.

3. Theoretical framework
The paper used prototype theory, which states that "a prototype is a typical case of a category and other elements are assimilated to the category on the basis of their perceived resemblance to the prototype' (Langacker, 1987, p. 371). According to this theory, membership levels are determined by the similarities between members. The development of the prototype theory began with Eleanor Rosch in the 1970s. Several researchers have applied this theory. Kahigi (2008) studied the adjectives in Kiswahili. Using prototype theory, Kahigi said that, 'adjectives in Kiswahili are a major and open-word class. He provides original adjectives, borrowed adjectives, and derived adjectives from Kiswahili. Furthermore, Mpobela (2018) studied adjectives in Runyambo and identified 13 adjectives, among which only six were core adjectives and the others were derived from other word categories. The theory was applied in this study to test all adjectival concepts found in Iraqw using three criteria: semantics, morphology, and syntax.

This theory was used as a framework to represent a range of prototypicalities for adjectives and arrange them in the hierarchy of prototypicality. The terms that exhibited all three criteria were referred to as prototype adjectives, whereas those with two or one criterion were considered fewer prototypes. Items were identified as belonging to categories if they exhibited more features in another category than the adjectives.

4. Methodology
This study is qualitative in nature, as it includes descriptions of the properties of adjectives in Iraqw. It was conducted in Babati district at Daredakati and Gajal villages. The informants were selected through snowball sampling as the researchers needed a total of five informants with deep linguistic and cultural knowledge of Iraqw. The purpose of the research was communicated to the informants before they were asked for informed consent to assist in the data collection process.

Data for this study were collected using a sentence questionnaire in which Kiswahili adjectives were included in 100 Kiswahili sentences, and informants were asked to provide the Iraqw version of the sentences. Four informants were given a written questionnaire and the participation were optional which means that the respondents were free to withdraw from the study. The sample of the cover page of the questions were attached. Elicitations were also used, in which the researchers collected narrations and songs from a native speaker from which adjectives were extracted and analysed. Secondary data, including short stories and songs, were extracted from written sources. Four respondents filled out the questionnaires and one respondent

provided narrations and songs. Data were analysed by tabulation and morphological parsing. Informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

5. Ethical Considerations

The researchers observed ethical issues by requesting an official permission letter from the Vice Chancellor of St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), which introduced them to the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), then RAS introduced the researchers to the District Administrative Secretary (DAS), who gave the letter that introduced the researchers to the Ward Executive Officer (WEO) and Village Executive Officers (VEO's) who facilitated permission for researchers to visit the selected area to obtain data. The ethical evidences that were used during the data collection were also attached.

6. Classification of Adjectives in Iraqw

The classification of Adjectives in Iraqw is based on three criteria: semantic, morphological, and syntactic.

6.1 The semantic properties of Adjectives in Iraqw

The Iraqw adjectives and adjectival concepts were classified according to Dixon's (1977, 1982, 2004) semantic classes. The semantic function of adjectives is to modify a noun, that is, they provide more details about a noun. Dixon (2006) presents adjectives belonging to dimensions (big, short, small), age (new, old), value (good or bad), color (white, black), physical property (hard, soft), human propensity (happy, kind, angry, stupid, clever), speed (fast, slow), and quantification (all, few), as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Iraqw Adjectives semantic classes

Dimension	Physical properties	Value	Human propensity
Yangari 'big'(pejorative)	*Gawit* 'hard'	*Hhohhoò*'beautiful/handsome	*Buhh* 'angry'
Ur 'big '	*Natsatsaá* 'smooth'	*Tlaakw* 'bad'	*Qwalala/* 'happy'
ququmar 'short'	*Wananaà* 'soft'	*Hhoò* 'good or nice'	*Gurbo/* 'unhappy'
niina 'small'	*Inslahh* 'light'	*Tlitl/ár* 'ugly'	*Daktani* 'stupid'
Intlaaxw 'broad/wide'	*Giiw* 'dark'	*Dikh* 'rotten'	*Tsaá* 'gentle/cool'
Tleer 'tall'	*Gwa/*a 'bright'	*/eetl* 'raw/unripe'	*Tli/uso* 'lazy'
Irawk 'narrow'	*Hhohhoo* 'clean'	*Hamaar* 'ripe'	*Hhaw*'absent-minded
Ganaà 'straight '	*Daqatlaakw* 'weak/ill'	*Mamahh* 'sour'	*/uru* - strong -
Peehh 'wide'	*Geehhoò* 'visible'	*Qarqar* 'bitter'	*Dii* - jealous
Wahhaar 'fat'	*Geetlwaakw* 'invisible'	*Tsuù* 'delicious'	*Gurhhoó* 'kind/good'
/atlaar 'fat'	*Slasla/aar* 'dirty'	*Narkutamo* 'poor'	*Ilakahar* 'clever'
Daqanïina 'thin'		*Lò* 'true'	*Afahhoo* 'boasting'
Colour	**Age**	**Cardinal numbers**	*Afabo/o* 'innocent'
/áwaak 'white'	*/Ában* ' new'	*Wak* 'one'	*Alhor* 'clever'
Boó/ 'black'	*Qaren* 'old'	*Tsar* 'two'	*Gurgawit* 'fearless'
Daa/át 'red'	*Diïn* 'old'	*Tam* 'three'	*Hefeè* 'careless'
Qanzaar 'green'	*Niina* 'Young'	*Tsiyahh* 'four'	*Barawasl* 'careless'
Meehh 'black and white'		*Koan* 'five'	
Hhins 'dark'	**Quantification**	*Lahhoò* 'six'	
Hansa/ay 'brown with white stripes'	*Yarii* 'many'	*Faanqw* 'seven'	
Na' - brown (cattle)	*Buut* 'enough'	*Dakáat* 'eight'	
	Sleemero 'all'	*Gwalèel* 'nine'	
	Nina 'little'	*Mibaanqw* 'ten'	
	Kilos 'only'		

Source: Field Data (2024)

Table 1 presents the semantic classification of adjectives and their meanings in Iraqw. As Dixon (2004) explained, the semantic classes of adjectival concepts in Iraqw are divided into semantic classes, as presented in Table 1 and discussed below:

6.1.1 Dimension/ Size

Adjectives of dimensions in Iraqw were used to describe the size, extent, or measurements of an object or concept. 11 adjectives were collected, as presented in Table 1. Adjectives of dimension or size can be used with nouns to express a variety of meanings. For example, the adjective *ur-* 'big' which is in singular form can be used to modify nouns that can be measured in terms of height, breadth or length. A good example is *he ur* 'a big person' or *do ur* 'a big house'. Adjectives of dimension in Iraqw are used with living as well as non-living things. Adjectives such as *daqanina* 'thin' and *wahhar* 'fat' are used only with living things which are people and animals, while others such as *irawk* 'narrow' as well as *intlaaxw* 'broad or wide' are used only with non-living things. For example,

> Eg 3. a) *doó intlaaxw*   '*a* wide room'
> b) *na/oo niina'*,   'a small child'
> c) *garmo tleer*   'a tall boy'
> d) *Lohir ququmar*   'short road'

The adjectives in 3 are used with living and non–living things in Iraqw. The data reveal that the same adjective in Iraqw may refer to different dimensions that can be concrete objects or abstract entities that cannot be physically measured. This is supported by Dixon (1982) and Thompson (1988, p. 168), who found that adjectives such as big, little, long, and wide are used when expressing dimensions. Other scholars such as Mpobela (2018) and Mpofu (2008) also provide evidence. Mpofu exemplified adjectives of dimension in Shona such as *-femi* 'fat,' *-tete* 'thin, narrow' *-kura* 'big' and *-onda* 'thin. ' On the other hand, Mpobela gives examples of adjectives of dimension in Runyambo such as *reingwa* 'tall,' *ce* 'small or thin' and *gufu* 'short. '

6.1.2 Physical properties

A physical property is a characteristic of a part that can be observed or measured without changing its identity. Physical properties include density and hardness. The Iraqw adjectives in this group describe the physical appearance of things, especially nouns, and 11 adjectives were collected and discussed, as presented in Table 1. These adjectives can be used with objects that are common nouns and abstract entities to convey metaphorical expressions.

> 4. a) *na/o daqatlaákw*   'a weak/ill child'
> b) *doò ku gehhoò*   'the room is visible'
> c) *bohong' ku geetlwaakw* 'the hole is invisible'
> d) *Ukutar natsatsaà*   'a smooth wall'

From the above, 4 (a) is used with living things only, 4 (b & c) is used with non – living while 4 (d) is used with both living and non–living things.

6.1.3 Value

The findings reveal that there are adjectives in Iraqw that describe the way something looks. Value refers to how good or bad something is. Dixon (1982) generalizes that adjectives in this class always contain the adjectives good and bad, as presented in Table 1.

> 5. a) *Hee narkutamo*   'a poor person'
> b) *Muru/aymara diikh* 'the rotten food'
> c) *He hhoo*   'a good person'
> d) *Dasir hhohhoò*   'a beautiful lady'

In (5), adjectives of value are used to modify the nouns. In Example 5(a), *narkutamo* refers to a poor person, and this is used with living things only. Adjective *diikh* 'rotten' in 5(b) is used with non – living while adjectives *hhoo* 'good or nice' and *hhohhoò* in 5(c & d) are used with both living and non – living things in Iraqw. The adjective *hhohhoò* can mean beautiful or handsome, depending on the subject.

6.1.4 Human Propensity / behaviour

In Iraqw, these adjectives were used to describe attitudes towards both human beings and animals. Adjectives such as *buhh* 'angry,' *daktani* 'stupid,' *qwalala/* 'happy' are among the adjectives for human propensity in Iraqw. As presented in Table 1, 17 adjectives were collected from the field. Adjectives of human propensity in Iraqw can be categorized into positive and negative. Positive are those used to show the goodness of a person or animal, and negative are those used to show badness. Examples of positive adjectives are *Qwalala/* 'Happy,' *tsaá* 'gentle or cool,' */uru* 'strong, *hhoó* 'kind/good', as well as *ilakahar* 'clever. ' Adjectives representing negative behavior are *buhh* 'angry,' *daktani* 'stupid,' *tli/uso* 'lazy,' *hhaw* 'careless,' as well as *dii* 'jealous. '

The adjectives of human behavior are also found in Kiswahili by Goodness (2021, p. 9) who gives positive behavior such as *-pole* 'polite,' *-bunifu* 'creative,' and negative behavior such as *-vivu* 'lazy' and *-korofi* 'cruel.'

6.1.5 Colour
Eight adjectives for colour were found in the field, as shown in Table 1. Among these, five are basic colours and three are non–basic colours. Five basic colours are: */awak* 'white, ' *da/at* 'red, ' *boo/* 'black, ' qanzar 'green,' and *hhins* 'dark. ' Non-basic are: *mehh* 'black and white,' *na* 'brown with white triples,' and *hansa/ay* 'brown' (cattle).

6. a) *Imbori ka /awak*   'Imbori is white'
    b) *Losir da/aten*   'red beans'
    c) *Ung'qwarir qanzar*   'a green sheet'
    d) */Amenir boo/*   'a black woman'
    Source: Field Data (2024)

The findings show that colour terms can also be used with clothes depending on the colour itself. Colour such as *meehh* in Iraqw is used as a name for ticks which in Iraqw are called *Mehhemo* 'tick'. *Hhins* are usually used with a hyena because they are colored like a hyena. *Hansa/ay* and *na'* are both commonly used in cattle. *Hhansa/ay* is a cow colour term for a black or brown cow with a white stripe on its belly and neck.

6.1.6 Age
There are adjectives in Iraqw that refer to age. Adjectives such as */aben*, 'new,' *qaren/din* 'old' as well as *nina* 'young' refer to age. Adjectives of age describe living things and non-living objects; these adjectives also appear in other semantic types such as quantity. A good example is the adjective *nina* which appears in terms of both age and quantity. Only four age adjectives were collected from the field. Age in Iraqw is differentiated between new and old and between young and old. This feature is similar to that discussed by Mpobela (2018) in Runyambo.

7. *a*) *Hhawatu /aben* 'a new man/husband'
    b) *Doò qaren*   'old house'
    c) *Amara diin*   'old woman'
    d) *Na/o nina*   'young child'

Adjectives referring to age in Iraqw are used for living and non–living things as presented in 7. Here, the adjective *nina* is used to express young people or those with a low or no leadership position in a government.

6.1.7 Quantification
Quantity refers to the amount that may increase or decrease. Adjectives of quantity may be used with different kinds of nouns to create meanings. These nouns can be either countable or uncountable. This is the case in Bantu languages including Kiswahili in which Goodness (2021, p. 11) refers to adjectives such as *-dogo* 'few or little,' *mengi* 'many' and *zima* 'whole' which he divided into countable and uncountable. Quantity in Iraqw is expressed through quantifiers such as *yarii* 'many,' *nina* 'few/little', *tlemero* 'all' etc. as presented in Table 1. The quantifier *yarii* 'many' is the opposite of *nina* 'few' and is also gradable when used in the sentence.

8. a) *muk yarii*   'many people'
    b) *muru/aymar buut* 'enough food'
    c) *mu tlemero*   'all people'
    d) *muk nina*   'few people'

All eight quantifiers are used with living and non–living things, which can be counted or uncounted.

6.1.8 Cardinal Numbers
In Iraqw, cardinal numbers from one to ten as seen in Table 1, are used as property concepts. Only two numbers reflect the features of adjectives, whereas the rest of the cardinal numbers can be represented by two, because there are no changes in nouns. *He wa*k 'one/single person, *muk tsar* 'two people' or s*leer wak* 'a single cow, ' *hikwaa tam* 'three cows, ' etc..

6.2 Morphological properties of Adjectives in Iraqw
Under this criterion, adjectives in Iraqw were classified according to the affixes they received. The core and derived adjectives in Iraqw are consistent with the nouns in which they occur: Nouns in Iraqw are characterized by three genders, masculine, feminine,

and plural, and adjectives should also be expressed based on these three genders as nouns. Adjectives are arranged depending on their prototypicality, that is, from core adjectives, derived adjectives (derived from adjectives and nouns), property concepts belonging to more than one category, and finally property concepts represented by other word categories (nouns). Dixon (1999, p. 3) argued that, in almost all languages, there are intrinsic grammatical criteria to acknowledge the word categories of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

6.2.1 Core Adjectives in Iraqw

Core adjectives in Iraqw are formed by the root/base, without any affixation process. According to these findings, Iraqw has 44 core adjectives, based on their morphological merit. These are purely adjectives since there are no affixes added to their roots to form them. This is related to Tesfaye (2021), who found 21 core adjectives in Diraytata. Core adjectives in Iraqw are presented in Table 2, where each adjective is inflected into three genders: masculine, feminine, and plural.

Table 2: Core Adjectives in Iraqw

Masculine	Feminine	Plural	Gloss
úr	*úr*	*úren*	Big/old
/ábén	*/ában*	*/ábèn*	New
Qarén	*Qarèn*	*Qarèn*	Old
kahár	*Kahàr*	*Kahàren*	Dry
da/á	*da/à*	*da/ten*	Red
qanzaár	*qanzàr*	*Qanzaren*	Green
gawít	*gawìt*	*gawden*	Hard /diffficult
Tsaá	*Tsaà*	*Tsaen*	Gentle or cool
ilakahár	*ilakahàr*	*Ilakaharen*	Clever
Dìn	*diin*	*Diné*	Old
/atlaár	*/atlaàr*	*/atlaare*	'fat'
wananaà	*wananaá*	*wananair*	Soft
natsatsaà	*natsatsaá*	*Natsatsair*	Smooth
Tsuù	*Tsú*	*Tsuir*	Sweet/delicious
gwa/a	*gwa/at*	*gwa/atir*	Bright
hháw	*hhàp*	*Hhawir*	Careless
buùhh	*Búhh*	*buhhir*	Angry
Barawásl	*Barawàsl*	*Barawáslir*	'careless'
hamar	*hamat*	*hamar/hamarir*	Ripe
mamaàhh	*mamáhh*	*mamahhir*	Yeast
Hefeé	*Hefeè*	*Hefeir*	'careless'
Wahhaár	*Wahhaàt*	*Wahharir*	'fat'
iraákw	*iraàkw*	*irakw*	Narrow
tlaákw	*tlaàkw*	*tlakw*	Bad
níina	*nìina*	*nínakw*	Small/little/young/few
/áwaà	*/áwaá*	*/áwak*	White
daqaniína	*daqanìna*	*Daqenakw*	Thin
sleér	*sleèr*	*slet*	Tall/high
slasl/aár	*slasl/aàr*	*slasl/át*	Dirty or bad
ququmár	*ququmàr*	*ququmat*	Short
inslaáhh	*Inslaàhh*	*Insláhh*	Lighter/easy
intlaákh	*intlaàkh*	*intlákh*	Wide
diíkh	*dìikh*	*diikh*	Rotten
peéhh	*peèhh*	*pehh*	'wide'
hhohhoó	*hhohhoò*	*hhohhó*	Beautiful/ handsome
hhoó	*Hhoò*	*Hhó*	Good/kind
Iloó	*Iloò*	*Iló*	Heavy
Lò	*Lò*	*Lò*	true
boó/	*boò/*	*bo/*	Black
/eétl	*/eètl*	*/etl*	Raw
Yangarí	*Yangarì*	*Diren*	big

Source: Researcher, (2024)

Table 2 presents core adjectives and their gender inflections where adjectives are arranged following their regularity in suffixes when forming a plural gender. This is because masculine and feminine gender are mostly differentiated through tone where in most cases, masculine use the high tone while feminine uses the lower tone. *Yangari* 'big' seems to lack plural form since it is pejorative. Instead, it uses *diren* 'big' in the plural form which is another word which is used only for plural. When it comes to plural gender, it was found that *-en* is more productive followed by *-ir, -k, -t, -o,* and *-h*. Other affixes are less productive in the formation of plural gender. The morphology of adjectives in Iraqw reflects the gender of the noun they modify. However, masculine and feminine gender, despite being differentiated by tone, they seem to lack uniformity when it comes to vowel length. In some adjectives like *qanzaar* 'green', *tsuu* 'sweet' *buuhh* 'angry', *mamaahh* 'yeast' and *qarqar* 'bitter', the vowels are long in masculine but short in feminine.

9. a) A*ko ku ilakahár*
   N grandfather   V(be) Adj clever
   'Grandfather is clever'

   b) *Ayishigar ee ka hhohhoò*
   N Aunt (fem) my V(be) Adj beautiful
   'My aunt is beautiful'

   c) *Qamu ki uren*
   N qaymo suff -u V(be) Adj ur suff -en
   N farms V(be) Adj big
   'The farms are big'
   Source: Field Data (2024)

The constructions in nine evicences in which core adjectives are used in three genders, including 9 (a), which is masculine, 9(b), feminine, and 9(c), are of plural gender. The nature of the subject determines the type of adjective to be attached: masculine, feminine, or plural.

6.2.1.1 Derivation of Core Adjectives into noun
Some adjectives in Iraqw become nouns through the addition of suffixes including *-ema, -ay, -u, -ti, -o*, and *-ma*. In Iraqw, adjectives are used to form nouns. Table 3 presents examples in which nouns are formed from adjectives through the addition of the suffix *-ema*.

Table 3: Core Adjectives Derived to Nouns by *-ema*

Adjective	Gloss	Noun	Gloss
Úr	Big/old	*Uremà*	Elder
Yangarí	big	*Yangaremà*	Bigness
Nína	Small/little/young/few	*Ninaemà*	Smallness
Intlaákw	Wide	*Intlaákwemà*	widerness/width
Tleer	Tall/high	*Tleeremà*	tallness/highness
Iraákw	Narrow	*Iraákwemà*	Narrowness
/Ában	New	*/Ábemà*	Newness
Qarén	Old	*Qarémà*	Oldness
Hhoó	Good/kind	*Hhoóemà*	kindness/goodness
Tlaakw	Bad	*Slaakwemà*	Badness
Hamar	Ripe	*Hamaremà*	Ripeness
Mamaahh	Sour	*Mamaahhemà*	Yeast/sour
Qarqar	Bitter	*Qarqaremà*	Bitterness
Kahár	Dry	*Kaháremà*	Dryness
tsuù	Sweet/delicious	*Tsuùemà*	Sweetness
Natsatsaà	Smooth	*Natsatsaemà*	Smoothness
Daqaniina	Thin	*Daqaniinaemà*	Thinness
wananaà	Soft	*Wananaàemà*	Softness
Inslaáhh	Lighter/easy	*Inslaáhhemà*	Light
Gwa/at	Light	*Gwa/atemà*	Light
Iloó	Heavy	*Iloóemà*	Heaviness
Hhohhoó	Beautiful/ handsome	*Hhohhoóemà*	beauty
tsaá	Cool	*Tsaáemà*	Coolness
Ilakahaar	Clever	*Ilakahaaremà*	Cleverness
Geehhoò	Visible/open	*Geehhoòema*	Openness
Geentlakw	Invisible	*Geentlakwema*	Invisible things or entity
wahhar	Fat	*wahhar*	
hefee	Careless	*hefee*	Carelessness
ló	True	*ló*	Truth
/atlaar	Fat	*/atlaar*	Fatness
barawasl	Careless	*barawasl*	Carelessness
Peehh	Wide	*Peehh*	Width

Source: Researcher (2024)

A total of 26 adjectives in Iraqw capable of nominalizing the suffix *-ema* to become nouns are presented in Table 3. As Katamba (2003) stated, affix morphemes can be divided into two major functional categories: derivational and inflectional. Derivational morphemes create new words by either changing the meaning of the base to which they are attached or by changing the grammatical category or word class of the word.

Other adjectives can be derived into nouns through the addition of suffix *-ay* as presented in Section 10.

10.   Adjective + -*ay'*
        a) Q*uqumár* + -ay = *ququmanay*   'shortness'
    b) *Dìn*   + -ay =   *dimay*   'elder'
    c) *Diìkh*   + -ay = *Diìkhay*   'rottenness' or 'rotten'
    d) *Gawit*   + -ay = *gawdanay*   'hardness'
    e*) buuhh*   + -*ay* = *buhhay*   'anger'

The adjectives in 10 received *-ay* with some modifications in (a), (b), and (d). Among the five adjectives in 10, only two can be changed into nouns through the addition of *-ay*. These are *buuhh* 'angry' which changes to *buuhhay* 'anger' and *diikh* 'rotten' which changes to *diikhay* 'rottenness'. Others changed to nouns by some replacement and addition of the suffix *-ay*. Sounds were added before the suffix *-ay*. Adjective *ququmar* 'short' changes to noun by the replacement of -*n* with -*r* and the addition of *-ay* to form noun *ququmanay* 'shortness. ' Others are adjectives *din* 'old' and *gawit* 'hard. ' The adjective *din* forms the noun

dimay 'elder' by the replacement of *-m* with *-n* and the addition of *-ay*. Adjective *gawit* 'hard' is changed by the replacement of *-dan* to *-it* and the addition of *-ay* to get *gawdanay* 'hardness. ' It was found that other adjectives were changed into nouns by the addition of the suffix *-u* as in 11.

11. **Adjective + -ù**
    a) *Tlitl/ár + -ù = Tlitl/árú*   'dirtiness/badness'
     b) *Qarqar + -ù = Qarqarù*   'bitterness'
    c) */eetl + -u = /eetlu*   'rawness'

Adjective *qarqar* 'bitter' and t*litl/ár* 'bad' can be changed into nouns by the addition of either *-ema* or *-u*. Language users can opt to use either the suffix *-ema* or *-u* without any condition. Adjective */eetl* 'raw' can form a noun by the addition of only *-u* as in */eetlu* 'rawness. ' The other affixes are:

12. **Adjective + suffix '-tì'**
    Giw + -tì = giwtì   ' darkness'
    Adjective + suffix '-ó'
    Hhaw + **-**ó = Hhawo   'Carelessness'
    Adjective + suffix '-a'
    Gurhhoo + -a = gurhhooa   'kindness'

In (12), there are some examples of Iraqw adjectives in which we attach different suffixes to obtain a noun. Among all suffixes, *-ema* is more productive than other suffixes followed by-*ay* because it is used with many adjectives to form nouns than other suffixes. The suffixes *-u, -ti, -o,* and *-a* are less productive because they form few nouns.

In contrast, colour terms are purely adjectives in Iraqw, but when we add the suffix *-i,* they change from adjectives to nouns that represent people. Only eight color terms are used in Iraqw which are */awak* 'white, *bo/* 'black, *da/at* 'red,' *qanzar* 'green' and *meehh* 'black and white, *hhins* 'dark color, ' *na'* 'brown' and h*ansa/ay* 'black or brown with white stripe. ' Among the eight, only four were suffixed to form names, whereas the others were not used for people. Color terms can be converted into personal names by the addition of suffix *-i* as follows:

Table 4: Colour Terms Changes to Names in Iraqw

S/N	Color adjective	Suffix	Name	Gloss
01	*Boo/*	*-í*	*Bo/í*	A black person
02	*/awak*	*-í*	*/awaki*	A white person
03	*Da/at*	*-í*	*Da/ati*	Lit. Red person (brown)
04	*Meehh*	*-i*	*Meehhi*	Personal name

Source: Researcher, (2024)

From the data in Table 4, the nominalizing suffix *-i* is added to the adjectives to form personal names. When the suffix *-i* is added to the four adjectives of color, the adjectives changed to the names of people in Iraqw. These names can be used for both females and males. *Boo/i* means a black person, */awaki* is for white people, *Da/ati* is used for chocolate colors, and *Mehhi* is used for any person without considering their color.

6.2.2 Derived Adjectives in Iraqw
Adjectives in Iraqw can be derived from other adjectives and nouns. Some adjectives appear similar to the noun that they modify with slight changes caused by the addition of suffixes to the stem. The idea of derived adjectives is also supported by Lusekelo and Mpobela (2017, p.18) where most Nyakyusa adjectives are derived from other word categories. They concluded that out of 151 adjectives in Nyakyusa, 90 items were derived.

6.2.2.1 Adjectives Derived from Other Adjectives
It was found that in Iraqw, adjectives can be derived from other adjectives by the addition of   prefixes *daqa-, gur-,* and *ge-* before the root of a word. They have morphological features that are similar to those of core adjectives. The Adjectives in this group were presented in 13.

Prefix		Original adj		Derived	Gloss
13. a) *Daqa-*	+	*nina*	=	*daqanina*	'thin'
b) *Gur-*	+	*gawit*	=	*gurgawit*	'careless'
c) *Gur-*	+	*hhoò*	=	*gurhhoò*	'kind'
d) *Gur-*	+	*bo/*	=	*gurbo/*	'unhappy'
e) *Ge-*	+	*hhoò*	=	*gehhoò*	'visible'

Source: Field Data (2024)

The adjectives in 13 were derived from other adjectives. This process was not found to be productive because only five of the adjectives collected in Iraqw were derived from other adjectives. These adjectives are *daqanina* 'thin' and *gurgawit* 'careless,' *gurhhoò* 'kind,' *gehhoò* 'visible' and *gurbo/* 'unhappy.'

6.2.2.2 Adjectives Derived from Nouns
The data revealed that there are adjectives derived from nouns by the addition of affixes that differ depending on gender, which can be feminine, masculine, or plural, as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Adjectives Derived from Noun

S/N	Noun	Gloss	Masculine	Feminine	Plural	Gloss
01	*Narawk*	*Poverty*	*Narkutamo*	*Narkutoo*	*Narkute*	Poor
02	*Tli/a*	*Laziness*	*Tli/usamo*	*Tli/usoo*	*Tli/use*	Lazzy
03	*Daqar*	*Richness*	*Daqaramo*	*Daqartoo*	*Daqare*	Rich -
04	*Qwala/*	*Happiness*	*Qwalalaà/*	*Qwalalá/*	*Qwalala/ir*	Happy
05	*Mune*	*Anger*	*Munuu*	*Munut*	*Munutir*	Angry

Source: Field Data, (2024)

The data in Table 5 show that like the core adjectives, the adjectives derived from nouns agree with the nouns they modify. It was found that masculine adjectives are marked by the attachment of suffix -a*mo* or -*u* to a noun as presented in the table except for the noun *qwala/* in which there is tensing of vowel -*a* and the reduplication of -*la* forming *qwalalaà/* 'happy. '

6.2.3 Property Concepts belonging to more than one Word Category
It was found that in Iraqw, some words can be used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs, depending on how they are used in syntactic constructions. The difference lies in how they are used in the sentences. 11 property concepts belonging to more than one word category are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Property Concepts belonging more than one Word Category

Property Concept	Noun	Adjective	Adverb	Gloss
Ganaa	√	√	√	Straight
Afawasli	√	√		
Daktani	√	√		Stupid
/uru	√	√		Power/strength
Narkutamo	√	√		Poor
Daqaramo	√	√		Rich
Tli/usomo	√	√		Lazzy
Gantlii		√	√	Fast
Tsegemi		√	√	Slow
s*ooni*	√	√		Barren cow
na/ari	√	√		Barren farm

Source: Field Data (2024)

Morphologically, they have noun features, but most of them are not marked for gender, as reflected in adjectives. As most of these property concepts do not change their morphology, we cannot attach any affixes to them, as indicated in Table 6.

6.2.4 Property Concept Nouns
The researcher found that some items are nouns, although they are semantically adjectivals. These concepts do not receive affixes or tones to mark gender. Such nouns are used to represent property concepts. Because of their meanings, they have

adjective features.   Property concepts such as *dii* 'jealous' and *mune* 'anger' are nouns but used to express adjectives. This evidence is syntactic.

14. a) *Dii ka slawk*
           Dii (be-ka) Adj slawk
           N jealous V(be) Adj bad
           'Jealous is bad'.
      b) *Garmo dür kom*
         Garma   dii kom
         A boy   Jealous has
        'A jealous boy'

In 14 (a), the property concept *dii* 'jealous' is used as a noun, while in 14 (b), it is used as a modifier of the noun 'boy. '

6.3 Syntactic Properties of Adjectives in Iraqw
It was found that adjectives in Iraqw can be attributed (pre-nominal and post-nominal) as well as predicative, functioning as compliments. Gender was also marked in the relative link suffixed to the modified noun. Respondents gave simple sentences in Iraqw, which have the form of SOV, except for sentences that have a complement, which may take the SVC. Mous (2013) added that adjectives follow the nouns they modify and must agree with them according to gender. Mous (2007) adds that the kind of agreement in gender is purely tonal. Adjectives following a masculine noun are high, that is, they have a high tone in the final syllable. Adjectives following feminine or plural nouns have a low final syllable. Syntactically, adjectives appear in two positions in the Iraqw.

a)   An attributive position as noun modifier within a noun phrase and
b)   A predicative position as complement of verb.

6.3.1 Adjectives as a Modifier (Attributive Position)
Adjectives are words that modify nouns (see also Mpobela, 2018 p. 152). They are often called "describing words" because they provide further details about a noun. An attributive implies that it occurs before a verb.

15. a) *Na/o niná kuna laqwaal*
          Na/ay -o nina kuna laqwaal
          Child (masc) young pst born
          'Young male child was born'

      b) *Dasir hhohhoò kana duukh*
          Dasi-r hhhohhoò pst duukh
          A girl   beautiful pst marry
          'a beautiful girl was married

In 15, the adjectives *nina* 'young,' and *hhohhoò* 'beautiful' are used in an attributive position as modifiers of nouns in a noun phrase.

6.3.2 Adjectives as Complements (Predicative Position)
Predicatively, adjectives in Iraqw were found to follow the adjectival copula, which also agrees with head nouns in terms of gender. Adjectives in Iraqw sentences are placed after verb. When used as complement in Iraqw, helping verbs such as *ka* (fem), *ku* (masc) and *ki* (pl) should be used in a present tense (be) while *kana* (fem), *kuna* (masc) and *kina* (pl) used as a past tense 'was. ' These verbs should agree with the gender of the subject.

16. a) *Ni/ii ki ququmat*
          Ni/ii   ki   ququmat
          Children be(prs) short
          'Children are short'.

      b)   *Lohi ka hhohhoò*
          Lohi   ka   hhohhoò
          Lohi be(prs) beautiful

'Lohi is beautiful'

c) *Deemay ku /awak*
   Deemay   ku   /awak
   Deemay be(prs) white
 'Deemay is white'
   Source: Field Data (2024)

In 16, (a) is plural, (b) is feminine, and (c) is masculine in gender. Adjectives are used as compliments for nouns. As illustrated by Iraqw's adjectives in 16, Tesfaye (2021) indicates that adjectives in Diraytata also tend to occur in predicative positions as well (See also Dixon, 1999; Hallonsten, 2009). In addition, Lusekelo and Mpobela (2017, p. 6) shows how Nyakyusa adjectives occur in predicative positions. Generally, core and derived adjectives in Iraqw can appear in attributive and predicative positions, as seen in 15 and 16, respectively.

7. Summary and Conclusion
These findings indicate that adjectives in Iraqw form an independent word category. Core and derived adjectives possess all the qualities of the adjectives in Iraqw, including their morphological, semantic, and syntactic properties. Morphologically, the adjectives in these two groups are influenced by gender, reflecting the nouns they modify. Many property concepts in Iraqw are represented by adjectives, with a few represented by nouns. Adjectives in Iraqw form an independent word category because there are 44 prototype adjectives which stand by their own without any modification.

Iraqw property concepts can be divided basing on the prototypicality into the following ranks.

   i.   Core adjectives e.g.: *gawit, ququmar, qanzar, iloò, hhohhoò*
   ii.   Derived from other adjectives e.g.: daqanina, gurgawit
   iii. Derived from nouns:*e.g.: narkute, tliuse,*
   iv.   Quantifiers e.g.: *tlemero, kilos, nina,*
   v.   Cardinal numbers e.g.: *wak, tsar, tam...*
   vi.   Adjectival concepts belonging to more than one word category, such as *daktani, qeru*, */uru, daqare,*
   vii. Adjectival concepts represented by nouns e.g. *dii,* and *mune*

From the hierarchical list above, prototypicality decreases from the top to the bottom. The more you go down, the more the prototypicality decreases. The findings revealed that only the first, second, and third groups of property concepts carry prototype adjectives, with the first group being more prototypical than the others. Generally, some features make adjectives in Iraqw unique from other word categories, such as gender agreement with the nouns that they modify. Gender is an important phenomenon that differentiates masculine, feminine, and plural things. On the other hand, adjectives in Iraqw are used both attributively and predicatively, but not pre-nominal. Combining these three criteria led us to argue for an independent class of adjectives. It is recommended that more studies be conducted on gender in Iraqw and other Cushitic languages.

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                Prepared concept note
                 Prepared proposal
                 Prepared research tools
               Collected data
               Analysed the data
               Wrote the final article
1. **Lea Mpobela**: Formulated the topic
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                 Supervised the proposal writing
                 Reviewed the research instruments
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