Anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo: Binding Theory Approach

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Abstract: This work investigates Anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo. Anaphoric expressions are useful in the meaningful interpretations of NPs in a discourse. This study adopts the Binding Theory (BT) approach of GB syntax in examining anaphoric expressions in Igbo. Data for this work were elicited from native speakers of Ikwuano in Ikwuano area of Abia State, Nigeria. This paper was verified for cross-referencing purposes given the researcher's native speaking intuition and introspection. This study investigates anaphors and antecedents and also demonstrates the concepts of C-command and binding, among others in Ikwuano Igbo. The work reveals that Ikwuano Igbo has two types of anaphors- the reflexive and the reciprocal anaphors. The study demonstrates that the binding theory investigates the syntactic relationship that can or must hold between a given proform and its antecedent. In this respect, anaphors (reflexive and reciprocal pronouns) behave very differently from personal pronouns. The work demonstrates the concepts of binding, Co-indexation, Co-referentiality, locality constraint and C-constituent command to show dependency between the antecedents and the anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo. This paper also reveals that Ikwuano Igbo has anaphoric expressions that do not mark gender. The Binding Theory shows that the antecedent and the anaphor occur in the same governing category. Also it shows that a pronominal must be free in its governing category and an R-expression must be free everywhere in a sentence according to the regulating principles of the Theory. This paper reveals the descriptive nature of antecedent- anaphor relationship in the study of syntactic structures for grammaticality.

Keywords: Anaphors, Antecedents, Binding, C-command, Co-preferentiality

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1. Introduction

In generative grammar, the term anaphor is used in a special way in the generative tradition. Here it denotes what would normally be called a reflexive or reciprocal pronoun such as 'himself' or 'each other in English. In language, there are interdependent elements are bound syntactically in the sentence for possible interpretation. They do not play the same role, but may have the same significant. They are described as the antecedents and the proforms respectively. The proform often points to the antecedent or its interpretation. They can be co-indexed to show the dependence of the proform on its antecedent which is a necessary guide for a proper interpretation of the sentence.

Ndimele (2004:80) observes that anaphors are Noun Phrases which referent must be determined within the same clause, and cannot have an independent reference. An NP in a nearby clause cannot determine the meaning of the anaphor. This implies that an anaphor cannot signify anything not within the clause that bears it. Horrocks (1993:109) further describes anaphors as NPs whose reference is necessarily determined sentence internally and which cannot have an independent reference. The emphasis is on the conditions under which NPs in the same sentence are interpreted. The antecedent and the anaphor are usually co-indexed. Co- indexing is assigning the same notational index to the two NPs that have the same interpretation. The reverse is the case with the elements that are not co-referential.

1.1. Definition of Terms
Anaphor
Cambridge dictionary defines anaphor as the "subsequent reference to an entity already introduced in discourse". Anaphor is the repetition of words or phrases in a group of sentences, clauses, or poetic lines. An anaphor is used in co-

referential relations, where one element in a sentence takes its meaning or reference from another. An anaphor is co-reference of one expression with its antecedent. The antecedent provides the information necessary for the anaphor.

Antecedent

The Cambridge dictionary defines antecedent as a noun, pronoun, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun.An antecedent is a thing or event happened or existed before another related thing or event. In grammar, an antecedent is an expression that gives its meaning to a proform. A profrom takes its meaning from its antecedent, for example *"Mary arrived late because traffic held her up"*. The pronoun *her* refers to and takes it meaning from *Mary*, so *Mary* is the antecedent of *her*. In English grammar, an antecedent is the noun or noun phrase that a pronoun refers to. An antecedent is an expression (word, phrase, clause and sentence) that gives its meaning to a profrom (pronoun, pro-verb, and pro-adverb). In English grammar, an antecedent is a subject that will be renamed by another word later in a sentence. The word that a pronoun replaces is known as its 'antecedent'.

Binding

The grammar, binding is the phenomenon in which anaphoric elements such as pronouns are grammatically associated with their antecedents. For instance the English sentence *"Mary saw herself"* the anaphor herself is bound by its antecedents *'Mary'*. Binding theory concerns syntactic restrictions on nominal reference. There are principles that are associated with the binding theory. The binding principles are Principle A: an anaphor must be bound in its binding domain.
Principle B: a pronoun must be free in its binding domain.
Principle C: R- expressions must be free. R-expression is a referential expression, such as "John" or "the dog", one that, unlike pronouns and anaphora. Independently refers to picks out, an entity in the world.

C- Command

C-command is a shortened form of constituent command. In generative grammar and related frameworks, a node in a parse tree C- commands its sister node and all of its sister's descendants. In these frameworks, C-commands play a center role in defining and constraining operations such as syntactic movement, binding and scope. In syntax, C-command is a binary relation between nodes in a tree structure.For a example a noun, C-command (uncountable) (syntax) the relationship between a node in a parse tree and its sibling nodes (usually meaning the children of the first branding node that dominates the node) and all the sibling nodes children.

Co- Referentiality

The anaphor and its antecedent are co-referents. Coreference is the relationship that binds the functions of two words. Anaphor binds the meaning of another word. Co-referentiality is a relationship between two words or phrases in which both refer to the same person or thing and one stands as a linguistic antecedent of the other. For instance, in *'She thought herself'* but not in *'She taught her'*. In grammar, coreference occurs when two or more expressions refer to the same person or thing, they have the same referent. For example, in *Bill said 'Alice would arrive soon,* and *She did'*, the words Alice and She refer to the same person. It means two words or phrases having reference to the same person of thing.

This study seeks to interpret anaphoric relations in Ikwuano Igbo as well as the free state of other NPs in sentences in Igbo. Data for this work were drawn through structured interviews with randomly selected native speakers of Ikwuano Igbo. Some of the questions (constructions with anaphoric expressions) were drawn from the work of other scholars in Igbo. The researcher also relied on her intuition as a native speaker to construct some sentences with antecedents and anaphors which also form a part of our data for analysis.

1.2. Objective of study

The work sets to achieve the following objectives:
- To examine the roles of anaphor in the grammar of Ikwuano Igbo.
- To differentiate between reflexive and reciprocal anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo.
- To illustrate how Igbo syntactic structures conform to the principle of Binding Theory of Noam Chomsky 1981.
- To provide a descriptive account of Government and Binding Theory.

It is envisaged that the results of our findings will be a significant contribution to the study of antecedent-anaphor relations in language. Furthermore, this study will help bring about a modification of some assumptions of our theoretical framework.

2. Literature review

2.1. Anaphoric expressions in Igbo

Some of the popularly cited works in Igbo grammar (Green & Igwe, 1963; Carrell, 1970; Emenanjo, 1978, 2015; Oluikpe, 1979; Uwalaka, 1988; Mmadike, 1998; Ndimele, 2004; Anyanwu, 2007; Mbah, 2016). Some of the Igbo scholars have studied anaphor in one way or the other. Oluikpe (1979:73-96) analysis of reflexivization is based on the Transformational- Generative model. In his account, the reflexive transformation rule adds the feature set [+Pron,

+Refl] to the reflexivized NP which is realized as 'onwe' (self) plus a personal pronoun which agrees in number and person with its antecedent.

   Uwalaka's (1988:70-92) analysis of anaphoric relations in Igbo is conducted within the framework of Case Grammar. She has a lengthy discussion on the nature of reflexive and reciprocal verbs in Igbo. Mmadike (1998) discussed the antecedent-anaphor relations in the Olu dialect of Igbo. He went beyond Uwalaka's analysis incorporating the lexical Thematic Representation of the reflexive and reciprocal verbs in their own discussion. Mbah (2016) posits that the binding principle sets constraints under which nouns and pronouns have anaphors within a given syntactic domain. Mbah posits that in a minimal clause, a reflexive pronoun must have an antecedent, which gives meaning to the reflexive pronoun, that is,the semantic and grammatical features of the antecedent reflect on those of the reflexive pronoun.

   Ndimele (2004) discussed that an anaphor cannot have an independent reference, this means that an anaphor cannot stand without having an antecedent in a sentence. There is an extensive literature on antecedent-anaphor relations in languages such as English, Spanish and Russian (Lees & Klima, 1963; Chomsky, 1980, 1981). In the Transformational Generative framework, antecedent-anaphor relations involve a rule of reflexivization. It is this theory which is credited with the current practice of positing anaphors "in deep structure, with their antecedents determined by rules operating on derived structure" (Wasow, 1979:48). The study is conducted within the framework of the 'Government Theory' as proposed in Chomsky (1981(a), (1981(b), Williams (1986), Radford (1988) and Hageman (1991), among others.

3. Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework for this study is the Binding Theory (BT), which deals with the distribution of NPS. BT is concerned with the condition under which NPs in the same sentence, except expletives, are interpreted as Co-referentials with each other. In otherwords, BT regulates interpretation of NPs. Ndimele (2004:78) maintains that the main ideas behind BT are characterization of anaphoric or interpretive reflexive, reciprocals, pronominals, overt (lexical) NPs and Empty categories (ECS). This model has been adopted extensively in the analysis of linguistic data from European languages. But it has not been widely applied to data in Igbo. We therefore adopt the said theoretical framework for our analysis, in order to evaluate the extent to which it can be applied to a set of Igbo data. BT has three regulating principles which guide the interpretations as follows.

   Principle 1 – Anaphor must be bound in its governing category.
   Principle 2 – A pronominal must be free in its governing category.
   Principle 3 – A Referential expression (R- expression) must be free everywhere (cf Horrocks 1993: 110).

The BT principles above imply that in some sentence constructions two elements can have one referent which is an indication of the presence of proforms that this study seeks to highlight in Ikwuano Igbo. This analysis in Ikwuano Igbo is necessary because binding phenomenon can vary in interesting and subtle ways across languages, even across languages that are closely related. The material will also form a good material for the teaching of Igbo in schools within the language domain.

4. Presentation and analysis of data

An anaphor is that NP with an antecedent. An antecedent is that NP that replicates and shares its meaning with a proform /anaphor. The structures of the reflexive and reciprocal anaphors share a common morphological form. This form is made up of the derived nominal constituent 'onwe' (possessor) plus the relevant personal pronoun to be represented as 'X' for the Igbo personal pronoun. The structure of the Ikwuano Igbo reflexive and reciprocal anaphors are represented below.

Table 1: The Igbo possessive pronoun system

Singular		
Onyembụ (first person)	m- I	m - myself
Onyeabụọ (second person)	onwe+ gi- you	onwe + gi- yourself
Onyeatọ (third person)	ya –She/he/it	ya- him/herself/itself
Plural		
Onyembụ (first person)	anyị – we	anyị – ourselves
Onyeabụọ (second person)	onwe + unu – you	onwe + unu – yourselves (each other)
Onyeatọ (Third person)	ha – they	ha - themselves

From the table above, we observed that anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo are compounds which comprise a noun – 'onwe' – 'self' and a possessive pronoun which functions as a reflecting or reciprocating element. This is illustrated below.

(i)   onwe   m
         N +   POS.   PRO   (Ist PERS. SG)
         Self   my   -   myself
(ii)   Onwe   gi
         N +   POS.   PRO   (2nd PERS. SG)
         Self   your -   yourself
(iii)   Onwe   ya   (3rd PERS. SG)
         N +   POS. + PRO
         Self +   him/her/it   himself/herself/itself
(iv)   Onwe   anyị
         N +   POS.   PRO   Ist PERS. PL)

	Self	We		Ourselves
(v)	Onwe	unu		
	N +	POS.	PRO	(2nd PERS. PL)
	Self	your	-	yourselves
(vi)	Onwe	ha		
	N +	POS.	PRO	(3rd PERS. PL)
	Self	they		themselves

From the illustration, we also observed that a reflexive anaphor in Ikwuano Igbo does not mark gender distribution in third person as it is in some other languages – English and French, for instance. Gender distinction lies in the antecedent. The reflexive anaphor 'onwe – ya' can imply himself/herself/itself depending on the antecedent unlike the English language 'himself' and herself' and the French language 'lui meme' and 'elle meme' which denote masculine and feminine entities, respectively. Consider the English sentences and their Ikwuano Igbo translations below.

(a)	[The doctor]i wounded	[herself]i
(b)	[Onyedibịamerụrụ	[onweya]iahụ.
(c)	[Ipuọmọmerụrụ [onwe – ya] ahụ.
(a)	[The person]i wounded	[himself]i
(b)	[Onyeahụ]imerụrụ	[onweya]i ahụ.
(c)	[Mpama]i merụrụ	[onweya]i ahụ.

The English sentence in 2(a) marks the gender of the teacher in the reflexive anaphor 'herself', while the anaphor in Ikwuano Igbo translation 'onweya' does not mark the gender of the teacher. Example 2 (c) therefore becomes more appropriate in Ikwuano Igbo where the gender of the teacher is indicated in the subject. The same applies to the sentences in 3. The gender is indicated in the anaphor in 3 (a), but in the Igbo translation in 3(b) the anaphor, 'onweya', is ambiguous as it does not mark the gender, hence 3 (c) becomes preferred.

Anaphors usually do not have independent meaning except that which it derives from its antecedent. An example in Ikwuano Igbo is shown in 4 below.

[Mpama]i   kụrụ   [onweya]i
Mpama 3SG hit body – self
Mpama hits   himself

Antecedent   Anaphor

In 4 above, 'Mpama' is referential. It refers to a free entity in the free world and can make a meaning on its own. But 'onweya' cannot be interpreted without making reference to 'Mpama'. It has no independent meaning outside of 'Mpama' in the sentence in which it occurs. There is a relationship of a single referent (co- referentiality) that holds between 'Mpama' and 'onweya' which makes the sentence meaningful. The relationship holds because both 'Mpama' and 'onwe – ya' are in the same clause.

Unlike a reflexive anaphor however, a reciprocal anaphor expresses a mutual action or state between it and the antecedent. Consider the Igbo sentence below.

(a)	[MpamanaOgbonna]i	cherikọtara [onwe ha]i ihu.
(b)	Mpama and Ogbonna	face-PST POSS. them face-to-face
(c)	Mpama and Ogbonna faced each other.

The reciprocal anaphor 'onwe ha' (each other) is interpreted in such a way that the statement expresses a mutual relationship between 'Mpama and Ogbonna'. "In other words, the use of reciprocal pronouns postulates asymmetry between the actions or relation of the members of the relevant antecedents" (Kjellmer 1982: 241).

In grammatical exposes, reciprocal anaphors are generally treated alongside reflexive anaphors. This is because both the reflexive and reciprocal anaphors are assumed to share a great deal in common according to Kjellmer (Kjellmer, 1982: 236). The reciprocal pronouns are certainly reflexive in character, but unlike the real reflexive pronouns, they express a 'two way reflexive relationship". Intuitively, an important difference between reflexive and reciprocal expressions is the obligatory plural character of the noun phrase to which the latter refer.

Application of principle 1 of BT
Principle 1 of BT applies to anaphors and it states that "an anaphor must be bound in its governing category". The glaring generalizations here, according to Black (1998) are that:

(i) Anaphors must co-refer with another NP that precedes them in a sentence. It implies anaphors must be assigned a meaning by a preceding element in the same clause.

(ii) There is locality constraint for this co-referential relationship.
Co- referentiality means sameness in reference and signification. In BT, sameness in reference is marked by co-indexation. Indexation means assigning a notation to an element and co-indexation is assigning the same index to more than one element.

In sentence 4 above, 'Mpama' and 'onweya' are assigned the same index (co-indexed) – 'i' to show that both share the same referent. It is worth remarking that it is a tradition in BT that indexation starts from 'i' down the alphabetical order. The entity that 'Mpama' signifies is the same entity that 'onweya' signifies. Locality constraint defines the proximity in terms of domain of occurrence. 'Mpama and 'Onweya' are in the same sentence (domain). It has been

observed that where there is a background knowledge of the subject, sentence 4 can be realized as presented in 6 below.

6.   [O] kụrụ   [onweya] i
        3SG hit body – self
        He hits   himself.

                        ↑   ↑

        Antecedent   Anaphor

Let us assume that there was an interlocution between persons that led to the question and the answer in 7 and 8 below. Further assume that the interlocutors were uncertain of Mpama's activity, hence the question is based on the background knowledge of the subject.

        Mpama O mere gini?
        Mpama 3SG do Ques
        Mpama has done what?
.   [Ọ]i   gbara   [onweya]i [ọgwụ]
        3SG ASP–PERF-inject body self medicine
        (He) has injected himself.

Number 8 is the answer to 7. The 'O' has moved to replace the subject and can be co-indexed with the reflexive anaphor (onweya). The proform 'onweya' in this sentence cannot be interpreted without making reference to the 'O'. Moreover, the proform has no independent referent. The pronoun 'O' automatically replaces the Mpama. Based on the background knowledge as earlier said, the speaker understands that the referent of the pronoun 'Ọ' is Mpama.

     See example 9 where the marker for Mpama and Ogbonna – plural (antecedents) change to 'ha'. The 'ha' can also replace the Mpama and Ogbonna in a sentence in an answer to a question where there is a background knowledge of the subjects as illustrated in 9 and 10 below. This may be regarded as a case of pronominalization but we are emphasizing the co-referentiality and antecedent – anaphoric relationship here.

Mpamana Ogbonna ha mere gini?
Mpamana Ogbonna   3PL do   Question
Mpama and Ogbonna   have done what?
        [Ha]i   gbara   [onwe ha]i [ọgwụ]
        3PL ASP-PERF inject body-selves medicine
        (They) have injected themselves.

The proform, 'Onwe ha', in this sentence cannot also be interpreted without making reference to the 'ha'. Moreover, the proform has no independent referent. The 'ha' automatically replaces the subjects, 'Mpama and Ogbonna'. The speaker and listener understand that the referents of the 'ha' are 'Mpamana Ogbonna'.

     Black (1998) further says that two other intrinsic conditions associated with anaphoric relations are constituent – command (C-command) and Binding. C- command conditions state that node 'A' C-commands node 'B', if and only if (iff) –
   (i)   Every maximal projection dominating 'A' also dominates 'B'
   (ii)   Every brancging node must immediately dominating 'A' also dominates 'B' (Ndimele 2004: 78).

Binding conditions state that 'A' binds 'B' iff–the C-command conditions.
   (i)   'A' C-commands 'B'
   (ii)   'A' and 'B' are Co-indexed (Heageman 1996, 212).
            Let us consider some example in Ikwuano Igbo and attempt the applicationof the C-command and conditions.
.   [Mpama]i   gbara [onweya]i [ọgwụ]i
        Mpama 3SG   ASP-PERF inject body-self- medicine
        Mpama has injected himself.

In 11, the NP, 'onweya' is a reflex (anaphor) of the NP 'Mpama' (antecedent) because they Co-refer and are assigned the same index. See the tree diagram in Fig.1 below for the illustration of the C-command conditions. C- command and Binding conditions are applicable as interpreted below. Clause 1: Every maximal projection dominating 'A' also dominates "B".
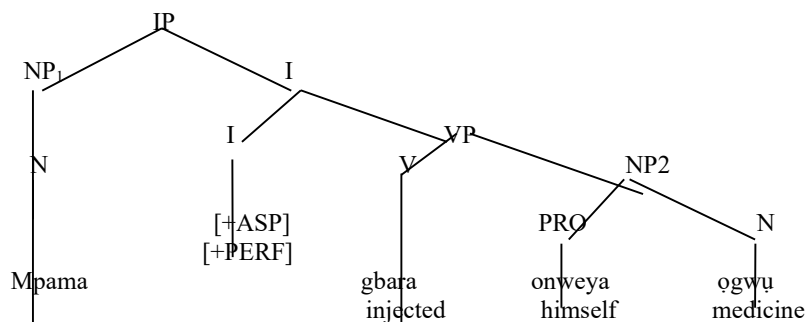
Figure 1: Tree diagram

In the tree diagram above, the maximal projection (the IP node) that most immediately dominates NP1 (Mpama) also dominates NP2 (onweya) but as the daughter of 1). The C-command domain of an element consists of all the materials dominated (daughters) by one node hence the term C-command (cf Heageman 1996, 134). Therefore NP2 is one of the materials dominated by the IP. Also observe that NP2 does dominate 'NP1' is higher in the tree. The position of Mpama in the tree is higher compared to that of 'onweya' NP2. The C-command condition further requires that every maximal projection dominating 'A' also dominates 'B'.The maximal projection (IP) dominates NP1 and NP2 as well. 'Mpama' and 'onweya' are dominated by the same maximal projection.

Binding conditions

'A' Binds 'B' iff
(i) 'A' C-command 'B'
(ii) A and 'B' are co-indexed
Clause 1: 'A' C-commands 'B'.
In 12, Mpama C-commands 'Onweya' (c/f earlier interpretation of C-command conditions)
Clause 2 'A' and 'B' are co-indexed.
'Mpama' and 'onweya' are assigned the same index – 'i', because they co-refer. Besides, 'Mpama' plays the role of the subject in the sentence. Horrocks (1993:111) says that an anaphor must be co-indexed with a lexical NP that bears a θ-role by virtue of its position within a sentence as the subject that C-commands it. C-command condition of binding also requires that a bindee must be C-commanded by an appropriate binder. Both 'Mpama' and 'onweya' agree in nominal features as they have a singular entity as their common referent. Principle 1 of BT further demands that an anaphor must be bound in its governing category. The emphasis here is the same domain of occurrence.

Plural anaphors co-refer with corresponding antecedents. An example of plural reflexive anaphor in Ikwuano Igbo is 'onwe ha' as shown in 13.
[Amako na Ebujiha sọpụrụ [onwe ha].
Amako and Ebu 3PL   respect-PST body-selves
Amako and Ebu respected themselves.
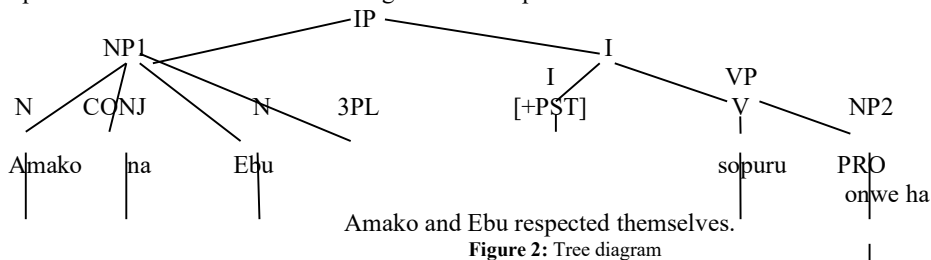Example 13 is demonstrated on a tree diagram as example 14 below.

Amako and Ebu respected themselves.
Figure 2: Tree diagram

The tree diagram in 14 shows the IP node which dominates the NP1 and NP2. NP1 C-commands NP2 as a daughter of I, 'onwe ha' is a reflex of NP1 (Amako na Ebu) because they co-refer. Additional to C-command conditions, binding condition states that the binder and the bindee must be co-indexed. We can observe that 'onwe ha' is co-indexed with 'Amako na Ebu'. They are in the same clause to fulfill domain requirement. Therefore, 'onwe ha' is bound by 'Amako and Ebu'.

Principle 2
A pronoun must be free in its governing category
Pronominals: Pronominals are sometimes called pronouns. They may get their meaning from another NP outside the content. A pronoun can have independent reference or co-refer to an entity already named in the sentence unlike anaphors. Pronouns lack specific lexical content and their shape is determined by such features as person, number, gender and case. Example 15 is demonstrated below.
[Obioma] wụrụyammiriọkụ.

Obioma 3SG pour him water hot
Obioma poured him hot water.

In 15, the pronoun 'ya' him is not a reflex of 'Obioma'. The antecedent of 'ya' lies outside the context. Hence, it is not co-indexed with Obioma which is its clause-mate because they do not co-refer. This is in accordance with principle 2 of BT which states that a pronoun must not be bound in its governing category. Example 16 is demonstrated below on a tree diagram.
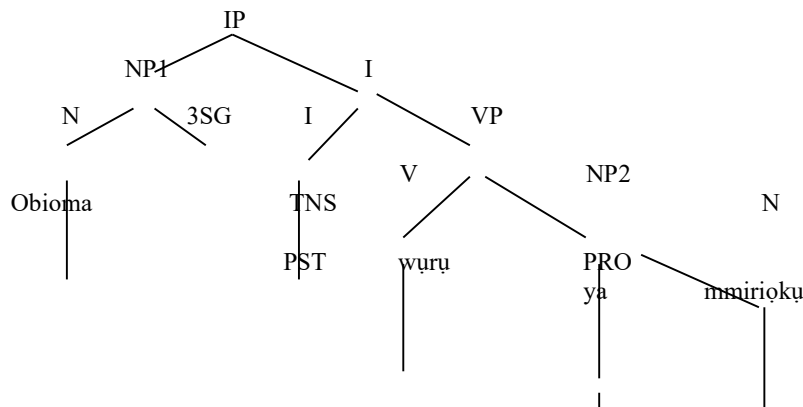
16.

Figure 3: Tree diagram

From 16 above, NP, C-commands the I and every node under it, but does not bind 'ya' because 'ya' is a pronoun which has its referent elsewhere we observed that Obioma and 'ya' are not co- indexed. The 'ya' in this context signifies a different entity from thesubject NP. The pronominal is free in this domain because the binding condition of co-indexation is not fulfilled. Let us observe example 17 below.

17.   Ngozi   siri   na   Chima   hụrụyan'anya.
        Ngozi 3SG   say COMP   Chima 3SG   love her PREP eye
        Ngozi says that Chima loves her.

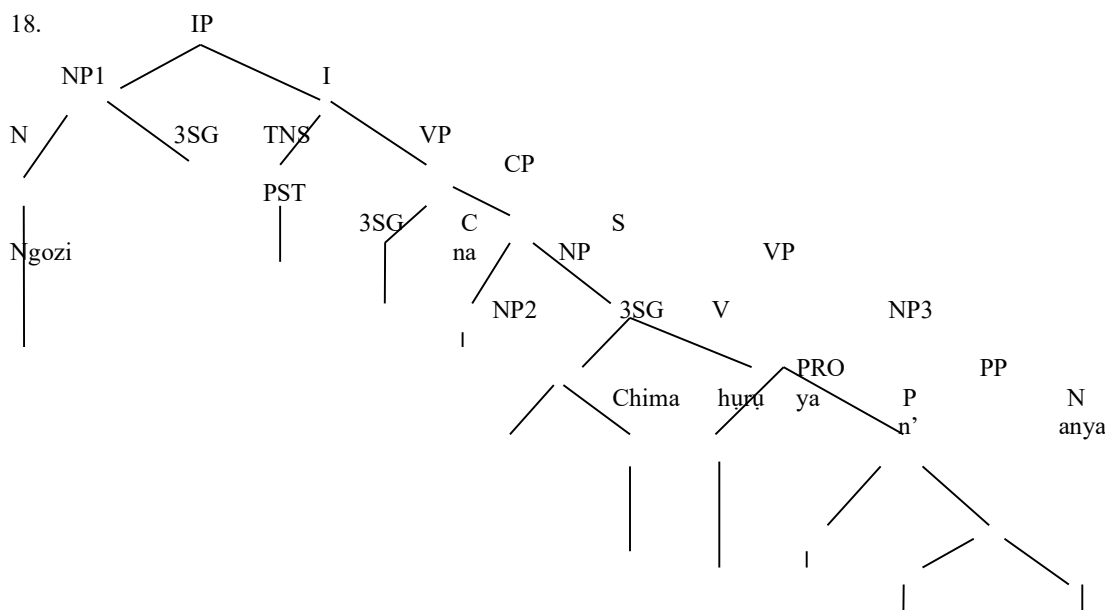Example 17 is demonstrated on a tree diagram as example 18 below.

18.

Figure 4: Tree diagram

In example 18, the binding domain of the pronominal, 'ya' is the embedded 'na' , 'Chimahụrụyan'anya' – that 'Chima loves her'. But the pronoun 'ya' is not bound by its clause mate, 'Chima' nor are they co-indexed with Ngozi(in the matrix clause). It conforms with principle 2 that a pronoun must be free in its binding domain.

Principle 3

A Referential – expression must be free everywhere: Referential- expressions are commonly abbreviated as R-expressions. They are lexical head NPs which are neither reflexives nor reciprocals. They have independent referent and do not need an antecedent to other NPs within and outside their clause domains. They do not tolerate binding from another element but can bind where there are other NPs that they C-command and are co-indexed. They always play a θ role by virtue of their position within a sentence as the subject. Let us observe example 19 below.

19.　　　Udoka　　　　zụrụ　　ụlọ　　　nye　　Ogechi.
　　　　　Udoka 3SG　　　buy PST　　　　house give PST Ogechi
　　　　　Udoka bought a house for Ogechi.

The three R-expressions (noun elements) in 19 – Udoka, ulo (house), Ogechi are not co-indexed because they do not co-refer. None draws its meaning from any of its clause mate. In another environment, each of them can be assigned a θ-role as they can occupy the subject position in a sentence. Example is demonstrated on a tree diagram below.
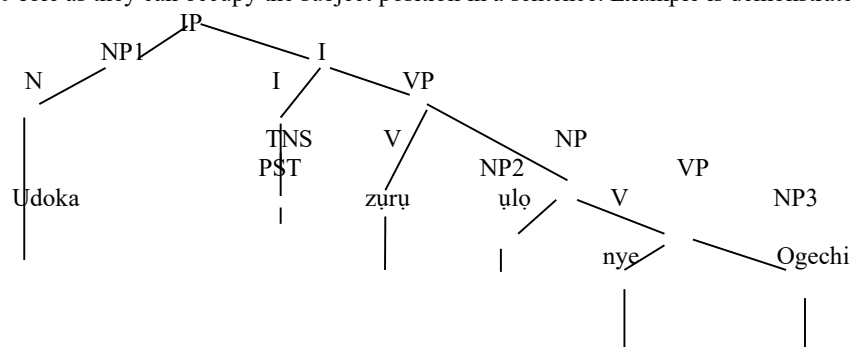

Figure 5: Tree diagram

5. Conclusion

This work investigated anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo using the Binding Theory (BT) approach. The data we presented are made up of a number of sentence types associated with antecedent – anaphor relations – reflexive, reciprocal anaphors and pronominals. The result of the investigation shows that so far, the Binding Theory can account for instances of anaphoric relations associated with the data. The study has demonstrated the concepts of binding, co-indexation, Co-referntiality, locality constraint and Constituent-command to show dependency between the antecedents and the anaphors in Ikwuano Igbo.

　　The study also revealed that Ikwuano Igbo has anaphoric expressions that do not mark gender. The Binding Theory shows that the antecedent and the anaphor occur in the same governing category. Also it shows that apronominal must be free everywhere in a sentence.According to the regulating principles of the Theory. This study has added to the available descriptive studies in the syntactic and semantic descriptions in Igbo grammatical analysis.

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Abbreviations

ASP	Aspect
CONJ	Conjunction
CP	Complimentizer
1SG	First person singular
2 SG	Second person singular
3 SG	Third person Singular
3 pl	Third person Plural
GB	Government and binding
BT	Binding Theory
NP	Noun Phrase
PERF	Perfective
PoS	Possessive
PRO	Pronoun
PST	Past
PP	Prepositional Phrase
IP	Inflectional Projection
I	Inflection
VP	Verb Phrase

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