

DERIVATIONAL PREFIXES IN IGEDE

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Abstract

This paper examines derivational prefixes in the Igede language, identifying and describing the various forms of derivational prefixes that are realizable in the Igede language. The study employed the Item-and-Arrangement (IA) model of morphology, as proposed by Charles Hockett (1954). The data for the study was gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include oral interviews, participant observation, and audio recordings; while the secondary sources include textbook, journal, and a few online materials. Respondents were gathered from fluent speakers across Igede-speaking communities of Oju and Obi Local Government Areas in Benue State. Finding identifies several common productive prefixes in Igede, including cha-, ch-, oli-, ole-, and o-, which demonstrate consistent morphological and semantic patterns. The analysis reveals that these prefixes function systematically to convert nouns into verbs and adjectives, and verbs into nouns. The findings show that

derivational prefixation in Igede is both phonologically stable and semantically predictable, allowing speakers to generate new words while preserving the meaning of the roots. The research contributes to the documentation of Igede morphology, underscores the importance of derivational prefixes in lexical expansion, and provides a basis for language teaching and preservation. This study recommends that further research should be conducted on the derivational prefixes in Igede to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the language's morphological system.

Keywords: Language, morphology, derivation, affixation, prefixation and derivational prefixes

Introduction

Affixation can be understood from two perspectives: inflectional and derivational. Derivational prefixes are essential elements in the morphological structure of languages. They are bound morphemes that are attached to root or base words to modify meaning or create new words entirely. Affixation is a basic morphological process through which new lexical items and grammatical forms are created by attaching bound morphemes (affixes) to root or base forms (Katamba (1993). To Mensah (2020) prefixation represents a specific sub-category of affixation but it is distinguished by the position of the affix before the root morpheme. In this sense, prefixes are structurally and functionally embedded within the broader system of affixation, operating as one of its primary mechanisms of word formation. While affixation as a general process covers prefixes, suffixes, infixes and circumfixes, prefixes function as the initial morphological modifiers that influence meaning and grammatical category scope of the base form.

Derivational prefixes bound affixes and occur primarily in Igede words in word-initial position, though other types of affixation, such as suffixes and infixes, exist in the language. These derivational prefixes serve a major function in word formation by creating new words or changing a word's grammatical category, such as deriving verbs from nouns or forming adjectives from nouns. This distribution and behaviour of prefixes is attested in descriptions of Igede grammar (Bergman (1981).

The Igede language, spoken by the Igede people of Benue State, exhibits its own unique morphological characteristics, yet has remained under-researched. Preliminary observations made by Ogbu (2019), Christopher (2021), and Ogbu (2025) suggest that Igede employs prefixation as a vital morphological process, but there is limited scholarly documentation on the exact types and patterns of these prefixes. In many Nigerian languages, such as Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, Edo, and Efik as well as Igede, derivational prefixation plays a significant role in morphology, grammar, and meaning. However, not all languages make equal use of the same types of prefixes; this is because, their morphological systems differ in structure, function and historical development. Languages like Igbo employ a rich system of derivational and noun-class prefixes while others like Hausa rely more on root modification, tone or suffixes to convey lexical distinction. Derivational prefixes vary significantly from one language to another because they differ in their morphological typology, affix productivity and structural constraints. Zwicky (1998) adds that some languages rely heavily on prefixation to form new words or change grammatical category while others prefer suffixation, tone modification. These variations are influenced by each language's historical development, phonotactic rules and communicative needs.

Despite the focus on prefixation in Igede language, the study does not extend to a comprehensive analysis of the productivity, dialectal variation and interaction of derivational prefixes with other derivational prefixes and other morphological processes as covered by (Obboh 1988, Anyogo(2018), Agogo (2010), Ogi (2005) and Omenka(2018) have carried out studies on a dialect of Igede language. Based on these observations, this study identifies and discusses the forms of derivational prefixes obtainable in the Igede language. The study aims to provide a systematic description of the various forms, functions, and language-specific patterns of derivational prefixes realizable in Igede. The study of derivational prefixes is central to understanding how words are formed and structured in a given language. The study aims to identify and describe the forms of derivational prefixes realizable in the Igede language. The objectives of the study are to identify derivational prefixes in the Igede language; describe the derivational prefixation patterns in Igede.

Conceptual Review

Conceptualising Language as a Socio-Cultural tool

Language is a concept that has been defined in various ways over the years. Language is a , therefore, a significant cultural phenomenon, and an important regulator of individual consciousness and social interaction. According to Yina et al. (2014:23), language orders the entire human cognition, conceptualizations and expressions in a social, cultural and geographical environment. That is, the totality of human activity is controlled by language; it is the life wire of human beings. Kuma (2021:18) opines that language is “a system of conventional, spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings as members of a social group and participants in its culture, communicate”.

According to Oviogun and Veerdee (2020:421), language serves not only as a tool for communication but also as a means of resolving societal challenges arising from linguistic diversity. This definition suggest that language is a tool used by a group not just in communication but also in solving problems and challenges that arise within a group that uses the language. Fasold and Connor-Linton (2017:211) describe language as a finite set of elements and rules that enables speakers to construct meaningful utterances to achieve communicative goals. Fasold and Connor-Linton’s definition draws from a syntactic perspective to language understanding.

Word Structure and Lexeme Generation

Morphology can be conceived as a branch of linguistics that is concerned with the study of the internal structure of a word as well as its formation. Morphology looks at the various structural elements that give form and meaning to lexical formatives. According to Famala (2020), the word morphology itself is derived from the Greek word “**morphē**”, which means “form”, and “logy” meaning study. Famala adds that morphology is the study of the internal structure of words. It is concerned with the forms of lexemes (words) and the processes by which lexemes are generated (word-formation). Morphology as a subfield establishes that words have internal structures as well as distinct forms.

Mechanisms of Affixation in Morphological Processes

Affixation is a morphological process by which bound morphemes known as affixes are added to a root or base word to form new words or to express grammatical relationships such as tense, number, or case. It is a highly productive word formation strategy found in nearly all human languages. Affixation to Lieber (2021) refers to the process of adding a prefix, suffix, infix, or circumfix to a base to alter its meaning or grammatical function.

Affixes are bound morphemes that cannot stand alone but are attached to root or base words to modify their meaning or grammatical function. They are central to the process of affixation, which is a major word formation strategy in many languages. They occur in various forms, including prefixes (before the root), suffixes (after the root), infixes (within the root), and circumfixes (around the root).

According to Haspelmath and Sims (2016), an affix is a bound morpheme that is attached to a base word and modifies its meaning or syntactic category, contributing either to derivation or inflection. Similarly, Plag (2018) states that affixes are morphemes that are added to base forms to build complex words and are essential for understanding the structure and productivity of a language's morphology. These definitions describe the functional and structural importance of affixes in morphology, including in languages such as Igede, where affixation is a key mechanism for word formation and grammatical expression.

Derivational Morphology: Semantic and Categorical Shifts

There are two types of affixes; inflectional and derivational affixes. Derivational affixes are bound morphemes added to a root or base word to create a new word or to change the grammatical category (word class) of the original word. Unlike inflectional affixes, which express grammatical features without changing the word class, derivational affixes often result in words with new meanings or functions. These affixes can be prefixes or suffixes and are commonly used in processes such as nominalization, adjectivization, and verb formation. For example: happy → unhappy (prefix un- changes the meaning), teach → teacher (suffix -er changes a verb into a noun) and

nation → national (suffix -al changes a noun into an adjective).

The Structural Dynamics of Prefixation

Prefixation is a morphological process in which a bound morpheme (a prefix) is attached to the beginning of a root or stem in order to form a new word or modify its meaning. To Telaumbanua and Harefa (2023), prefixation can be described as the process by which a prefix is attached to the front of a root or base, forming derived words, thereby expanding the vocabulary, often with predictable semantic effects depending on the prefix and root.

Makama and Garba (2021) add that prefixation is a mechanism to form occupational and count nouns by attaching prefixes to verbs or noun bases in the Mada language. Koro, Uwumarogie and Umaru (2022) identified several derivational prefixes (*í-, mú-, nyí-, nyé-, mù*) in Koro language, which when prefixed to verbal or adjectival roots yield nouns or other derived forms.

Empirical Review

A number of studies have been conducted on affixation across various Nigerian languages, offering insights into the structure, types, and functions of affixes. Dantata (2022) investigated “Affixation in Hausa and Kambari languages”, highlighting the role of both derivational and inflectional affixes. The study revealed that Hausa predominantly employs prefixation in marking tense, aspect, and derivation, while Kambari utilizes suffixes for pluralization and possessive constructions. Through a qualitative approach based on native speaker elicitation and textual analysis, the research underscores the productivity and functional diversity of affixation in these languages. The findings support the notion that affixation in Nigerian languages plays a significant role not just in grammatical marking, but also in semantic transformation. It shows how Nigerian languages use diverse affix types. However, their study is comparative study, while the current study is language specific-Igede.

In a related study, Ojukwu and Chidi-Onwuta (2018) explored “Derivational affixation in the Igbo language”, focusing particularly on the implications for pedagogy. Their research, which relied on

corpus data and field recordings, found that Igbo makes use of a wide range of affix types, including prefixes, interfixes, and circumfixes. For example, verbal prefixes are employed in verb conjugation and nominal derivation, while circumfixes serve more complex grammatical functions. The study concluded that Igbo exhibits an intricate affixation system, which contributes to both word-class changes and balanced semantic shifts. Ojukwu and Chidi-Onwuta (2018) study focused on derivational affixes in Igbo highlighting their teaching relevance. Ojukwu and Chidi-Onwuta study differs from the current study as its emphasis is on pedagogy and derivation, while the current study covers affix types particularly prefixation description.

Another significant contribution comes from Damkor, Tyoh, and Igbe (2021), who examined affixation in Tiv as a derivational process. Their research identified the use of prefixes such as *m-* and *an-* for noun formation and the suffix *-n* for nominal derivation. The data, collected through interviews with Tiv speakers and analyzed descriptively, demonstrated how affixation serves as a major morphological strategy in Tiv for creating agentive and instrumental nouns. This study corrected earlier assumptions that Tiv was predominantly isolated and provided empirical evidence that the language supports a consistent and rule-governed system of derivational affixation. The results underscore how Tiv morphology reflects a deeper underlying grammatical structure than previously documented. Damkor, Tyoh and Igbe (2021) “Analyzed affixation in Tiv”. Both the study and the current study are related as both Tiv and Igede belong to Benue-Congo languages. However, their study focused on inflectional affix inventory in Tiv, while the current study explores the derivation aspect of prefixes as a form of affixation in Igede.

Finally, Ekiugbo and Ayunku (2018) studied “Affixation processes in the Izon language” of the Ijaw subgroup. Their findings, based on fieldwork and secondary textual sources, showed that Izon employs suffixes and interfixes almost exclusively, with no productive prefixes. These affixes are primarily used for derivational purposes, such as forming agentive nouns or modifying verb stems. Despite the limited number of affix types in Izon, the study demonstrated that they are integral to the language’s word formation processes. This suggests that even languages with a small affix inventory can display rich morphological behaviour.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on Charles Hockett's (1954) Item-and-Arrangement (IA) model of morphology. The theory explains word formation as a linear combination of distinct morphemes, each carrying its own meaning and grammatical function. It is particularly useful for analyzing languages where morphemes can be easily separated and identified. Using examples such as unhappiness (un- + happy + -ness), the framework is considered suitable for this study because it provides a clear method for identifying and describing affixes, especially prefixes, in Igede and how they combine with roots to form complex words.

Methodology

The study employs a descriptive research design to examine affixation in Igede. Data were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected from fifteen (15) native speakers of Igede through oral interviews, participant observation, and audio recordings. The respondents were drawn from Igede-speaking communities in Oju and Obi Local Government Areas of Benue State, Nigeria. The informants comprised five (5) elderly speakers aged 60–85 years, four (4) language teachers aged 35–55 years who teach Igede language and related subjects at the primary and secondary school levels, and six (6) other fluent adult speakers aged 25–59 years. All participants were selected based on their long-term residence in Igede-speaking communities, consistent daily use of the language, and ability to speak Igede fluently without heavy code-mixing. Their proficiency was further verified through preliminary interaction and confirmation by community members and the researcher's direct assessment during interviews and recordings to ensure reliability of the linguistic data. Secondary data were obtained from relevant books, journal articles, dissertations, and academic reports on Igede and general linguistic morphology. These sources were properly documented and referenced in the study. In addition, online resources relevant to Igede linguistic description were consulted, including the following websites: <https://www.sil.org>, <https://www.ethnologue.com>, and <https://www.glottolog.org>. The collected data were transcribed, categorized, and analyzed to identify derivational affixes, with particular attention to prefixes, and to examine their structural

patterns and semantic roles in Igede word formation.

Data Presentation and Analysis

This subsection discusses derivational prefixes in Igede. It tries to identify the forms of derivational prefixes as well as describe the derivational prefixation patterns in the Igede. Derivational prefixes are bound morphemes added to the beginning of a root word to create new words or change their grammatical category. Derivational prefixes in the Igede language can be realized in various ways. Below are some of these ways:

The d-prefix forms in Igede

**Table 1: Examples of the d- prefix in Igede
Noun to Verb prefixation**

S/N	Prefix	Root	Derived Form	Meaning
1.	d-	ido (N) (abuse)	dido (V) (abuse)	abuse (noun)
2.	d-	Ihu (N) air	Dihu (V)	Breathing
3.	d-	imyi (N)	dimyi (V) (fart)	Fart

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The analysis of the data in Table 1 shows that the prefix d- is an important derivational element in Igede morphology. It consistently attaches to nominal roots and produces derived verb forms, indicating a systematic category shift from noun to verb (N → V). This suggests that the prefix functions primarily as a verbalizer, converting nominal concepts into action-oriented expressions. The derived forms maintain a close semantic relationship with their roots, as the meaning of the verb typically reflects the action or process associated with the noun. This indicates a high degree of semantic transparency, since

the lexical meaning of the base is largely retained even though the grammatical category changes. However, a critical observation is that the derivation cannot be fully described without considering possible phonological adjustments. For instance, in the formation of *d-* + *ido* → *dido*, it is necessary to determine whether the tone pattern of the root /*idó*/ changes when the prefix is attached, or whether the derived verb exhibits tonal reassignment. Similarly, it must be examined whether vowel-related processes such as vowel harmony, assimilation, or segmental modification occur during prefixation, especially if the prefix is realized differently in connected speech. Without such phonological evidence, claims regarding the stability of the prefix or the exact form of the root remain incomplete. Nevertheless, the consistent recurrence of this pattern suggests that *d-* is productive and can potentially apply to other nominal roots beyond the examples provided. The derivation supports the Item-and-Arrangement (IA) model, since the prefix remains a clearly identifiable morpheme that combines linearly with the root to yield a new grammatical form while contributing a definable morphological function.

The *l-* prefix form in Igede

Table 2: Examples of the *l-* prefix in Igede
Derivation of adjectives from nouns and adjectives from adjectives

S/N	Prefix	Root	Derived Form	Meaning
1.	<i>l-</i>	<i>Udiyo (N) length</i>	<i>Ludiyo (Adj)</i>	Long
2.	<i>l-</i>	<i>Uhye (N) up</i>	<i>Luhye (adj)</i>	Tall
3.	<i>l-</i>	<i>umuma (N) similar</i>	<i>lumuma (adj)</i>	Alike

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The data reveal that the prefix *l-* functions as a derivational morpheme in Igede, primarily used in the formation of adjectives. It attaches to nominal roots and derives adjectival forms, resulting in a category shift from noun to adjective (N → Adj). This process enables Igede speakers to express descriptive qualities by converting abstract or

concrete nominal concepts into adjectival properties.

Semantically, the derived adjectives reflect the inherent attributes associated with the noun roots, showing that the prefix *l-* is not random but follows a consistent morphological pattern that produces adjectives denoting physical characteristics such as length, height, or similarity. The stability of the prefix across the data further supports its recognition as a bound morpheme with a consistent derivational function. This shows that *l-* contributes significantly to lexical expansion in Igede by providing a systematic way of forming adjectives.

The *o-* prefix form in Igede - Adjectives to Noun

Table 3: Examples of the *o-* prefix forms in Igede

S/N	Prefix	Root	Derived Form	Meaning
1.	<i>o-</i>	<i>Haru</i> (Adj) fifth numerical value	<i>Oharu</i> (N) "five"	numerical value
2.	<i>o-</i>	<i>Dayikoko</i> (Adj) stand up right/ erect	<i>Odayikoko</i> (N)	Stand
3.	<i>o-</i>	<i>Hohe</i> (one)(adj) ordinal form	<i>Ohohe</i> (N) (first)	a numerical value -first

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The analysis of the data indicates that the prefix *o-* serves as a nominalizing derivational prefix in Igede. It is mainly attached to adjectival roots to derive noun forms, resulting in a grammatical category shift from adjective to noun (Adj → N). This process suggests that *o-* plays a key role in converting descriptive or ordinal meanings into concrete nominal expressions that can function as independent lexical items.

The derived forms in the data show that *o-* is especially relevant in forming nouns related to numerical values and ordering concepts.

Semantically, the prefix allows abstract descriptive meanings to be reinterpreted as countable or referential entities. The consistency of the examples suggests that *o-* is a productive prefix that contributes to lexical development in Igede, particularly in the domain of number expressions and classification. The process also fits the IA model, as the prefix is segmentable and contributes meaning systematically.

The *ole*-forms of prefix in Igede

Table 4:Verb → Noun Derivation

S/N	Prefix	Root (Verb)	Combined form	Derived Form (Noun)	Meaning
1.	<i>ole-</i>	<i>ewo</i> (dance) (V)	<i>ole-ewo</i>	<i>Olewo</i> (N)	Dancer
2.	<i>ole-</i>	<i>ehwu</i> (laugh) (V)	<i>ole-ehwu</i>	<i>Olehwu</i> (N)	laughter / comedian
3.	<i>Ole-</i>	<i>eru</i> (message) (V)	<i>Ole- eru</i>	<i>oleru</i> (N)	Messenger

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The data analysis shows that *ole-* functions as a productive derivational prefix in Igede, primarily used in verb-to-noun derivation. It attaches to verb roots and forms nouns that denote individuals connected to the action expressed by the verb, leading to a category shift from verb to noun (V → N). The derived nouns often express an agentive interpretation, meaning they refer to a person who performs the action, such as a dancer or messenger.

This indicates that *ole-* serves as an agentive nominalizer, contributing an identity or occupational meaning to the derived form. The semantic relationship between the verb roots and derived nouns remains clear, showing semantic predictability. This suggests that speakers can easily infer the meaning of derived forms once the prefix is applied. The prefix, therefore, plays an important role in Igede word formation

by providing a regular strategy for creating human-related nouns from verbal actions.

The *oli*-forms of prefix in Igede

Example 5: Verb → Noun Derivation

S/N	Prefix	Root (Verb)	Combined form	Derived Form (Noun)	Meaning
1.	<i>oli-</i>	<i>idu</i> (V) blind	<i>Oli- idu</i>	<i>Olidu</i> (N)	A Blind person
2.	<i>oli-</i>	<i>Ikilo</i> (V) expression of dissatisfaction for unfair treatment	<i>Oli-ikilo</i>	<i>Olikilo</i> (N)	Someone treated unfairly
3.	<i>oli-</i>	<i>Monu</i> (V) To lie	<i>Oli- monu</i>	<i>Olimonu</i> (N)	A Liar

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The data establishes that *oli-* is a derivational prefix used to derive nouns from verbs in Igede. Like *ole-*, it results in a category shift from verb to noun (V → N); however, its semantic function appears more strongly connected to personal identification and characterization. The derived nouns label individuals based on actions, behaviours, or conditions expressed by the verb roots. For instance, the derived forms can refer to people known for a particular habit (such as lying) or those associated with a physical or social condition.

This suggests that *oli-* functions as a prefix that forms attributive nouns, describing people by defining qualities rather than only by occupation. The consistent appearance of this prefix across different verb roots indicates that it is productive and rule-governed in Igede morphology. The semantic transparency also shows that the meaning of the base verb remains recognizable in the derived noun. Thus, *oli-* contributes to the lexical system of Igede by enabling the formation of descriptive human nouns.

The cha- form of prefix in Igede

Table 6: Noun → Adjective Derivation with the cha- Prefix

S/N	Prefix	Root	Combined form	Derived Form	Meaning
1.	<i>cha-</i>	<i>aru</i> (thunder) (N)	<i>cha-aru</i>	<i>chaaru</i> Adj.	Thunderous/ rumbling
2.	<i>cha-</i>	<i>agbilangiri</i> (teeth/ jaw,tongue) (N)	<i>Cha agbilangiri</i>	<i>chagbilangiri</i> (adj)	sour or acidic taste in soup
3.	<i>cha-</i>	<i>awula</i> (open teeth) (N)	<i>Cha-awula</i>	<i>Chawula</i> (adj)	Diastema (open teeth)

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The analysis of the data shows that the prefix *cha-* plays a derivational role in forming descriptive expressions from noun roots. The derived forms suggest that the prefix is associated with meanings that express states, experiences, or qualities connected to the noun base. Although the category shift is presented as noun-to-adjective derivation, the semantic interpretations indicate that *cha-* often introduces a descriptive or experiential dimension that extends the meaning of the root.

The derived forms reflect sensory or physical descriptions, such as taste conditions or physical features. This suggests that *cha-* may function as a derivational prefix used to encode qualities or conditions derived from nominal concepts. The prefix appears stable and consistent across the examples, indicating that it is a bound morpheme with identifiable morphological behaviour. Overall, *cha-* contributes to Igede derivation by enabling the language to generate descriptive vocabulary from noun roots systematically.

Table 7: Noun → Verb Derivation with the cha- Prefix

S/N	Prefix	Root	Combined form	Derived Form	Meaning
1.	cha-	agada (a gap in one's gum) (N)	cha-agada	Chagada(V)	have open teeth
2.	cha-	ahi (eye) (N)	<i>cha-ahi</i>	<i>chaahi</i> (V)	wake up
3.	cha-	angiri (teeth) (N)	<i>cha-angiri</i>	<i>changiri</i> (V)	display one's teeth / to bite

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The data confirms that the prefix *cha-* is also productive in deriving verbs from nouns in Igede. It attaches to nominal roots and yields verb forms, creating a category shift from noun to verb (N → V). The derived verbs typically describe actions or processes related to the physical meaning of the noun roots, especially those linked to body parts or bodily conditions. This indicates that *cha-* introduces an action-oriented meaning, turning static nominal concepts into dynamic verbal expressions.

The relationship between the base noun and the derived verb remains semantically transparent, making the derivation easily interpretable. The consistency of this pattern suggests that *cha-* is a productive morphological strategy for expanding the verb inventory of Igede. In addition, the process reflects a systematic and rule-based mechanism of word formation, supporting the idea that Igede uses derivational prefixation extensively to form verbs from nominal concepts.

Prefix *ch-* in Igede

Examples of prefix *ch-*

Table 8: Noun to Adjective derivation

S/N	Prefix	Root	Derived form	Meaning
1.	ch-	Iri (dirt) N	Chiri (Adj)	Dirty
2.	ch-	Epetekee stress (N)	Chepetekee (adj)	Stressed up, tired, fagged out
3.	ch-	Ila (N) Fire	Chila (Adj)	Hot, sick

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The data show that the prefix *ch-* functions as a derivational adjectivizer in Igede. It consistently attaches to noun roots and derives adjective forms, resulting in a grammatical shift from noun to adjective (N → Adj). The derived adjectives express qualities, states, or conditions closely associated with the meaning of the base noun. This suggests that *ch-* is semantically linked to the expression of descriptive properties such as physical condition, emotional state, or general attribute. The meanings of the derived adjectives remain closely connected to their nominal bases, indicating semantic transparency and predictability. This implies that the prefix operates within a systematic morphological rule, allowing speakers to derive descriptive words from nouns easily. The productivity of *ch-* also contributes to lexical expansion by providing consistent means of generating adjectives from existing nominal roots.

Discussion of Findings

The study shows that derivational prefixes are essential in Igede morphology, serving as productive tools for forming new words and changing word classes. Prefixes such as *d-*, *l-*, *o-*, *cha-*, and *ch-* were found to be highly productive, performing functions such as deriving verbs from nouns and forming adjectives from nouns. The findings confirm that derivational prefixation in Igede is systematic, that is, well organised, rule-governed, and semantically transparent, as prefixes maintain stable forms while consistently contributing new meanings like action, quality, or state. This reflects an agglutinative pattern in the language and demonstrates that prefixation enhances

Igede's lexical creativity and grammatical richness.

Conclusion

The study establishes that derivational prefixes play a central role in Igede word formation, with prefixes like d-, l-, o-, cha-, ch-, oli-, and ole-regularly attaching to noun or verb roots to form verbs, adjectives, and agentive nouns. The study recommends further research to explore other derivational prefixes which are not covered, especially those used in specialized areas of Igede vocabulary, in order to achieve a more comprehensive description of the language's morphological system.

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