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## Analysis of Move Operation in Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*

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### Abstract

*The study presents an analysis of move operation in Adichie's Half of a Yellow Sun (2017). Chomsky's Minimalist programme is used as the theoretical framework for the analysis. The Minimalist Programme was employed in the study to provide a better analysis of move operation in the text. Move operation takes an element from the subject position into the sentence initial position. The research aims to examine how movement of words and phrases within a sentence contributes to its overall meaning. A descriptive qualitative research design was employed to provide a minimalist analysis of move operation, and data were elicited directly from the novel through purposive sampling technique. The findings show that, move adjust elements in a sentence to satisfy syntactic constraints or question formation. Finally, the investigation has been able to conclude that move is not merely an abstract process but is central to constructing sentence that contributes to the dynamic flow of the narrative.*

**Keywords:** Minimalist Programme, Syntax, Move, Qualitative, Constituent,

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### Introduction

The central idea behind this paper is to examine move operation in Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*. The novel seems as a narrative of personal and historical experiences of the Nigerian Civil War and this makes it serves as a rich text for linguistic analysis, particularly

through the lens of syntactic structures. Minimalist analysis is a part of syntax, and syntax is a central component of human language (Van Valin, 2004). Language is a mental faculty that enables humans to communicate with one another using a system of symbols and rules (Pinker, 2007). Syntactic analysis as



defined by linguists is the examination of the internal structure and ordering of words in a sentence. It aims to uncover the hierarchical organisation of phrase and rules governing their combination (Adger, 2003). Minimalist analysis involves the identification of a Universal Grammar that is shared across all human languages, driven by the concept of simplicity and efficiency.

The research explores the syntactic dimensions of Adichie's work by focusing on the basic operations in Minimalist Programme (i.e. move). The study selects some sentences from the novel and analyses them based on move operation. The basic operations in minimalist programme are merge and movement, move is the main focus of this paper. Move is a syntactic operation that allows constituents generated within one part of a sentence to be relocated to another part to satisfy syntactic constraints, such as agreement or case requirements.

However, by analysing the basic operation the study can uncover how Adichie's use of move contributes to the dynamic flow of the narrative. The research aims to highlight the basic minimalist features of move operations throughout the text. Furthermore, this syntactic analysis, grounded in Minimalist Program, will provide insights into how the core

computational operation of language i.e. move shapes our understanding of complex human experiences depicted in *Half of a Yellow Sun* through examining how elements move to new positions for emphasis or question formation.

## Literature Review

### Syntax

The term 'syntax' is from the ancient Greek *syntaxis*, a verbal noun which literally means 'arrangement' or 'setting out together'. Traditionally, it refers to the branch of grammar dealing with the ways in which words, with or without appropriate inflections, are arranged to show connections of meaning within the sentence. Syntax deals with how sentences are constructed, and users of human languages employ a striking variety of possible arrangements of the elements in sentences. In English, for example, the subject comes before the verb and the direct object follows the verb (Van Valin, 2004). Many scholars have given their contributions to the development of syntax.

Syntax is the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages (Chomsky, 2002:1). Syntax is defined as the set of rules or principles that govern how words are put together to form phrases and



sentences (Koopman, Sportiche and Stabler, 2013). Syntax is the study of how sentences are structured. It studies the level of language that lies between words and the meaning of utterances: sentences. It is the level that mediates between sounds that someone produces (organized into words) and what they intended to say (Carnie, 2006).

According to Adger (2003), syntax is the study of how words are combined to form sentences and how these sentences are structured. However, from these definitions the main concern of syntax is how words are combined to form phrases and sentences, and how the words are grammatically arranged in a sentence.

### **Syntactic Analysis**

Syntactic analysis also known as parsing, refers to the process of analysing a sequence of symbols (such as words in a sentence) according to the rules of a formal grammar. Syntactic analysis involves understanding and describing the structure of a sentence in a language, emphasising on the arrangement of words and the relationship between them (Radford, 2004). Syntactic analysis is concerned with the identification and examination of internal structure of a sentence (Koopman, Sportiche and Stabler,

2013).

Abdimurot (2024), stated that, "Syntactic analysis is the definition of syntactic phenomena, syntactic units, their types, expression material, etc". However, the definition differs from other types of linguistic analysis, though the main focus is on the correct definition of syntactic units, to find out in which part of the sentence the words come. Syntactic analysis therefore refers to the identification of the underlying structure of a sentence and how words are combined or grouped together in a sentence. It is concerned with the investigation of the syntactic components of a sentence. It deals with examining and parsing sentence constituents (noun phrase, verb phrase etc). Syntactic analysis studies rules and principles that govern how words are used together to form phrases and sentences.

### **Syntactic Structure**

According to Freidin (2007), Syntactic structure is the building block of sentences and a sentence is obviously made up of a number of words. For example, the boy plays soccer is an example of a simple sentence and the example of formal sentence structure analysis is:

Sentence → NP + VP

VP → Verb + NP



Verb → Aux + V

Aux → C (M)(have+en) (be+ing).

Alexiadou, Haegeman and Stavrou (2007) asserted that, Syntactic structure is endocentric: Syntactic units are organised around a head. Each head, projects a larger syntactic unit (a phrase), and each phrase, must have one head.

Carnie (2001) postulated that, a sentence is a simple linear string of words and that words in a sentence are grouped into units (called constituents) and that these constituents are grouped into larger constituents, and so on until you get a sentence.

There is a notion used to capture the intuitions that in a sentence some words are more closely connected than others, and for the relationship between words in a sentence, we need a complex notion. The notions used to capture these intuitions are constituency and hierarchical structure. Constituent is a group of words that functions together as a unit. Constituents are embedded ones inside another to form larger constituents called hierarchical structure. There are two ways of representing a bigger unit and one of them is to put square brackets around units and the other is to represent the units with a group of lines called a tree structure. Syntactic structure, however, deals with the

identification of sentences and a sentence is a linear string of words that consist of units (constituents) and constituents are grouped into larger constituents. Constituents can be represent using a square bracket or a tree structure.

### **Sentence**

A sentence is a simple linear string of words and that words in a sentence are grouped into units (called constituents) and that these constituents are grouped into larger constituents, and so on until you get a sentence (Carnie, 2001). There are different types of sentences such as; simple, compound, complex, compound complex, periodic sentence, loose sentence among others. The basic phrase (Simple Sentence) are phrases frequently employed in both formal and informal settings, such as composing essays, reports, or scientific papers. Simple sentences are an essential building block of more complex sentences, and are used to convey clear, concise messages. A simple sentence is a sentence that contains one independent clause (Chomsky, 1964). A compound sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses, usually connected by a coordinating conjunction such as 'and', 'but', 'or'. However, a complex sentence is a complete sentence that contains one



independent clause and at least one subordinate clause. A complex sentence always has a subordinator such as *because, since, after, although, when,* etc. Compound-Complex sentence usually contains two main clauses and one subordinate clause. A compound complex sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses and at least one subordinate clause, usually connected by a coordinating conjunction (such as 'and', 'but', 'or') and introduced by a subordinating conjunction (such as 'because', 'although', 'if') (Chomsky, 1964).

### **Minimalist Programme**

Minimalist Programme is a linguistic framework proposed by Chomsky beginning in the early 1990s. The Minimalist Programme aims to simplify linguistic theory by eliminating unnecessary elements, viewing language as a perfect biological design, and explaining language properties through a minimal computational system and economy principles that relate sound and meaning (Chomsky, 1995).

Minimalist Programme (MP) involves the use of minimal theoretical and descriptive apparatus to describe language unlike earlier work in syntax which involved the postulation of complex structures and principles (Radford, 2004).

Minimalist Programme, as its name

suggest, is just a 'programme', a mode of investigation, and 'not a theory'. By that Minimalism asks questions and follows guidelines that are broad enough to be pursued in a great many directions (Boeckx, 2006).

The Minimalist Programme emphasises the concept of Merge and Move operation, whereby move operation is the main concern of this paper:

### **Move**

Move is defined as a complex operation consisting of two basic operations: Agree and Merge. Move appeared to be a relatively complicated operation, and it is applied to a feature contained in the syntactic objects and not the objects themselves (Freidin, 2021). Movement takes an element from the object position into the sentence initial position. Its processes turn out to be a central aspect of grammar in many languages. Movement can be seen as a special case of the fundamental structure-building operation, Merge (Palmarini, Uriagereka and Salaburu, 2009).

Move actually predates Minimalism, but it is an important part of the theory. It occurs so that one item can appear near another. Each movement has a trigger or motivation, an item cannot randomly move all over the sentence (Carnie 2001). There are



three movement transformations and two are employed in the analysis of the text.

- a. Head Movement
- b. NP Movement
- c. WH-Movement

### Head Movement

Head movement is also known as Head-to-head movement. It moves to fill empty [Q] features or to take an inflectional suffix (Carnie, 2001). Head Movement consists of two different operations: T-to-C movement and V-to-T movement. T-to-C movement involves the movement of a word from the head position in one phrase into the head position in a higher phrase. For example, complementisers head a separate projection in clauses and it is termed as complementiser phrase/CP, with the head C position of CP being filled by a complementiser like *that/if/for*. V-to-T movement involves the movement of a finite main verb from the head V position of VP into the head T position of TP. This kind of verb movement operation was productive in Elizabethan English (the English used during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, when Shakespeare was writing), but is no longer productive in present-day English.

### WH-Movement

Wh-movement occurs when a wh-phrase is 'fronted': it occurs to the left of the clause. Wh-questions in English begin with a wh-word such as what, who, where, which, when, why and also how. For instance,

1a. Lee saw [that girl with the long scarf] at the bus-stop yesterday.

1b. [Who] did Lee see at the bus-stop yesterday?

From the examples above, the sequence of words which is being questioned is a constituent. As indicated in square brackets, the constituent being questioned is (a) sentences, and as well as the wh-word which replaces it in (b) sentences (Tallerman, 2011).

Wh-phrases move in a sentence to be near the [WH] features. In *wh*-movement the *wh*-phrase moves to the specifier of CP so as to be local with a [WH] feature. Thus, both the wh-phrase and the complementiser have a [WH] feature, and they need to compare them, or check them (Carnie, 2001).

### NP-Movement

NP- movement occurs so the NP can check its case feature with T or V. A subject NP bears a [NOM] case feature. V and T head bear some kind of abstract inflection features (e.g , [±past]). When the verb and T check



these features against one another then the suffix representing the tense feature (or agreement feature) is allowed to surface on the verb. However, the local configuration in this setting is within the head itself (a relationship called a head-head configuration) (Carnie, 2001).

### **Previous Studies on Minimalist Programme**

Hornstein (2018), conducted research on *"The Minimalist Program After 25 Years"*, and the aim of the research is to prove that Minimalist Programme has been a tremendous success and has more than met the very high goals it had set for itself. The Minimalist Programme has been around for about 25 years, and anecdotal evidence suggests that conventional wisdom thinks it a failure. This paper tries to prove that MP is not a failure. The perception of failure arises from a misunderstanding concerning the aims of the minimalist project and what, given these aims, it is reasonable to expect. The study argues that there is decent (although not dispositive) evidence that MP is the right kind of theory and that there is a rational basis for thinking that it could be right. The research finds that, in evaluating MP the relevant questions to ask are whether the project asks interesting

questions and whether it has been successful in addressing them. Hornstein, argued that the questions are indeed interesting and the substantive line of minimalist theory based on Merge and aimed at unifying the GB modules has produced real insight.

Krivochen, (2011), conducted research on Merge and Agree in his paper *"An introduction to Radical Minimalism I: On Merge and Agree (and related issues)"*. The paper focused on Radical Minimalism by analysing what is considered to be the one and only generative mechanism in the human mind: the operation *merge*. The study derived the conceptual necessity and the properties of *merge* and *label* from interface conditions. Merge in its most elementary form, a generative system is based on an operation that takes structures already formed and combines them into a new structure (Chomsky, 2007). This research points out that any generative theory is, then a theory about Merge and its motivations and consequences. This paper argues that Any module that deals with structured discrete symbols must apply merge in order to combine them, be them semantic primitives, sounds or lexical items. However, merge is the basic fundamental operation of MP, because is a completely free



operation that can apply as long as the objects to which it applies have the same format, motivated by interface conditions.

Lasnik (2002) paper: *"The minimalist program in syntax"*, The study shows that Minimalism is the latest development of Transformational Generative Grammar initiated by Noam Chomsky. The approach centres on two psychological questions: (1) How is linguistic ability, (tacit) knowledge of language, represented in human mind?; and (2) How does that knowledge arise in the individual? The research points the goal of Minimalism which is to reduce all constraints on representation to bare output conditions, determined by the properties of the mental systems that LF and PF must interface with, for instance that a phonetic representation must be linearly ordered.

Nweke (2011) in "A Review of the Impact of the Minimalist Programme on Igbo Noun Phrase", investigated the effect of Minimalist Theory when applied to Igbo noun phrase in sentence construction. The study's theoretical framework is based on the concept of Computational System, which is the operation where fully formed words selected from the lexicon are combined in pairs through a process called Select and

Merge which means combining new items with existing items. The findings or results of the study show that, the concept of word order made it easy in determining the head of a phrase in any sentence construction in Minimalist Programme. The researcher adds that Minimalist Programme is superior to other predated syntactic theories such as Traditional Grammar, Transformational Generative Grammar and Government and Binding Theory.

Baharon, Sha'ri and Abd.Wahab (2023) paper titled "Head Movement: Analysis of Minimalist Program" studied issues related to strong features and weak features in head movement which involves a comparison between Modern Standard English (MSE) and Early Modern English (EME) which have experienced the process of language evolution. The paper aims to describe the process of head movement of non-auxiliary verbs that are limited (finite) to the INFL position in both phases of English grammar development in addition to solving issues. The study is based on head movement in two English grammars. Head movement as defined by Andrew Radford (1997) in his book entitled *Syntactic Theory and The Structure of English: A Minimalist Approach*, is the movement of a word



from one head position to another. For example, the head movement of V to T. Strong feature triggers movement: and a weak feature cannot trigger movement. For instance, a finite verb carries strong agreement features in Early Modern English, and so raises to INFL; but a finite verb carries weak agreement features in Modern Standard English, and so cannot move to INFL but rather remain in situ. The findings or results of the analysis show that in Early Modern English (EME) grammar, non-auxiliary verbs that are limited finite move to the INFL position due to the compatibility of strong features brought by the limited verbs (finite). However, this paper highlights that movement cannot occur without it being trigger or motivated.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study adopts the theory of Minimalist Programme for the analysis of the data. It was propounded by Noam Chomsky in his book, *The Minimalist Program* (1995). The book is a collection of four articles, 'The Theory of Principles and Parameters' (written with Howard Lasnik), 'Some notes on Economy of Derivation and representation', 'A Minimalist Programme for linguistic theory', and 'Categories and Transformations'. The

Minimalist Programme (MP) is a theoretical framework in linguistic developed by Chomsky in the 1990s. It is a minimalist approach to linguistic theory, aiming to simplify the syntactic component of language faculty. The MP aims to minimise the number of theoretical construction and principles, it seeks to provide simple, elegant-explanations for linguistic phenomena. Chomsky, (1995) posits that, minimalist programme as a linguistic theory aims to simplify the rules and principles of language, while still accounting for its complexity and diversity. Minimalist Programme is based on the requirement that linguistic theory should provide grammars which make use of the minimal theoretical apparatus required: i.e., grammars should be as simple as possible. Much earlier work in syntax involved the postulation of complex structures and principles. Chomsky's Minimalist Programme for Linguistic Theory made the requirement to minimise the theoretical and descriptive apparatus used to describe language. Chomsky in his recent works (1998, 1999, 2001, 2002), suggested that language is a perfect system with an optimal design in the sense that natural language grammars create structures which are designed to interface perfectly with other



components of the mind (Radford, 2004).

Central to the Minimalist Programme are the operations Merge and Move: Merge is the fundamental syntactic operation that combines two elements to form a new, larger syntactic unit. Move operation allows constituents generated within one part of a sentence to be relocated to another part to satisfy syntactic constraints, such as agreements and case requirements. MP also emphasises the concept of features, properties associated with lexical items (words) that drive syntactic operations. Minimalist Program (MP) uses diagram to assign different roles of grammatical categories (these tree diagrams are used as pictorial representations of grammatical structure of the sentence).

#### 4. Methodology

The research adopts a qualitative research design to identify or examine how movements of words and phrases within a sentence contributes to its overall meaning. The qualitative aspect or approach enabled detailed syntactic analysis of the text. The data for this study are purposively sampled from the text *Half of a Yellow Sun*. Purposive sampling is adopted because it allows for the deliberate selection of sentences that are most relevant to

the research objectives. The sentences (data) were copied directly from the text and analysed syntactically using Minimalist Move operation. Eight sentences were analysed based on *wh*-movement (movement of *wh*-phrase to the specifier of CP to be local with a [WH] feature), and head-movement (movement of a word from the head position of one phrase into the head position in a higher phrase).

#### Data Presentation and Analysis

Eight sentences have been identified using purposive sampling technique that contains move operation centered around *wh*-movement and head-movement for this study and are analysed syntactically using a tree diagram.

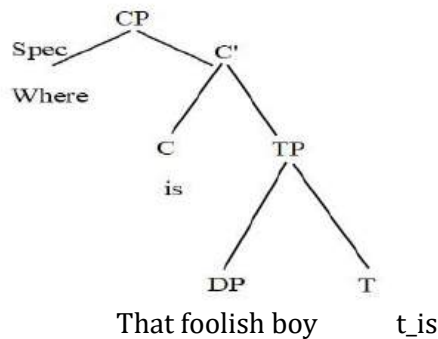
#### Sentence 1: Where is that foolish boy?

The sentence “where is that foolish boy?” is an interrogative sentence, while the basic underlying structure can be considered declarative: “That foolish boy is where” to form the question, “where” moves to the front of the sentence, leaving a trace (or copy) in its original position. The auxiliary verb “is” remains in its position following the subject “that foolish boy.” The final surface structure results from this movement, produced the question



word order: “Where is that foolish boy?”

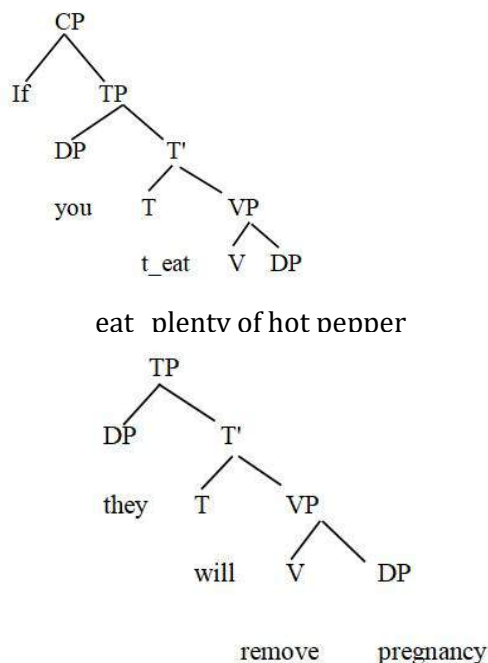
Here is a simplified tree diagram of the sentence “Where is that foolish boy?”



The sentence is a CP (Complementiser Phrase). “Where” is a wh-phrase that moves to Spec-CP to be near the [WH] feature, the verb “is” moves to C (the head of CP) to create a question structure. “that foolish boy” is the subject in Spec-TP of the TP (Tense Phrase). Adichie uses wh-movement to transformed the sentence from declarative to question.

**Sentence 2: If you eat plenty of hot pepper, they will remove pregnancy.**

The sentence “If you eat plenty of hot pepper, they will remove pregnancy”, is a complex sentence with a conditional subordinate clause “If you eat plenty of hot pepper” and a main clause “they will remove pregnancy.” Here is a simplified tree diagram of the sentence.





The subordinate conditional clause is headed by the complementiser “if” in C. The subject “you” occupies Spec-TP, and the verb “eat” originates in V head. Head movement takes place when the verb “eat” moves from V to T to check tense features. “plenty of hot pepper” is the object DP within the VP.

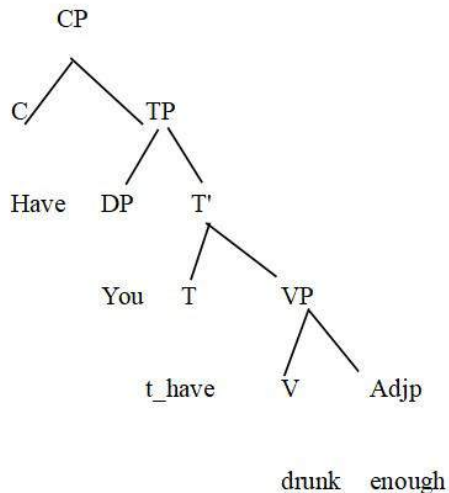
In the main clause, “They” occupies Spec-TP, the auxiliary “will” originates in T head. “Remove” is the main verb in V, and “pregnancy” is the object DP. V to T movement

occurs in the subordinate conditional clause (verb raising for tense checking). In the main clause the modal auxiliary occupies the T head. In this instance T to C movement did not take place in the main clause.

### Sentence 3: Have you drunk enough?

The sentence “have you drunk enough?” is an interrogative clause with the auxiliary verb “have”, the subject “you,” the past participle “drunk,” and the adjective “enough.”

A simplified tree diagram of the sentence can be seen below;



The tree shows the auxiliary raising movement and hierarchical structure typical of interrogatives clause under the Minimalist Program. The auxiliary “Have” originates in the T (tense) head position. In forming question, “have” moves from T to the complementiser position (C) at the

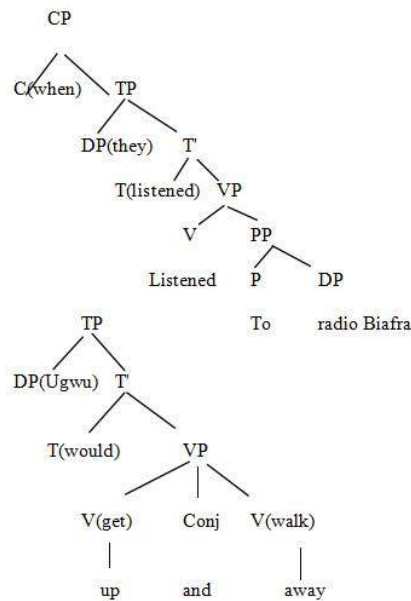
front of the clause to check question features. “You” is the subject in Spec-TP. The past participle verb, “drunk” is part of the VP and remains in its base position. “Enough” is an adjective complement within the VP. However, the key move operation is that, auxiliary “have” moves (internal



merge) from T to C for question formation, the subject “you” remains in Spec-TP and the verb phrase “drunk enough” remains in situ within VP.

**Sentence 4: When they listened to Radio Biafra, Ugwu would get up and walk away.**

The sentence “When they listened to radio Biafra, Ugwu would get up and walk away,” is a complex sentence consists of a subordinate clause and a main (independent) clause. Here is a tree diagram of the sentence:



The temporal subordinate clause is introduced by the complementiser “when” in the C head position. “They” moves to Spec-TP to check nominative case, and the verb “listened” originates in the V head and raises to T head to check tense features. The prepositional phrase “to radio Biafra” is the complement of the verb “listened.” The main clause has “Ugwu” as the subject in

Spec-TP. The modal auxiliary “would” occupies the T head, and verbs “get up” and “walk away” form a coordinated VP with “up” and “away” as particles or adjunct. Moreover, movement operation includes subject raising: “they” and “Ugwu” move to Spec-TP to check nominative case. Verb raising: “listened” moves from V to T in subordinate clause; “would” as modal stays in T in main



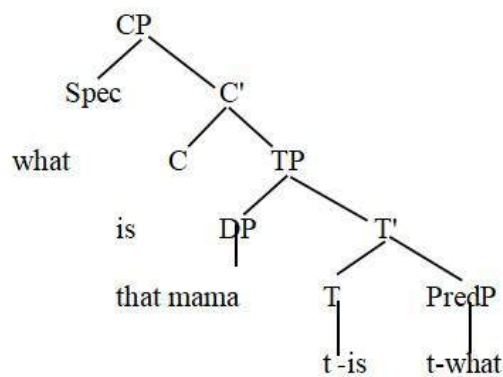
clause. Complementiser “when” heads the subordinate CP, and coordination of verbs in the main clause is represented as conjunction within VP.

### Sentence 5: What is that, mama?

The sentence is an interrogative

sentence featuring a *wh*-movement and subject-auxiliary inversion via internal Merge in the minimalist programme.

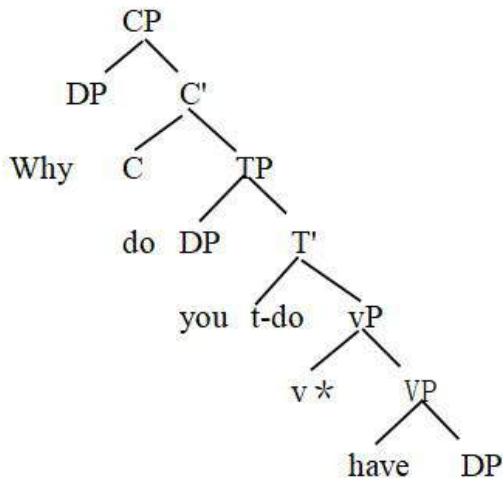
Here is a simplified tree diagram of the sentence:



Wh-movement occurred whereby ‘what’ moves from its base position as the predicate complement (inside PredP) to the specifier of CP. The C head in questions sentence has a strong [+Q, +wh] feature that attracts a wh-phrase to its specifier. T-to-C movement occurs the copular ‘is’ moves from the T (Tense head) to the C (Complementizer) head. This movement occurs because the [+Q] feature in C also attracts the finite verb/auxiliary to C, causing subject-auxiliary inversion.

### Sentence 6: Why do you still have Biafran number plates?

The declarative form of the proposition ‘Why do you still have Biafran number plates?’ can be ‘You still have Biafran number plates for some reason.’ The wh-word ‘why’ originates as an adjunct of reason modifying the verb phrase (VP). It answers the question ‘for what reason?’. Below is a simplified tree diagram of the sentence ‘why do you still have Biafran number plates?’



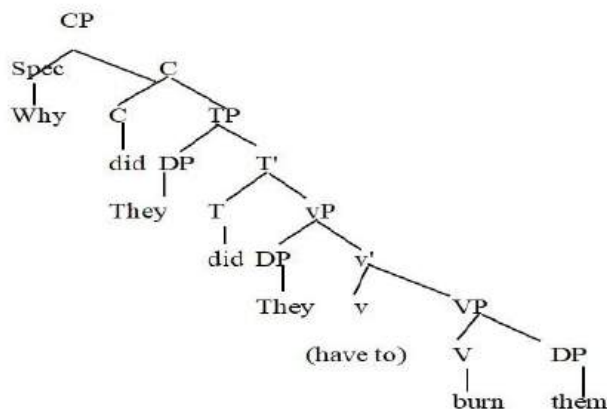
### Biafran number plates

This interrogative sentence involves three movement the *wh*-movement, head-movement and subject raising. In the *wh*-movement 'why' raises from adverbial adjunct (to vP/VP) to Spec-CP via internal merge, driven by [+wh] EPP on C. Auxiliary 'do' (support for present tense) moves from T to C (T-to-C); 'have' stays in vP/VP. The subject 'You' moves from Spec-vP to Spec-TP for nominative case and the object 'Biafran number plates' base-generated as DP

complement in VP remain in situ.

### Sentence 7: Why did they have to burn them?

This interrogative sentence exemplifies *wh*-movement (internal Merge) and subject-auxiliary inversion via head movement in the minimalist programme, driven by strong [+wh]-features on C. Here is a simplified tree diagram of the sentence 'Why did they have to burn them?'





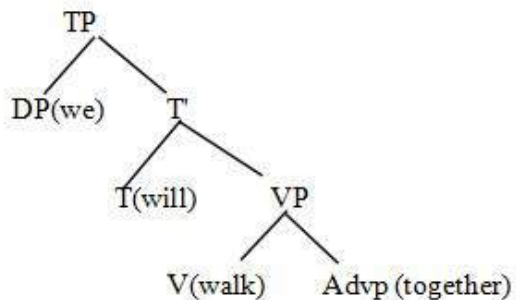
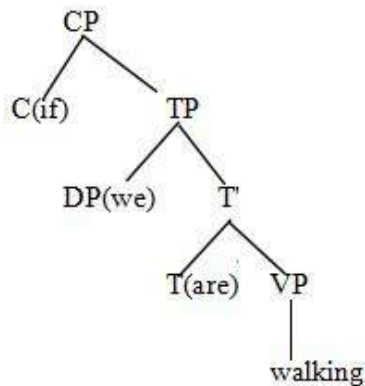
In this sentence, three major feature-driven movement occur: subject movement, T-to-C movement and *Wh*-movement. The DP 'they' moves from Spec-vP where it is base as the agent of burn to Spec-TP (subject position). This movement is trigger to checks nominative case on T. T-to-C movement (subject-auxiliary inversion) occurs when T head (containing past tense, which triggers do-support → did) moves to C head to form a yes/no question structure because the *wh*-phrase is fronted. *Wh*-movement occurs when 'why' which is an adjunct position inside vP/VP moves to Spec-CP to form a direct

*wh*-question. This movement is trigger because of the need for a [*wh*] feature on C.

**Sentence 8: If we are walking, we will walk together.**

'If we are walking, we will walk together.' is a complex sentence with a subordinate clause 'If we are walking' and a main clause 'we will walk together.' The sentence exhibits a movement of an object from one position to another within the sentence (internal Merge).

Here is a simplified tree diagram of the sentence 'If we are walking, we will walk together.'





In the subordinate clause, the complementiser 'if' occupies the C head position, marking the clause as conditional. The subject 'we' is in Spec-TP, where it checks nominative case features. The auxiliary verb 'are' originates in the T head and moves up to the C head (head movement) to check features of clause typing and tense. The main verb 'walking' remains in the V head position within VP.

The main clause 'we will walk together' has the subject 'we' in Spec-TP. The modal auxiliary 'will' in the T head does not move to the C head. The verb 'walk' remains as V in VP, and 'together' is an adverb modifying the verb phrase. Movement operation occurs in the sentence, subject 'we' raises to Spec-TP to check case. Auxiliary 'are' moves from T to C in the subordinate clause, and modal 'will' occupies the T head in the main clause. This sentence exhibits typical Minimalist Program operations including internal Merge (Move) of the auxiliary verb head for clause typing, subject raising, and adjunct placements.

### Findings

The study examined the Minimalist operation of Move in Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*. Finding shows that, the move operation in the novel served

to manipulate constituent positions for emphasis and interrogative structures. For instance, *wh*-movement is observed in interrogative sentences, fronting questions for clarity or emphasis, while head movement and NP-movement adjust sentence elements to satisfy syntactic constraints such as agreement and case, contributing to the dynamic flow of the prose. Move operations are pivotal for narrative modulation, especially in creating interrogation, emphasis, or contrast, which deepen the reader's engagement with the text. Thus, the syntactic complexity observed in Adichie's prose aligns with the Minimalist Programme's conception of language as an efficient computational system, where economical use of Move facilitates both meaning and aesthetic effect in literature. Moreover, the study argues for the importance of syntactic analysis in literary linguistics, showing that the operation of Move is not merely abstract processes but is central to constructing sentences that contribute to the flow of the narrative. This paper thus bridges the disciplines of linguistics and literature, contributing both to syntactic theory by testing it in literary data and to literary studies by providing new insights into the



structural aspects of prose.

### Conclusion

This study analysed the Minimalist operation of Move in Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* within the framework of Minimalist Programme. The analysis revealed that Move operation manipulate constituent positions for emphasis and interrogative structures. For instance, *wh*-movement is observed in interrogative sentences, fronting questions for clarity or emphasis, while head movement and NP-movement adjust sentence elements to satisfy syntactic constraints such as agreement and case. The findings highlight how move operation transform a sentence from declarative to interrogative (question) sentence. And how head movement adjusts sentence elements to satisfy syntactic constraints such as case and agreement. The study bridges the disciplines of linguistics and literature, contributing both to syntactic theory by testing it in literary data and to literary studies by providing new insights into the structural aspects of prose.

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