

Logophoricity in Ibibio

Lydia Newkirk
 lydia.newkirk@rutgers.edu
 Rutgers University

March 2017

1 Ibibio logophors

1. Pronouns and agreement

Ibibio has robust agreement morphology for both subject and objects:

- (1) **éwá á-mà á-n-dóm m̀fèn**
dog 3SG-PST 3SG-1SG-bite 1SG.OBJ
 ‘A dog bit me’

	Pronouns		Agreement	
	Subject	Object	Subject	Object
1sg	àmì	m̀fèn	ń-	ń-
2sg	àfò	f̀fèn	à-	ú-
3sg	ànyé	ànyé	á-	á-
1pl	j̀ǹǹǹ		ì-	í
2pl	nd̀ùfò		è-	é-
3pl	òmmò		é-	é-
LOG.SG	ìmò		ì-	í-
LOG.PL	m̀m̀m̀m̀		ì-	í-

Table 1: Ibibio pronouns and agreement markers

2. Logophoric agreement

Logophors (and their accompanying agreement) in Ibibio have morphology completely distinct from the other person markers, as well as being distinct from reflexives.

- (2) a. Ekpe á-bò ké (**ìmò**) ì-mà í-tò Udo
 Ekpe 3SG-say C LOG LOG-PST LOG-hit Udo
 ‘Ekpe_i said that he_i hit Udo.’ (logophor)
- b. Ekpe á-bò ké **ànyé** á-díyòngó íkwó íkwó m̀f̀ǹm̀f̀ǹ
 Ekpe 3SG-say C 3SG 3SG-know sing song well
 ‘Ekpe_i said that he_{i/j} sings well.’ (pronoun)
- c. Ekpa á-bó ké ì-mà í-tò **ídèm**
 Ekpe 3SG-say C LOG-PST LOG-hit self
 ‘Ekpe_i said that he_i hit himself_i’ (reflexive)

3. No matrix clauses

Ibibio logophors are illicit in matrix clauses:

- (3) *Ekpe á-mà á-díyà àdésí **ímò**
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-eat rice LOG.POSS
 Intended: ‘Ekpe_i ate his_i rice’ logophor
- (4) Ekpe á-mà á-díyà àdésí **ámò**
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-eat rice 3SG.POSS
 ‘Ekpe_i ate his_{i/k} rice’ pronoun

4. Plural logophors

When a plural logophor is used, split antecedence is possible so long as the subject of the closest matrix clause is a subset of the group that the plural logophor refers to.

- (5) Ekpe á-bò ké **ímímò** ì-díyà àfít àdésí ádò
 Ekpe 3SG-say C LOG.PL LOG-eat all rice DEM
 ‘Ekpe_i says that they_{i,j} ate all of the rice’
- (6) Ekpe á-bò ké Udo á-kèrè ké ètè **ímímò** á-yà í-dí í-wò
 Ekpe 3SG-say C Udo 3SG-think C father LOG.PL 3SG-FUT LOG-come LOG-visit
 ‘Ekpe_i says that Udo_j thinks that their_{{i,j}/{j,k}} father will come visit.’

5. *De se* only

Ibibio logophors obligatorily receive *de se* interpretations, unlike in Ewe (Pearson, 2015). The logophor is only possible when the matrix subject self-ascribes the property in the embedded clause.

Context: *Ekpe sings on occasion, but will never admit that he is any good. So one time, during one of his performances, you record him without his knowledge. Some time later, you play back the recording to him without telling him who is singing. Ekpe doesn’t recognize himself in the recording, and comments “he sings well.”*

- (7) Ekpe á-bò ké **ànyé** á-díyòṅó íkwó íkwó m̀f̀ǹm̀f̀ǹ
 Ekpe 3SG-say C 3SG 3SG-know sing song well
 ‘Ekpe_i said that he_{i/j} sings well.’
- (8) # Ekpe á-bò ké **ímò** ì-mé í-díyòṅó íkwó íkwó m̀f̀ǹm̀f̀ǹ
 Ekpe 3SG-say C LOG LOG-PRES LOG-know sing song well
 Intended: ‘Ekpe_i said that he_i sings well.’

6. Potential antecedents: Second person

Second-person antecedents are allowed, but first person is ruled out:

- (9) à-ké bò ké (ímò) ì-má í-kót ì̀ẁt̀
 2PL-PST say C LOG LOG-PST LOG-read book
 ‘You_i said that you_i read a book.’ (2SG)
- (10) *ì-ké bò ké ì-mà í-kót ì̀ẁt̀
 1SG-PST say C LOG-PST LOG-read book
 Intended: ‘I said that I read a book.’ (1SG)
- (11) è-ké bò ké ìmímò ì-mà í-kót ì̀ẁt̀
 2PL-PST say C LOG.PL LOG-PST LOG-read book
 ‘You (pl.) said that you read a book.’ (2PL)
- (12) *ì-ké bò ké ìmímò ì-ma í-kót ì̀ẁt̀
 1PL-PST say C LOG.PL LOG-PST LOG-read book
 Intended: ‘We said that we read a book’ (1PL)

7. Potential antecedents: Long-distance

In principle, Ibibio logophors can take antecedents more than one clause away:

- (13) Ekpe á-bò ké Udo á-ké á-kéré ké (ìm̀) ì-ké í-kít Ima
 Ekpe 3SG-say C Udo 3SG-PST 3SG-think C LOG LOG-PST LOG-see Ima
 ‘Ekpe_i says that Udo_j thinks that he_{i/j} saw Ima.’

8. Multiple embedded logophors

But, two clausemate logophors have to take the same antecedent:

- (14) Ekpe á-mà á-kòp ké Udo á-ké á-bò ké àyín-ékà ìm̀ á-mà á-kít ìm̀ ké
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-hear C Udo 3SG-PST 3SG-say C brother LOG.POSS 3SG-PST 3SG-see LOG at
 údúà
 market
 ‘Ekpe_i heard that Udo_j said that his_{j/*i} brother saw him_{j/*i} at the market.’
- (15) *Ekpe á-mà á-kóp ké Udo á-ké á-bó ké ìm̀ ì-mà í-tò ìm̀
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-hear C Udo 3SG-PST 3SG-say C LOG LOG-PST LOG-hit LOG
 Intended: ‘Ekpe_i heard that Udo_j said that he_{i/j} hit him_{i/j}’

9. That’s not much like a logophoric language

Clausemate logophors are free to take different antecedents in Yoruba (Anand, 2006):

- (16) Olu so pé Ade ro pé bàbá oun ti r’ì `iyá òun
 Olu say that Ade think that father oun.gen PERF see mother oun.gen
 ‘Olu_i said that Ade_k thought that his_{i/k} father had seen his_{i/k} mother.’

And in Ewe (Clements, 1975):

- (17) Kofi xɔ-e se be Ama gblɔ be yè-fu yè
 Kofi receive-PRO hear that Ama say that LOG-beat LOG
 ‘Kofi_i believed that Ama_k said that he_i beat her_k’ or
 ‘Kofi_i believed that Ama_k said that she_k beat him_i’

Why can’t they in Ibibio?

10. But it is like an indexical-shift language

Anand & Nevins (2004) report that in Zazaki,¹ which has indexical shift, clausemate indexicals either shift together or not at all:

- (18) vizeri Rojda Bill-ra va ke ʒz to-ra miradiša
 yesterday Rojda Bill-to said that I you-to angry.be-PRES
 ‘Yesterday Rojda said to Bill, “I am angry at you.”’
 ‘Yesterday Rojda said to Bill, “AUTH(c) is angry at ADDR(c).”’
 *‘Yesterday Rojda said to Bill, “AUTH(c) is angry at you.”’
 *‘Yesterday Rojda said to Bill, “I am angry at ADDR(c).”’

This seems similar to the constraint on Ibibio logophors.

2 Explaining Shift Together

11. A constraint on shifted indexicals

Anand (2006) defines the following constraint on indexical shift languages:

¹Indo-Iranian, Turkey

(19) SHIFT TOGETHER Constraint

All shiftable indexicals within an *attitude-context domain* must pick up reference from the same context

- a. $\mathbf{C}_A [\dots \textit{modal} \mathbf{C}_B \dots [\textit{ind}_1^{\mathbf{A}} \dots \textit{ind}_2^{\mathbf{A}}]]$
- b. $\mathbf{C}_A [\dots \textit{modal} \mathbf{C}_B \dots [\textit{ind}_1^{\mathbf{B}} \dots \textit{ind}_2^{\mathbf{B}}]]$
- c. $*\mathbf{C}_A [\dots \textit{modal} \mathbf{C}_B \dots [\textit{ind}_1^{\mathbf{A}} \dots \textit{ind}_2^{\mathbf{B}}]]$
- d. $*\mathbf{C}_A [\dots \textit{modal} \mathbf{C}_B \dots [\textit{ind}_1^{\mathbf{B}} \dots \textit{ind}_2^{\mathbf{A}}]]$

Descriptively speaking, it doesn't matter how far away the operator that the indexicals depend on is, they just have to depend on the same operator.

12. Deriving Shift Together

Anand derives Shift Together in Zazaki and Slave by defining shifting operators that overwrite the context values under attitude verbs:

$$(20) \quad \llbracket \text{OP}_{\textit{auth}} \alpha \rrbracket^{c,i} = \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^{j,i}, \text{ where } j = \langle \text{AUTH}(\mathbf{i}), \text{ADDR}(\mathbf{c}), \text{TIME}(\mathbf{c}), \text{WORLD}(\mathbf{c}) \rangle$$

$$(21) \quad \llbracket \text{OP}_{\textit{per}} \alpha \rrbracket^{c,i} = \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^{j,i}, \text{ where } j = \langle \text{AUTH}(\mathbf{i}), \text{ADDR}(\mathbf{i}), \text{TIME}(\mathbf{c}), \text{WORLD}(\mathbf{c}) \rangle$$

The information for the matrix value of the indexical is lost, ensuring that all of the embedded indexicals take the shifted reading (no 'unshifting').

13. Shifting vs. logophors

Logophors, on the other hand, are taken to be bound by a completely different operator, OP-LOG, which is basic λ -binding. Logophors have a [LOG] feature that requires them to be bound by a coindexed OP-LOG.

14. A potential solution

Maybe Ibibio logophors are just logophor-shaped shifted indexicals, derived by a context-overwrite operator. Or maybe Ibibio has both types of operators in its embedded attitude clauses: a shifter to ensure Shift Together, and a binder to ensure that logophors can't appear in matrix clauses.

15. The hitch

But (true) indexicals can freely occur in the same clause as logophors:

- (22) Ekpe á-kéré ké (**ímḍ**) ì-mà í-n-kít **mìèn**
 Ekpe 3SG-think C LOG LOG-PST LOG-1SG-see 1SG.OBJ
 'Ekpe_i thinks that he_i saw me.'

If shifting occurs via contextual overwrite, the embedded first person should be shifted, but it's not.

16. Defining pronominals

Schlenker (2003) proposes that shiftable indexicals are defined to shift (potentially optionally) under the right attitude verb.

- (23) a. English 'I': +indexical, +c*
 b. Amharic 'I': +indexical, [underspecified]

Schlenker's approach doesn't account for shift together, but combined with Anand's shifting operators, we

17. Shifting and binding

In Ibibio, only the logophors are defined to take a shifted context. Indexicals are like English indexicals:

- (24) a. $\llbracket \textit{ímḍ} \rrbracket^{g,c} = \text{AUTH}(\mathbf{c})$ SHIFTABLE
 b. $\llbracket \textit{1SG} \rrbracket^{g,c} = \text{AUTH}(\mathbf{c}^*)$ NOT SHIFTABLE

Anand's AUTH shifter suffices to shift the logophors, and nothing else.

$$(25) \quad \llbracket \text{OP}_{\textit{auth}} \alpha \rrbracket^{c,i} = \llbracket \alpha \rrbracket^{j,i}, \text{ where } j = \langle \text{AUTH}(\mathbf{i}), \text{ADDR}(\mathbf{c}), \text{TIME}(\mathbf{c}), \text{WORLD}(\mathbf{c}) \rangle$$

18. What about OP-LOG?

Yoruba strong pronouns show the *De Re* Blocking Effect (Adesola, 2005):

- (26) Adé_i so pé **oun**_i ti r'í `iwé **rè**_{i,j}
 Ade say that oun PERF see book o-gen
 'Ade_i said that he_i has seen his_{i,j} book.'
- (27) Olu_i so pé **o**_{*i/j} r'í bàbá **òun**_i
 Olu say that o see father oun-gen
 'Olu_i said that he_{*i/j} has seen his_i father.'
- (28) Olu_i so pé bàbá **rè**_{i/j} r'í `iyá **òun**_i
 Olu say that father o-gen see mother oun-gen
 'Olu_i said that his_{i/j} father has seen his_i mother.'

In Anand's (2006) theory, (27) does not allow the weak pronoun to refer to the logophoric center because in cases where it is co-indexed with the logophor, it is a competing binder for the more deeply embedded logophor, causing a condition B effect. This is ameliorated by interrupting c-command between the two pronouns, as in (28).

19. *De Re* Blocking is for logophors, not indexicals

Context: *At a friend's party, Hesen is shocked to see Ali, the boyfriend of his good friend Rojda, flirting with a woman in a big red dress and hat that obscures her face. After seeing her kiss Ali, Hesen rushes off to find Rojda. When he finds her, he tells her, "The woman in the big red dress kissed your man." Of course, it was Rojda all along, only hidden under a costume!*

- (29) Hesen_i va k3 Rojda_i layik **tiya** pach kerd
 Hesen.OBL said that Rojda.OBL boy your kiss did
 'Hesen said (to Rojda_i) that Rojda_i kissed her_i man.' (Anand, 2006, (333))

20. *De Re* blocking in Ibibio

Ibibio also shows the *De Re* Blocking Effect, although interestingly it does not seem to be ameliorated by preventing c-command between the two pronouns, as it is in Yoruba:

- (30) Ekpe_i á-mà á-bò ké **ìmò**_i ì-mà í-kít èté **ámò**_{i/j}
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-say C LOG LOG-PST LOG-see father 3SG.POSS
 'Ekpe_i said that he_i saw his_{i/j} father.'
- (31) Ekpe_i á-mà á-bò ké **ànyé**_{*i/j} á-mà á-kít èté **ìmò**_i
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-say C 3SG 3SG-PST 3SG-see father LOG.POSS
 'Ekpe_i said that he_{*i/j} saw his_i father.'
- (32) Ekpe_i á-mà á-bò ké èté **ámò**_{*i/j} á-mà á-kít èkà **ìmò**_i
 Ekpe 3SG-PST 3SG-say C father 3SG.POSS 3SG-PST 3SG-see mother LOG.POSS
 'Ekpe_i said that his_{*i/j} father saw his_i mother.'

As this effect is derived by binding competition, it would be a mistake to assume that there is no OP-LOG active in Ibibio.

21. Results

- Indexical shift is accomplished by a conspiracy of factors
- First, indexicals that are lexically sensitive to a shifting operator
- Second, a operator under an attitude verb to overwrite the contextual parameter for indexicals in its scope

- Ibibio shows that pronominals within a language can vary as to whether they are sensitive to shifting
- The effects of both Shift Together and *De Re* Blocking in the same language illustrate that shifting operators and OP-LOG are not in complementary distribution, and can both be active in the same language.

3 Typological implications

22. Sources of variance

We now have a new way for languages to vary, predicting an expanded typology:

- The presence (and type) of shifting operator(s) in the language
- The presence of logophoric binding operators
- What pronominals are defined as shiftable

23. Some variation we won't see

- In order for shifted indexicals (or logophoricity) to appear, there has to be a conspiracy between the pronominals and the relevant operators
- A language that has shiftable indexicals but no shifting operators is indistinguishable from a language without shiftable indexicals (whether that language has a shifting operator or not)

24. The typology

	Logophors	
	No Logophors	Shiftable Unshiftable
No Shifted Indexicals	English	Ibibio Ewe ² , Yoruba ³
Shifted Indexicals	Zazaki ⁴	Aghem? ⁵

25. Summary

- Ibibio logophors show hybrid behavior for *de se* elements: In some ways they are well-behaved logophors and in some ways they are like shifted indexicals.
- This behavior can be captured with the minimal adjustment that indexical shift requires not only an operator in the left periphery, but also that the indexicals themselves must be defined to shift.
- Ibibio logophors can then be defined as (essentially) shifted indexicals that are also bound by logophoric operators, distinguishing them from ‘true’ Ibibio indexicals, which do not shift.

References

- Adesola, Oluseye. 2005. *Pronouns and Null Operators – A-bar Dependencies and Relations in Yoruba*: Rutgers Ph.d.
- Anand, Pranav. 2006. *De de Se*: MIT Ph.d.
- Anand, Pranav & Andrew Nevins. 2004. Shifty Operators in Changing Contexts. *SALT 14* .
- Clements, George N. 1975. The Logophoric Pronoun in Ewe: Its Role in Discourse. *Journal of West African Linguistics* 10(2). 141–177.
- Hyman, Larry. 1979. Aghem Grammatical Structure. *Southern California Occasional Papers in Linguistics* 7.
- Pearson, Hazel. 2015. The interpretation of the logophoric pronoun in Ewe. *Natural Language Semantics* 23(2). 77–118. doi:10.1007/s11050-015-9112-1.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2003. A plea for monsters. *Linguistics and philosophy* 26(1). 29–120.