

On Predication of Adjectives in Ga

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Abstract

The adjective as a word class is elusive, as sometimes this distinct class is not easy to be identified in some languages though recent linguistics studies have claimed it exists in all languages. In Ga, a Kwa language of Niger Congo, the adjective class can be clearly defined. The Ga adjective class consists of both derived and underived forms. Adjectives are syntactically known to play the role of attribution, and/or predication and also found in comparative constructions. This paper investigates how adjectives in predicative positions in English are expressed in Ga and more especially when multiple ones serve as copula complement. It shows that adjectives in predication are expressed through verbs in Ga. The adjectives found in Ga are classified according to Dixon semantic classes. The data for this study were collected through questionnaire and follow up interviews from some native speakers. From the study, it came to light that verbs that occur in predicate positions as head of the verb phrases may have adjective equivalents but speakers prefer the verbs to the adjectives and there seems to be some number agreement with the nouns in subject position. When the adjective has no verb equivalent, natives make use of relative clauses and also make use of the adjectives. The study further revealed that when multiple adjectives are used in predicative position, though a restricted order was not established, there exist a preferred order for example, dimension adjectives occur before colour adjectives.

Keywords: Adjective, Multiple adjectives, Attribution, Predicative

1. Introduction

In language, attributes are given to nouns and most often adjectives play this role. Adjectives when present in the language plays this role otherwise other lexical categories may serve this function. Palancar (2004) refers to lexical categories that express adjectival meanings as property concept words (PC). Syntactically, the adjective functions attributively, predicatively and may occur in comparative constructions (Dixon 2004). In predication the adjective or the item denoting a property concept links the subject which is a noun or noun phrase with a linking verb like, *is*, *seems*, *appear*, and *prove* among others. Dixon (2004) explained that the adjective plays the predicative role by being the copula complement. This means the adjective serves as the complement of a copula verb. For instance ‘The woman is tall’ where ‘tall’ is used predicatively and serves as the copula complement. The phenomenon of description occurs in speech and attributes always occur in one way or the other for nouns. The role of adjective in language namely attribution, predication and present in comparison constructions may not all be found in every language. This is because Dixon (2004) opined that an adjective class may not function in all these roles and therefore the other roles may be expressed in different ways with the use of other lexical categories. For example, words that function as adjectives in Thai are from the sub-class of verbs (Amara 2000) and also as noted by Min-Joo (2002) in Korean are also stative verbs. From the modest readings done, it became clear that some of the Ghanaian language works do not delve into all the roles that adjectives play in language but seem to concentrate more on the attributive role. In Ga, the adjective, whether derived or basic, plays this attributive role (Otoo 2007, Amfo et al 2007) but the focus of this paper is to examine whether the Ga adjectives play the predicative role, what lexical categories are employed to express predicative positions in Ga. How is the expression: ‘The man seems intelligent’ expressed in Ga?. What will be the lexical category used and how will the sentence structure be like? It also examined what lexical categories are used to express predicative adjective in Ga and also when multiple adjectives are used in Ga, in what order do they occur. This is the focus of this paper as short discussions with speakers revealed that though adjectives exist in Ga, their usage pattern may differ from English. Some scholarly works that dealt with predicative adjectives include; Hofherr (2010) studied the syntax of predicative adjectives, she reported that most predicates which may be containing an adjective in English may be nouns or verbs in other languages whereas Gemma & Boleda and McNally (2004) examined the intersective analysis of relational adjectives in Catalan, Romance language, and noted that they are properties of entities and not of kinds. Lichtman (2009) examined both the attributive and predicative adjective but focused on how these can be acquired by English speakers whose L2 was Spanish and concluded that speakers are able to grasp the agreement features after some time due to the noun and adjective distance. Laporte (2012) examine the features of French adjectives and went further to study the predicative adjective and opined that the representation of the subject of adjectives in lexicon grammar is difficult due to the several restructuration involved. Zimmerling and Kulina (2010) investigated how case is marked on Russia predicative adjectives whereas Brdar-Szabo, et al (2012) investigated in detail and gave analysis of Slavic and German predicative adjectives. They examined which word classes correspond to predicative adjective in Germanic slavic languages as most of the English equivalents were from other word classes for instance in

Croatian they were verbs and adverbs. Geist (2010) studied short forms and long forms of predicative adjectives in Russian and postulated that the short forms are verbal in nature and the long forms are adjectives in relation to their morphosyntactic and semantic features. Edan and Abbas (2014) grouped adjectives into attributive only and predicative only and examined further those that can only be used attributively and their syntactic structure. These works did not examine the occurrence of multiple adjectives in predicative position let alone in attributive position. Most of the works on adjectives in Ghanaian languages that I came across have concentrated on the sources and derivation of adjectives include Dangme (Caesar 2012), Akan (Osam 1999), Ewe (Dzameshie 2007), Siyase (Adjei 2006), Kasem (Danti 2007) to mention few. Other works also dealt with the morpho- syntactic functions of adjectives but much have not dealt with the sequence of adjectives in predicative positions. In addition, most of the works on Ghanaian languages also do not examine sequence of multiple adjectives used but rather focus on the sources and morphosyntactic properties of adjectives in Ghanaian languages.

2. Method

The data was gathered from varied sources which included three Ga students in second year and six Ga students in third year and pursuing Ga education in University of Education, Winneba in 2016 and one final 400 student totalling 10, five elderly native speakers, a social group in Osu called episoderians mainly consisting of 10 youth and 5 Ga teachers. The total number was 30 consisting of 15 males and 15 females with age range between 21-70 plus. These were all native speakers of Ga. These people were asked to participate in this research when they showed interest and were therefore selected and given the English sentences which they expressed in Ga. They were informed that they are to express them as they will say them in speech. The design is more of qualitative or simply put a mixed method as the data was tabulated and the results were discussed. There were two categories of sentences: five had only one adjective in predicative function and the second category had two adjectives in predicative position in order to ascertain the sequence. The expressions were all written out and the frequencies of each occurrence were ascertained and were discussed in the order in which they appeared on the questionnaire. Short interviews were done for some of the participants to know what informed their ordering choice for the two adjectives. The results were then tabulated and the one with the highest frequency was selected as the preferred one.

2.1 Participants

The participants were students and non-students. This was to done so that the results will not be based on only those who have studied Ga in the tertiary level. The participants who were selected purposively were to represent at least majority of the Ga who are living in the areas of La, Teshie, Nugua, Osu and Ga Mashie. The five elderly all above 65years were included as they represented the five areas mentioned to ascertain any difference. The Osu group (Episoderians) were made up of workers mainly consisting of 4 females and 6males between the ages of 35 and 45. The students consisted of 6 females and 4 males who were between the ages of 21 and 38years. The participants were given questionnaires in which they are to put the sentences into Ga as a native speaker will say it. The researcher read out loud the

questionnaire with the 15 sentences to the participants and asked them to write out or say them as it will be expressed in Ga. The data was gathered over a period of six months (May to October 2016).

2.2 Research Design

The framework employed for this study is Framework Free Grammatical theory (Haspelmath 2008) which is a descriptive one. The Framework Free Grammatical theory (FFG), which is not a bound and restricted framework, postulates that issues in language should be described as they pertain in the language and not to be pinned down on a particular rule which may not cater for them. It therefore allows things that may be put as exceptions in using a restricted framework to be dealt with. This framework Haspelmath (2008) is supported by Dixon (2004) semantic classification of adjectives in order to analyse the sequence order.

Dixon (2004, 2005) identifies a set of semantic types of PCs that are encoded by the adjective class in languages that have them. The classes are thirteen in his recent work which are:

1. DIMENSION: in this class the property concepts denote size shapes etc. e.g. big, small, long, deep, etc.
2. PHYSICAL PROPERTY: e.g hard, strong, sweet, cheap, etc.
3. SPEED: this class shows the fastness or slowness of an entity e.g fast, quick, rapid, etc.
4. AGE: in this class the PCs denote how old something may be e.g new, old, young, modern, etc.
5. COLOUR: in this class, the nature of the entity in terms of colour is expressed e.g black, white, golden, etc.
6. VALUE: adjectives that denote value are seen in this class e.g good, bad, lovely, pretty, etc.
7. DIFFICULTY: how difficult an entity may be is found in this class e.g easy, tough, hard, simple, etc
8. VOLITION: e.g accidental, purposeful, deliberate, etc
9. QUALIFICATION: what qualifications are found in this class (This has subtypes) e.g true, obvious, normal, right, etc
10. HUMAN PROPENSITY: In this class adjectives that denote the nature of human are mainly expressed (This also has subtypes), e. g angry, jealous, clever, sad, etc
11. SIMILARITY: e.g different, equal (to), analogous (to) etc.
12. QUANTIFICATION: eg all, many, few, only, enough etc
13. POSITION: eg high, low, distant, northern, near, left etc

(Adapted from Dixon 2004 and 2006)

Dixon proposed a sequence order for English adjectives which is Value –Dimension –Physical Property –Speed –Human Propensity –Age – Colour. He postulates that it is not universal as others have also proposed other sequences. All the semantic classes were not ordered and tested in predicative position in this paper, the common adjectives found in used in speech often after listening to conversations, speeches and radio programmes informed the selection and moreover some of these semantic groups are not filled in Ga by adjectives such as human propensity which is most often nouns.

3. Ga Sentence Structure

In Ga, three types of sentences can be identified mainly, the Subject Verb, Object (SVO), the NP NP and the copula constructions (Dakubu 2003). In example (1) below an example is given of the SVO order. It must be noted that the SVO can be extended to include adjuncts, SVOA. In example (2) a verbless sentence consisting of NP and particle *ni* is shown. There is also the NP NP clause exemplified in example (3). It could be said that the verbless clauses in Ga are of two types, one that consists of two NPs and the other consists of NP and a particle.

In example (1) below, the sentence is an SVO order.

1. Yòó !lɛ yè-ɔ̀ bánkù.

Woman DEF eat-HAB banku

‘The woman eats banku’.

2. Yòó !lɛ n ì

Woman DEF PART

‘It is the woman’.

In example (1), the subject is *yòó lɛ* ‘the woman’ and the complement of the verb *ye* ‘eat’ is *banku*. In (2), the sentence consists of an NP *yòó lɛ* ‘the woman’ and a particle *ni*. It must be noted that the particles used in Ga for verbless sentences include *nɛ* which occurs at final position) and *naa* which occurs at the initial position which is not illustrated here. The NP NP type of sentence may consist of two NP as illustrated below in (3).

3. E-mùsú gògá

3-stomach bucket

‘His stomach is big’.

The copula clause found in Ga has the copula verb *ji*. This is illustrated below in (4).

4. Yòó jí Adole.

Woman COP Adole

‘Adole is a woman’.

It must be mentioned that verbs in Ga as noted by Dakubu (2003) usually take NPs as complements. The question now is how are sentences like ‘The girl is big, The bag is big and red expressed in Ga? The focus of the paper is to find out how these are expressed in Ga and what lexical categories are used to express them.

4. Results

This section examines and analyses sentences that tested how adjectives in predicative positions in English are expressed in Ga. In employing the FFG what was found was expressed and described as such as to portray what actually pertains from the data. Exceptions could be expected as nothing binds the analysis. The data served as the sole guide in the analysis.

Firstly, the data discusses briefly one adjective in predicative position then it follows with two adjectives in predicative position. The one adjective in predicative position had five sentences and for two, there were ten sentences.

The test to find out how adjectives faired in predicative positions yielded the following which are displayed in the tables. The English sentences in the questionnaire are placed first and the Ga equivalents follow and then tabulated with the number of respondents who write each equivalents and the highest scored is selected as the most preferred.

English sentence 1 on the questionnaire:

5. The woman is quarrelsome.

Ga

a) Gbéké-y òò b éì -lɔ.

child-woman quarrel-AG SUF

b). B éì -lɔ gbéké-y òò

quarrel-AG SUF child-woman

c) Y òò n í s ùmɔ̀ -ɔ̀ b éì

woman REL like-HAB quarrel.

Table 1. Human Propensity Adjective

Respondents Option	Frequency	Percentage
A	28	93.4
B	1	3.3
C	1	3.3
Total	30	100

The Table 1 shows the frequency of the adjective quarrelsome in predication. It is evident that 28 out of 30 respondents (93.4%) preferred to use the nominal to express ‘quarrelsome’. The least used by the respondents in this instance was the relative clause in (5c) and the

nominal preceding the noun ‘woman.

6. The man is tall.

Ga

a) Nùúlé ké /kwɔ̀.

man DEF be tall

This yielded the same expression for all the respondents as seen in (a) ,that is 30 out of 30 respondents expressed example (6) in the same way which represents 100%. In the Ga construction it is noted that the adjective ‘tall’ a dimension adjective is represented by a verb in Ga.

The sentence in (7) yielded two expressions.

7. The woman is beautiful.

Ga

a) Yòó ! lé h èye féó.

Woman DEF body be beauty.

b) Yòó féféó n í

Woman beautiful PRT.

21 out of the 30 respondents used the expression in (a) representing 70%. The English adjective from the value class ‘beautiful’ is expressed in Ga with a noun and the adjective form of this is what is found in construction (b). In (7b) 9 of the respondents used it attributively.

The next sentence in (8) was also tested.

8. The medicine is bitter.

Ga

a) Tsòf á lé jóɔ̀.

Medicine DEF be bitter-HAB

It is interesting to note that all the 30 respondents wrote the construction in (8a) to express the example 8. This made use of a verb to express the English adjective ‘bitter in predicative position.

The sentence in (9) was another one on the questionnaire that sought to find out the predicative use of the adjective.

9. The building is new.

Ga

a) Tsú lé yè é **-h èè**

building DEF has NOM-new

‘The building is new.’

- b) Tsú lé h èè
building DEF new
'The new building.'
- c) Sh â lé é-h èè ni.
house DEF NOM-new PART
'The house is new/the house is a new one.'
- d) Tsù h èè lé.
building new DEF
'The new building'
- e) Tsù h èè né.
building new PART
'That building is new'/that is a new building.
- f) Tsù éh èè né.
building NOM-new PART
'That is a new building'

Table 2. Age in Predicative position

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	16	53.4
B	1	3.3
C	2	6.7
D	4	13.3
E	6	20.0
F	1	3.3
Total	30	100

The sentence in (9) produced six different Ga translations. In Table 2 the construction in (9a) was provided by 16 out 30 respondents (53.4%) had the PC item *hee* 'new' prefixed with *e-* which nominalises the PC item. In (9b) the prefix *e-* is absent and that was constructed by 1 respondent. In (9c) the prefix is present on the PC item to nominalise the PC item and this was by 2 respondents (6.7%). In (9c) a verbless sentence is employed by 6.7% of the respondents. In (9d) the respondents which total 4 out of 30 used a phrase to put the idea across and in (9e) and (9f) the respondents employed verbless structures as well. 6 out of 30 respondents put down (9e) and only 1 put down (9f). In (9f) the *e-* prefix is seen again. This adjective 'new' which is from the Age class has no verbal equivalent.

10. The boy is dark and tall.

This sentence in (10) yielded four different realizations in Ga and below is the constructions with the number of respondents tabulated and put in percentages.

- a) Gbékénùú lé kwò n ì é - d í - ò .

child boy DEF be tall CONJ 3SG- be black-HAB
‘The child is tall and black’.

b) Gbékénùú lé **dí- ɔ̀** n ì é **-kwɔ̀**.
child boy DEF be black-HAB CONJ- 3SG-tall

‘The child is dark and tall.’

c) Gbéké lé **kàkàdájí** **dí** n ì
child DEF long black PART
‘The child is tall and dark.’/he is a tall dark child’.

d) Gbéké lé **dí** **kàkàdájí** n ì
child DEF black long PART
‘The child is dark and tall.’

Table 3. Predicative (Dimension and Colour)

Respondents options	Frequency	Percentage
A	17	56.7
B	10	33.3
C	2	6.7
D	1	3.3
Total	30	100

Table 3 shows that 17 out of 30 respondents (i.e 56.7%) constructed the sentence in (10a). In (10a) the PC items dark and tall have been replaced by verbs as compared to the English where they (PCs) are from the adjective class. The occurrence of a PC in (10a) is the verb *kwɔ̀* ‘be tall’ which shows the PC item from the dimension class precedes the verb *dí* ‘be black’ from the colour class. The sentence in (10b) is vice versa of (10a) and 10 out of 30 respondents gave that construction. In (10c) and (10d) the respondents used adjectives just like the English examples and (10c) has the dimension type of adjective *kakadají* ‘long/tall’ occurring before the color adjective *dí* ‘black’. The reverse order is seen in (10d). Two (2) respondents wrote down the construction in (10c) and 1 respondent representing 3.3% constructed (10d). It can be concluded that the use of verbs to denote the PC item where it exists, is preferred in Ga. Dimension adjective occurred before colour when verbs were employed as seen in the data in example (10). Participants preferred to mention the dimension verb first as it had the highest score.

The next sentence which was also used to check on predication is seen in (11).

11. The bucket is big and blue.

From the English sentence, seven constructions were realized:

a) Gògá lé yè **bluu** n ì e **-d à**
bucket DEF has blue CONJ 3SG-be big

‘The bucket is blue and it is big.’

- b) Gògá lé **dà** nì **bluu** nì
 bucket DEF big CONJ blue PART
 ‘The bucket is big and blue.’
- c) Gògá **bluu** **àgbó** !lé
 bucket blue big DEF
 ‘The blue big bucket’
- d) Gògá **àgbò** **bluu** lé.
 bucket big blue DEF
 ‘The big blue bucket’
- e) Gògá **bluu** lé **dà**
 bucket blue DEF be big
 ‘The blue bucket is big.’
- f) Gògá **àgbò** nì é **-dà**
 bucket big CONJ 3SG-be big
 ‘The bucket is big and its big.’
- g) Gògá lé **dà** nì é -yè **bluu**
 bucket DEF be big CONJ 3SG be blue
 ‘The bucket is big and it is blue.’

Table 4. Colour and Dimension in Predication

Respondent Options	Frequency	Percentage
A	5	16.7
B	3	10.0
C	2	6.7
D	4	13.3
E	6	20.0
F	1	3.3
G	9	30.0
Total	30	100

In Table 4 example (11g) had the highest score of 9 out of 30, representing 30%. In (g) the verb denoting PC item which is dimension type *dà* ‘be big’ occurred before the colour type appeared in adjective form *bluu* ‘blue’. The second highest score was (11e) written by 6 respondents (20%). It is the opposite form of the (11g) where colour occurred before dimension. 1 out of the 30 respondents representing 3.3% had the least score with the order Dimension preceding another Dimension type. Constructions (10c) and (d) had the adjectives

used, in (11c) colour type *bluu* ‘blue’ occurred before dimension type *àgb ò* ‘big’ and the vice versa occurred in (11d). Even though (11b) is similar to (11g) respondents preferred to utter (11g) than (11b). The preferred order by participants from the English example in (11) which is (11g) is dimension occurred before colour.

12. The books are heavy and old.

Ga

a) Wò -jí lé yè **tsìṅmòò** é **-mómó** lé.

book-PL DEF be heavy NOM-old DEF

‘The books are heavy and old.’

b) Wò -ji lé yè **ts ǐ** n ì é -ye é **-mómó**

book-PL DEF be heavy CONJ 3SG be NOM -old

‘The books are heavy and they are old.’

c) Wò -ji lé **ts ǐ** n ì éfèè é **-mómó**

book-PL DEF heavy CONJ become NOM-old

‘The books are heavy and they have become old.’

d) Wò -ji lé e **-gbò`** n ì **ts ǐ**

book-PL DEF PERF be old CONJ heavy

‘The books are old and heavy.’

e) Wò -ji lé é **-gbò`** n ì é **-ts ǐ**

book-PL DEF PERF old CONJ PERF- heavy

‘The books are old and are heavy.’

f) Wò -ji **máméji** lé **ts ǐts ǐ**

book-PL old -PL DEF heavy

‘The old books are heavy.’

g) Wò -ji lé tsii ni e **-gbò`**.

book-PL DEF be heavy CONJ PERF be old

‘The books are old and heavy.’

Table 5. Age and Physical Property Adjectives

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	1	3.3

B	8	26.7
C	2	6.7
D	5	16.7
E	3	10.0
F	4	13.3
G	7	23.3
Total	30	100

Table 5 above shows PC items from the classes of physical property and Age. 8 respondents out of 30 (26.7%) preferred to place the verb *ts ii* 'be heavy' the physical property before the adjective *mómó* 'old' age type as represented in (12b). Construction (12g) had the adjective *mámēi* 'old' (PL) occurring first as an attribute then the age verb is found in the predicate and that was preferred by 7 respondents (i.e 23.3%). Though there are verb equivalents for both adjectives employed in the sentence the preferred one chosen by the respondents (12b) consists of the adjective and the verb. (12b) an (12c) are the same except the verbs used *yε* 'has/possess in (12b) and (12c) employs *efee* 'has become'. Construction (12a) which employed adjectives had the least score of 3.3%.

13. The bucket is large and new

Ga

a) Gòg á lé dà n íéyε éhèè

bucket DEF be big CONJ 3SG be NOM- new

b) Gòga hee lé dà

bucket new DEF be big

c) Gòg álé yε éhèèni é-d à

bucket DEF be NOM-new CONJ PERF- be big

d) Gòg álé d àni émli ts ìì

bucket DEF be big CONJ 3SG -inside be heavy

e) Gòg áhèè àgbó lé.

bucket new big DEF

The sentence in (13) yielded five different constructions. In sentence (13a) 40% Of the respondents expressed the adjective big in English in Ga with a verb *da* 'to be big and new is expressed in the nominal form *ehēe* 'the new one' from the adjective *hee* new with the prefix attached to it. In sentence (13b), 5 of the respondents (16.6%) changed the predicative use of the adjective new and made it attributive and then used the verb form for the adjective big *da*. In sentence (13c) there is a conjunction and the adjective is put in the nominal form and the verb form occurs again for the adjective big. In (13d) the verb form occurs and the second part of the sentence contains a verb which means heavy and it seems the person missed it.

The last sentence (13e) that is 4 respondents (13.3%) turned the predicative use of the adjectives totally into attributive use by using the adjectives as attributes. The preferred order is (13a) which is dimension before age.

The Table 6 shows adjectives from the class of Age and Dimension

Table 6. Age and dimension Class

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	12	40
B	5	16.6
C	8	26.6
D	1	3,33
E	4	13.3
Total	30	100

In Table 6 sentence (a) which had 40% representing 12 respondents was selected as the preferred one as it had the highest frequency. This had the item denoting dimension occurring first followed by age adjective. The least said among the respondents is sentence (d) which represented 3.33% where the dimension occurred and another verb denoting something else occurred. From the table, it can also be deduced that sentence (c) is also acceptable among the speakers as it is second in the frequency where age occurred before dimension.

14. The man is old and intelligent.

Ga

- a) Nùùmó lé égbò` shi é-l ènii.
Oldman DEF PERF-be old but PERF-know thing
- b) Nùúlé é-d àni é-l ènii h ú
Man DEF PERF-be big CONJ PERF-know thing
- c) Nùùmó lé é-d àni é-l ènii.
Oldman DEF PERF-be big CONJ PERF-know thing
- d) Nùùmoó lé yε n l éé
Oldman DEF be knowledge
- e) Nùùmó lé é-d àshi é-l èn ì
Oldman DEF PERF-be big CONJ PERF-know things
- f) Nùúlé é-d àyε ãf í áml ìni é-l èn ì
Man DEF PERF-be big in years inside
- g) Nùùmó lé h é k àsh ì
Oldman DEF face lie down
- h) Nùúlé égbò` ni é-yε jwεηmò`.
Man DEF PERF-be old CONJ PERF-be brain

The example (14) yielded 8 constructions from the respondents. Sentence (14a) which was employed by 6 out of the 30 respondents (20%), has age before human propensity. The age PC has a verb denoting it and a verb as well denoting human propensity. In (14a) and (14b) both made use of verbs with age occurring before human propensity. Construction (14c) employed verbs just like the (14b) except that those respondents (10%) preferred to use the word which means old man *nuumo* whereas the others (30%) used the word *nuu* man. In construction (14d) the word meaning elderly or old man was used and verb with its complement (a noun) which denotes knowledge is employed by 3 respondents. They believe they do not need to repeat the adjective ‘old’ as it is semantically implied when *nuumo* is used to refer to someone and then added the noun *nilee* knowledge. (14e) and (14f) are similar in order of sequence and they both use verbs to denote the adjectival meaning except (14f) added specificity whereas (14e) did not. In (14g) PC verb is used by 2 of the respondents (6.6%) and (14h) also had another synonymous word too used to express knowledge. From the table though (14e), (14f) and (14g) had the same frequency /results of 6.6% it was the least preferred and the most preferred was (14b) which represented 30% . The order was age before human propensity with the use of verbal equivalents of the adjectives used in English. This is shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Page and Human Propensity Class

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	6	20
B	9	30
C	3	10
D	3	10
E	3	10
F	2	6.6
G	2	6.6
H	2	6.6
Total	30	100

15. The bucket is red and new.

Ga

a) Gò àlé éts ùr ùni éh èè

bucket DEF NOM-red CONJ NOM-new

b) Gò áts ùr ùlé éh èèni.

bucket red DEF NOM-new PART

c) Gò áts ùr ùh èèlé.

bucket red new DEF

- d) Gòg álé yε éh èèni éyε éts ùr ù
 bucket DEF be NOM-new CONJ be NOM-red
- e) Gòg áh èèléε ts ù-ɔ̀.
 bucket new DEF be.red-HAB
- f) Gòg áh èèni ts ù-ɔ̀.
 bucket new REL be red-HAB
- g) Gòg álé yε éts ùr ùni éyε éh èè
 bucket DEF be NOM-red CONJ 3SG be NOM –new
- h) Gòg álé ts ù-ɔ̀ ni é-yε éh èè
 buckets DEF be red.HAB CONJ PERF-be NOM-new

The table 8 shows adjectives from the age and colour class

Table 8. Age and Colour in Predication

Respondent Options	Frequency	Percentage
A	3	10.0
B	5	16.6
C	4	13.3
D	3	10.0
E	3	10.0
F	3	10.0
G	7	23.3
H	2	6.6
Total	30	100

The example (15) yielded 8 constructions as seen from Table 8. The least preferred order was construction (15h) employed by 2 respondents representing 6.6%. The (15h) construction has two sentences joined with a conjunction with the verb denoting red in the first part and the nominal form of the adjective *hee* which is *ehee* is employed in the other part. Though constructions (15a), (15d), (15e) and (15f) have the same frequency of 3 out of 30 representing 10%, the order of their occurrence differs. In (15a) and (15d), the respondents employed adjectives with the e- nominal prefix attached to them but the order was not the same. In (15e) and (15f) the order is the same in terms of sequence but (15e) used PC verb for colour and (15f) employed a relative clause. The most preferred order was (15g) which as employed by 7 representing 23.3% of the respondents where the nominal forms of the adjectives are employed with a conjunction between the clauses.

16) The bucket is small and heavy.

a) Gòg álé é-d à ààshi é-ts ì

bucket DEF NEG-be big-NEG but 3SG- be heavy

b) Gòg álé pémpéòò ni é-ts ìh ú

bucket DEF small CONJ 3SG- be heavy too

c) Gòg ábibiòò lé ml ìts ì

bucket small DEF inside heavy

d) Gòg álé ye bibiòò sh í é-ts ì

bucket DEF be small CONJ 3SG -be heavy

e) Gòg ábibiòò tsíjímòò lé.

bucket small heavy DEF

The Table 9 shows adjectives from the semantic classes of dimension and Physical property.

Table 9. Dimension and Physical Property

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	5	16.6
B	6	20.0
C	8	26.6
D	9	30.0
E	2	6.6
Total	30	100

The example in (16) yielded 5 constructions. From table 9, constructions (16c) and (16d) had a difference of one in their frequencies 8 and 9 though the most preferred was (16d) which was 30%. The (16d) had the dimension occurring before the physical property just like (16c) but (16c) used the dimension adjective attributively where as in (16d) the respondents (30%) employed it as a copula complement. The least preferred was construction (16e), where 2 out of 30 respondents representing 6.6% used all the adjectives attributively instead of predicatively.

17) The man is wise and tall.

Ga

a) N úú gòjòò lé h é k àsh ì

man huge DEF face lie down

b) N ùú lé yè jwèjmw` ni ékè.

man DEF be brain CONJ 3SG be.long

c) N ùú lé yè gòjòò ni éhié k àsh ì

- man DEF be huge CONJ 3SG -face lie down
- d) Nùúlé kè shi éyè jwèḡmò`.
man DEF be. Long CONJ 3SGbe brain
- e) Nùú hièshikalò lé kwò`.
man knowledgeable DEF be tall
- f) Nùú gòjoòó lé yè jwèḡmò`.
man huge DEF be brain.
- g) Nùú lé yè gòjòó ni énil èèml ìkwò`.
man DEF be huge CONJ 3SG-knowledge inside be .deep
- h) Nùú lé kwò` ni éyè jwèḡmò` hú.
man DEF be tall CONJ 3SG be brain too
- i) Nùú lé hiè k àsh ìni ékwò`.
man DEF face lie down CONJ 3SG be tall

These show adjectives from the dimension and human propensity class.

Table 10. Dimension and Human Propensity

Respondents options	Frequency	Percentage
A	2	6.6
B	3	10.0
C	2	6.6
D	3	10.0
E	2	6.6
F	2	6.6
G	3	10.0
H	7	23.3
I	6	20.0
Total	30	100

Example (17) yielded 9 constructions from the respondents. From the table 10 constructions (17c), (17e) and (17f) had the same frequencies of 2 each representing 6.6% each. The structure of the sentences differ from the respondents, (17e) and (17f) used the adjective attributively but the human propensity PC occurred first in (17e) and occurred last in (17f). (17b) and (17d) also had the same frequencies but the sequence order of the PC items differs in the construction. Table 10 shows the most preferred order of expressing this is construction (17h) which was employed by 7 respondents representing 23.3%. The most preferred order employed a verb to denote dimension and a verb with its complement for human propensity.

18) The bucket is light and green

Ga

- a) Gòg ágrin lé ml ìyè hièhiè.
bucket green DEF inside light
- b) Gòg á!lé ml ì é-ts ìi n ì ãk à én ì
bucket DEF inside NEG be heavy-NEG CONJ blue/green PART
- c) Gògá eηɔ`li lé é-ts ìi.
bucket green DEF NEG-be heavy-NEG
- d) Gògá bááηmɔ`η lé ml ì é-ts ìi.
bucket freshleaf DEF inside NEG-be heavy-NEG
- e) Gòg ágrin n í é-ts ìi lé.
bucket green REL NEG-be heavy-NEG
- f) Gòg á!lé eηɔ`li ni é-ts ìi kwr àà
bucket DEF green REL NEG-be heavy-NEG at all
- g) Gòg á!lé eηɔ`li su ni é-ml ì é-ts ìi kwr àà
bucket DEF green colour CONJ 3SG inside NEG-be heavy –NEG at all

This table 11 indicates adjectives from colour and physical property

Table 11. Colour and Physical property

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	4	13.3
B	3	10.0
C	6	20
D	5	16.6
E	4	13.3
F	4	13.3
G	4	13.3
Total	30	100

This yielded 7 constructions by the respondents. There were same frequencies for the constructions (18a), (18e) (18f), and (18g) which was four totaling 16 out of 30 , yet the preferred order and construction was employed by 6 out of 30 respondents representing 20%. The preferred order has the sequence of colour adjective used attributively preceding the Physical property item which was denoted by a verb *etsiii* not heavy. (18c) (18d) ,(18e) and (18f) are similar in construction as the colour adjective is used attributively in all the cases , what differs is the vocabulary use as some respondents employed the English borrowed term *grin* , others used *baaηmɔη* and others used *eηɔli*. From the constructions it is clear that the use of the verb to denote light is negating the verb heavy.

19) The man is black and foolish

- a. Nùù díŋ lé kw àsh ân ì
Man black DEF foolish PART
- b. Nùúlé édíŋ ni kwàshíà jí lé.
man DEF NOM-black PART CONJ fool COP 3SG
- c. Nùù díŋ lé é-lù.
Man black DEF PERF-be stupid
- d. Nùù díŋ lé bè jwèŋmò`.
Man black DEF not brain.
- e. Nùù díŋ bùùlù.
Man black fool.
- f. Nùú!lé d íɔ` ni éfé- ɔ` bùùlù.
Man DEF be black-HAB CNJ 3SG do-HAB fool.
- g. Nùú!lé d íɔ` ni é-lù.
Man DEF black-HAB CONJ 3SG-be fool

The example (19) shows colour and human propensity classes.

Table 12. Colour and Human Propensity

Respondent options	Frequency	Percentage
A	4	13.3
B	3	10
C	3	10
D	2	6.6
E	8	26.6
F	3	10
H	7	23.3
Total	30	100

Seven constructions resulted from the English sentence in example (19). Most respondents used the adjectives attributively as seen in (19a), (19b), (19c), (19d) and (19e). The colour adjective was used attributively more often and where foolish is used the adjective or nominal occurs as in (19a) where the sentence is a verbless construction. However some respondents employed the verbal equivalent of the colour adjective as in construction (19f) and (19g) and the verbal equivalent of foolish is found in (19c) and (19f). In terms of preference, from the table it can be concluded that the most preferred order is colour before human propensity as seen in (19 e) which was used by 8 respondents representing 26.6% of the total. The least preferred was construction (19d) which was 6.6% representing 2 respondents.

5. Discussion

The data revealed that when an adjective functions predicatively in English, it is expressed in Ga with the use of verb, or nominal or relative clause. Verb equivalents occur as predicates for those adjectives that have them. Adjectives may occur with a prefix to make them nominal or the nominal form is also employed. The occurrence of the relative clause is minimal for one adjective used predicatively. In terms of two adjectives in predicative positions, the construction normally has a conjunction similar to English but it differs from Ga. Syntactically, Ga uses the conjunction to join two clauses whereas in English the conjunction occurs between the two adjectives. Respondents also tend to use the adjectives attributively though they function predicatively in English which was acceptable to them.

From the paper, the constructions yielded the multiple use of two adjectives as the following:

Dimension class occurred before colour class when sequenced. In this case the dimension adjective employed a verb and the colour was an adjective which was not prefixed with *e-* and has no verb equivalent. In ordering age and physical property adjectives, age occurred last as it was preceded by physical property class. For the age and dimension classes, dimension preceded age in sequence. When age and human propensity classes are sequenced, human propensity precedes age in the construction. Colour class occurred before age when sequenced. Physical property occurred before colour when sequenced and this made use of no conjunction as the construction used the colour adjective attributively and a verb to denote physical property. In terms of colour and human propensity classes, colour preceded human propensity.

In conclusion, it can be said that lexical categories used were verbs, nominals, adjectives and relative clauses. When placed on hierarchy, verbs and/ or verbal equivalents are employed most by respondents followed by nominal /nominal forms, adjectives and the least used is the relative clauses. Constructions used syntactically employ conjunction for two adjectives to function predicatively. The difference, syntactically, is that English has only one construction whereas Ga has two clauses joined by ‘*ni*’. I opine that the Ga adjectives to a large extent does not play the predicative role or serve as a copula complement. Any order may be acceptable to a respondent but some orderings are preferred than others. This study is an attempt to find which order property concept word- adjective- occurs in Ga and to find the lexical categories used to express them in predicative positions. These findings may inform readers of the differences and similarities that exist among languages. These findings confirm that a given concept may relate to a different word class in different languages (Dixon 2004).

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Glossary

AG SUF: agentive suffix

CONJ: conjunction

COP: copula

DEF: definite article

HAB: habitual

PART: particle

PERF: perfect marker

NOM: nominal

PL: plural

REL: relativizer

SG: singular

3: third person

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