
Original Paper

Effective Learning of Lexical Relations in Okediran's *Tenants of the House*: A Case Study of two "To-Infinitive" Expressions

Famakinwa Yemisi Mulikat

Department of English, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Abstract

Literary texts have made literary writers most times, deploy linguistic resources in order to actualise their thematic concerns. This paper sets to identify and discuss the different lexical relations in the novel of Okediran by taking cues from two 'To-infinitive' expressions centralised in *Tenants of the House*. Drawing insights from Hoey's (2005), the paper discovers that the definitive nature of the identified 'To-infinitive' expressions in Okediran's *Tenants of the House*, has made it possible for lexemes employed in the literary text share a bond with lexical relations in Semantics. In other words, the lexical relations in the literary text are corollaries to the two identified 'To-infinitive' expressions. Also discovered is the fact that the lexical relations in the text showcase the relationship that may exist among humans/non-humans. The paper concludes that the choice of the different lexical relations in a text could serve as yardsticks for determining the relations that exist between entities thereby contributing to a text's thematic objectives.

Keywords: English infinitives, sense relations, textual word meaning, language and learning and *Tenants of the House*

Introduction

Teaching and learning of the English simple sentences to and for learners of English as a Second Language (ESL), begins with the description of a word or lexeme of the English lexicon. Hence, the realisation of the fact that the roles played by words and other larger linguistic expressions are contextually dependent. The 'to-infinitive' is one of such expressions. According to Nordquist (2020), the 'to-infinitive', usually occupies different positions within a clause and has several uses. The two identified 'to-infinitive' expressions in the novel are no exceptions. Interestingly, the two identified 'to-infinitive' expressions in the novel are significant for meaning in the sense that they are corollaries to the different lexical relations employed by the writer. Generally, in grammar, the subject of any sentence is either a pronoun or a noun. It is thus uncommon for the infinitive structure to begin a sentence. However, it has been observed that if an infinitive functions as the subject of the clause, it refers to an activity in a general rather than a specific way. In addition, the infinitive, a reduced verbal form, which is not marked for tense or person, does not often have a subject. Peradventure the infinitive occupies the subject position, learners should be carefully put through the fact that it is usually followed by a static verb like *be, seem, appear, act, become, sound, look, feel, taste* and so on. But if the infinitive functions as the subject of the sentence, the infinitive either serves as a definition and/or quotes. Infinitives as subjects therefore, can be marked for activities, quotes and definitions. Remarkably, as a grammatical expression or entity, the 'to-infinitive' can be best described to ESL (English as a Second Language) learners as the most succinct way to convey thought. Below are the types of infinitives:

(i) bare infinitives (i.e. infinitives without 'to'; used after modal verbs, used with other auxiliaries or certain other verbs in the active voice): I will have George do it./ He could have assisted clarify the matter on ground.

(ii) split infinitives: He decided to quickly eat lunch.= He decided to eat lunch quickly.

(iii) 'to do'/for + ing infinitives: He likes to study English./These scissors are for cutting materials.

(iv) negative infinitives: I decided not to apply for the job./I decided not to visit the mall.

(v) continuous infinitives: He wants to be working as a teacher./He wants to be jogging as an athlete.

The types displayed above are similar to the work of Biber et al. (1999) who also identified five grammatical patterns realizing the to-clause. Moreover, apart from the identified types and patterns realising the infinitives, there are also different grammatical positions the 'to-infinitive' can occupy in a sentence thus:

(a) As Noun Phrases (Subject of the sentence)

Sentence (1) To err /is/ human, to give /advice/ is easy.

(2) To err /is/ human, to forgive/ is/ divine.

(b) As Adverbs (Adjunct of the sentence)

Sentence (3) I /went/ fifty miles/ to see the performance.

(4) The officer /returned/ to help.

(c) As Adjectives (Noun-Complement of the sentence)

Sentence (5) The man/ is looking/ for something to read.

(6) Give /him/ an ornament/ to polish.

(d) As Nouns (Complement of the sentence)

Sentence (7) The children/ are learning/ to write/drive. (a complemented expression of "ing" with 'to-infinitive')

(8) To dance /was/ her hobby. (a case of 'to-infinitive' as gerund in the subject position)

Also, the 'to-infinitive' can play the roles of non-assertive verbs and non-assertive adjectives as follows:

Sentence (9) I/ allowed/ him/ to stay home. ('to-infinitive' as non-assertive verb)

(10) I/want /to follow you. ('to-infinitive' as non-assertive adjective)

On the contrary, Kreidler (1998) stipulates a rule of English grammar which states that the 'to infinitive' may require *an overt subject* in an infinitive clause when the subject of the infinitive is different from the subject of the main verb. Albeit, if the subject of the infinitive is the same as the subject of the main verb, the subject is termed, *a tacit subject*. The following examples explicate better:

Sentence (11) The Hawks /expect/ the Ravens/ to win/ the game. ('The Ravens'= overt subject)

(12) The Hawks /expect to win/ the game. ('The Hawks' = tacit subject)

Hence, the present study considers the centrality of two 'to-infinitive' expressions in the novel of Okediran, *Tenants of the House*. Since meaning is central to textual analysis, the present study avers the presence and co-occurrence of lexical relations in any piece of writing be it novels, poems or plays for effective teaching and learning of the English lexical relations. Represented below are the two 'to-infinitive' expressions in *Tenants of the House*:

Sentence (13) To kill /is/ a crime: to kill at the right time/ is/ politics.

(14) To get my nomination confirmed at the constituency level/ had been/ a fierce struggle.

In Sentence (13), the 'to-infinitive' is a noun phrase as well as the subject of the sentence. The same applies to Sentence (14) where the 'to-infinitive' though a noun phrase, co-occurs with other linguistic elements to make up the subject of the sentence.

As the foci of the study, the two identified 'to-infinitive' expressions in the novel, Sentence (13) and Sentence (14), signal meaning in a way that unravels the different lexical relationships in the novel. Thus, to elucidate word meaning and interpretation in the novel, the study further considers lexical

semantics; a study on the combining form of grammar (lexemes/words) and semantics (meanings of the lexemes/words).

Lexical Semantics and the Lexical Theory of Hoey

Lexical semantics or lexico-semantics is a sub-field of linguistic semantics. Saeed (2003) defines the term, lexical semantics as the study of word meaning (Saeed, 2003, p. 53). In other words, it is the way words act in grammar to structure or convey their meanings. In the teaching of Lexical semantics therefore, learners are expected to know words and their meanings. In addition, ESL learners should be put through the relationships between the distinct senses that is, the lexical relations in semantics using a literary text be it novel or poem for pedagogical relevance. Against this backdrop, the study considers Hoey (2005).

The lexical priming theory of Hoey is a new theory of word use in language. The term, lexical priming, is concerned with the way words in a language are put to use in order to actualise meaning in the real world. In other words, lexical priming is concerned with word use according to the way language users perceive it. This practice is peculiar not only to a literary writer but to a teacher of the English language who would see the need to refer to an entity in the environment by using an appropriate word for its description.

Hence, a literary writer and a language user like Okediran, employs the referential approach to word meaning in his novel. Similarly, readers as learners and vice versa, encounter words with referents relating to things or ideas in the real world. It should be noted that teaching is made easier when certain things around the learners are used to illustrate ideas. This is what Okediran explored in his novel for easy comprehension to readers. In lexical priming therefore, word meanings are not so confined to the dictionary meanings alone; rather, there is a point of interaction between the words and the learners' environment. The words employed by Okediran in his novel have common patterns of use. In other words, literary writers make use of words that may have different referents in real life but no distortion of meaning. Samples abound in the novel of Okediran, *Tenants of the House*. This becomes necessary in the novel in order to elucidate meaning and intents.

Statement of the Research Problem

The 'to-infinitive' expressions have been extensively researched in studies such as Quirk et al. (1972), Biber et al. (1999), Ojea (2008), Duffley (2003), Nordquist (2020) and 7ESL INFINITIVES(2023) among others. From the several studies and discussions on the 'to-infinitive', the infinitive is construed as a grammatical entity (a verb phrase; a verbal consisting of a particle 'to' + a verb) which has different patterns and hence, plays several grammatical roles.

Also, Wale Okediran's *Tenants of the House*, has been studied by Oloruntoba-oju (2012), Ekpang (2014), Eniayekan (2016) and Edokpayi (2017) among others. The different studies examined the literary text from the perspectives of Grammar and Semantics. Against this backdrop, the present study from the point of view of Semantics, intends to unravel the different inherent lexical relations in *Tenants of the House* such that learners see the connection between certain words and other related referents in their environment to construe meaning. This is the gap the present study intends to fill.

A Bio-data of Wale Okediran

Born April 14, 1955 in Iseyin, Oyo State of Nigeria, Okediran studied for his B. Sc (Health Sciences) and MB, CHB, both from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (1973-1980); obtained a Diploma in writing (1983) and became a Fellow of General Medical Practitioners of Nigeria (FGP) in 1990. A former Secretary and President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Okediran has practised Medicine in Ibadan for many years where he is generally known as "the people's doctor" by virtue of his undisguised generous attention to the poor and helpless who need his assistance.

Wale Okediran is well known for his essays, short stories and novels which are deeply rooted in the contemporary Nigerian society in which he lives. In 1990, his poem, *Call to Worship*, won a book prize of the American Poetry Association contest while his novel, *The Boys at the Border*, was shortlisted for the 1991 Commonwealth Literature Prize. Indeed, most of his works have been shortlisted for awards or are actually award-winners. His novel, *The Rescue of Uncle Bobs*, won the 1998 ANA Prize for

Children's Literature while *Dreams Die at Twilight* was shortlisted for the NLNG Nigerian Literature Prize in 2004. In the same year, *Dreams Die at Twilight* was adjudged one of the 25 best books of the last 25 years in Nigeria by Spectrum Books Limited. In 2005, *Strange Encounters* won the ANA Fiction Prize while *The Weaving Looms* was shortlisted for the 2008 Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa. Okediran though a medical doctor, also served as Member of the Federal House of Representatives, Abuja, Nigeria between 2003 and 2007. He was the National President of the Association of Nigerian Authors from 2005 to 2009.

It would be gathered from the biography that Wale Okediran, who was once a 'Tenant of the House of Representatives', perhaps identifies himself with one of the characters in his novel. It becomes therefore necessary to know what the literary text, *Tenants of the House*, is all about.

A Synopsis of the Novel, *Tenants of the House*

Tenants of the House lampoons social vices and ills by focusing on certain individuals in a society. In other words, the text exposes the vices of notable individuals especially those in the positions of authority. In the text, the struggle and tussle for power and position encapsulate the roles played by desperate members of the House of Representatives. Notable characters in the text include; Honourable Samuel Bakura and Honourable Elizabeth Bello who, in the novel, are romantically and politically intermingled. Interestingly, the two characters uttered the 'to-infinitive' expressions used as the basis for the analysis of the text and which in turn, signal the deployment of the lexical relations in the novel. Thus, the novel unveils a nation struggling in shambles; representatives struggle for selfish motives: the acquisition of amassed wealth, power and position. In addition, the novel presents an adventure of a mix of love and politics and the shrill voice of a nation in urgent need of political renewal and rebirth. Full of suspense, the novel dwells extensively on politics and its attendant ills.

From the synopsis of the novel, the intention of the writer is laid bare: to uphold justice in a corrupt setting. The paper further discusses the lexical relations in Semantics and its reflections/occurrences in the novel.

Lexical Relations in Semantics and Its Occurrences in the Literary Text

As Denham and Löbeck (2010) explicate, lexical relations are otherwise known as the 'nyms'. They include the following: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, polysemy and homonymy (Denham & Löbeck, 2010, p. 295).

Synonymy: According to Kreidler (1998), two or more words exhibit a relationship of synonymy if they are capable of being defined descriptively, expressively and/or socially (Kreidler, 1998, p. 96). In other words, synonymy is concerned with expressions having identical meaning. Thus, synonymy can be total or partial. Instances in the novel include thus: Notes and Proceedings (Total synonymy since lexemes have the same descriptive, expressive and social meanings); and Meetings and Get together (Partial synonymy since lexemes have the same descriptive meaning but differ in their expressive and social meaning; 'get together' = 'party', in another linguistic environment).

Instances of synonymy in the text include:

- (i) ...wondering, pondering (P. 6)
- (ii) ...anywhere, everywhere (P.6)
- (iii) ...meetings...get together (P.12)
- (iv) ...Presidential Villa...Aso Rock (P.12)
- (v) ...Notes and Proceedings...(P.15)
- (vi) ...pistol...ever-ready Colt Defender (P.33)
- (vii) ...quietly...slowly (P.167)
- (viii) ...fool...idiot (P. 306)

Excerpt I

- The Speaker finished his prayer. He moved on to the **Notes and Proceedings** for the day. (p. 15)
- In her handbag was her **pistol, the ever-ready Colt Defender, ...**(p. 33)

Discussions of Excerpt I and related samples of synonyms

The different samples of synonyms show that synonymy is employed in the literary text as a lexical device in order to portray certain entities in a way that the readers would understand without a lost in meaning. For instance, 'pistol' in the text is used referentially to mean the same as, 'ever-ready Colt Defender' (p. 33, sample vi). Other examples include 'Aso Rock' used in the text to mean the same as 'Presidential Villa.' (p. 12, sample iv). Hence, the different pairs of synonyms employed in the text express the same idea that is, they have the same truth value (Kreidler, 1998, p. 96).

Antonymy: Two or more words are opposites if the choice of one excludes the choice of the other. Thus, if one is human then, one cannot be non-human at the same time. In other words, if one is true, the other is false (Kreidler, 1998, p. 100). To Palmer (1976), the relationship termed antonymy, is, oppositeness of meaning. There are two broad categories of antonymy: gradable and non-gradable. Instances of gradable antonyms include: tall/short; big/small with possible occurrences of middle terms and degree of comparativeness. Instances of non-gradable include: friend/enemy, joy/sorrow with no middle terms and degree of comparativeness more so that it is not possible to say more friend/more enemy is a pair of antonyms.

Instances of antonymy in the text include:

- (i) ...human and non-human (p. 2)
- (ii) ...supporters ... opponents (p. 35)
- (iii) ...joys and sorrows. (p. 50)
- (iv) ...exact or inexact, ... (p. 87)
- (v) ...human ...inhuman... (p. 198)
- (vi) ...patriots and backlegs... (p. 201)

Excerpt II

- ...*give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.* (p. 50)
- Many more politicians have been destroyed by their **supporters** than by their **opponents.** (p. 35)

Discussions of Excerpt II and related samples of antonyms

The different samples of antonyms also show that the device of antonymy is employed by the writer and as such, the non-gradable antonyms abound. For instance in (p. 87, sample iv & p. 198, sample v); it is not possible to say that something is more exact than the other; and that somebody is more human than the other respectively. In addition, the novel/literary text is political and for that reason, humans are involved in a state of opposition. Certain characters are either portrayed as 'supporters or opponents' (sample ii) or that a character finds himself or herself in a situation of 'joys' and/or 'sorrows' (sample iii).

Hyponymy: The term, hyponymy, to Lyons (1977), is a relationship of class inclusion or meaning entailment. In other words, the meaning of one is included in the meaning of the other. The sentence frame below further explains: "A is the hyponym of B iff the meaning of B is part of the meaning of A and A is a subordinate of B". Thus, "*Rose* is the hyponym of *Flower* iff the meaning of *Flower* is part of the meaning of *Rose* and *Rose* is a subordinate of *Flower*". The upper term is known as the super ordinate while the lower term is the hyponym (Kreidler, 1998, p. 93). However, it is possible to have company of hyponyms known as co-hyponyms. Hence, *Tulip*, *Hibiscus*, *Rose* and *Sunflower* are considered, co-hyponyms of *Flower*. It should be noted that hyponymy can overlap with meronymy. This is because both involve 'class inclusion'.

Instances of hyponymy and/or meronymy in the text include:

- (i) ...**traits**; strength, good luck, independence of mind,...(p. 3)
- (ii) ...executive, legislative and judicial arms of government ...**Three Arms Zone** (p. 13)
- (iii) ...**expensive drinks**; Cristal, Courvoisier (p. 38)
- (iv) ... **animals**; cattle; ...**green plant**; millet (p. 58)
- (v) ...**pro-government papers**; Daily Messenger and the Nigerian Mail (p. 68)
- (vi) ...**livestock** mostly sheep and rams... (p. 71)
- (vii) ...**African Countries**; Kampala, Nigeria, Uganda (p. 216)
- (viii) ...**House leader**; Speaker, Honourable members, Senator (p. 219)
- (ix) ...**commotion**; hissed, applauded ... (p. 230)
- (x) ...**Muslim Festival**; Id-el-Kabir (p. 293)

Excerpt III

- Lizzy had obviously inherited not only her father's **natural good looks** but also his **strength** and **independence of mind**, traits she needed to survive...(p. 3)
- Meanwhile bottles of **Cristal, Courvoisier** and other expensive drinks were being opened... (p. 38)

Discussions of Excerpt III and related samples of hyponyms-meronyms

From the different samples of hyponyms and/or meronyms, where class inclusion obtains, the meaning of 'sheep and rams'; is included in the meaning of 'livestock' (p. 71, sample vi). Hence, the writer employs a relationship of hyponymy relating to human actions like rearing of animals and festivals (p. 58, sample iv and p. 293, sample x) and human inactions like political unrest (p. 230, sample ix). There are also co-hyponyms of the lexeme, **traits**, which include *strength, good luck* and so on (P.3, sample i). In other words, *strength* is a **trait**; and *good luck* is a **trait**. It should be noted that the different samples demonstrate the overall activities of humans in their world/environment. Interestingly (p. 13, sample ii), is an instance of the overlap between hyponymy and meronymy. This is because both the types (hyponymy) and parts (meronymy) of the term, **Three Arms Zone** (executive, legislative and judicial arms of government) are implied at the same time.

Meronymy: Though similar to hyponymy in terms of 'class inclusion', meronymy is strictly concerned with part/whole relationship. The instance of *horn* and *Car* shows a relationship of a part/whole. Other examples include thus: *button* and *shirt*; *blade* and *fan*; *key* and *padlock* among others.

Instances of meronymy in the text include:

- (i) ...**350-member parliament** –Elizabeth was one of the 15 women... (p. 1)
- (ii) ...**package** ...phone ...phone manual. (p. 171)
- (iii) ...**part of the extraordinary group**----Presidential aides and party chieftains... (p. 175)

Excerpt IV

- I handed her package over to her. ...“**A mobile phone** and a packet of chocolates.” “Read the **phone manual**.”...(p. 171)
- All week, **Presidential aides** and **party chieftains** had vetted the list of those to be invited to the meeting. For one reason or another, the privilege of being part of the extraordinary group had been extended to me. (p. 175)

Discussions of Excerpt IV and related samples of meronyms

The different samples of meronymy show the part/whole relationship that exists among **people**;

350-member parliament –Elizabeth was one of the 15 women (p. 1, sample i), their **roles**; *part of the extraordinary group---Presidential aides and party chieftains* (p. 175, sample iii) and **possessions**; *package ...phone ...phone manual* (p. 171, sample ii). Thus, the device of meronymy like hyponymy, is employed by the writer for the purpose of clarity in order to show the part/whole distinction and relationship that exists among humans, their roles in the society and their possessions.

Polysemy: Two or more words exhibit a relationship of polysemy if they are variants of the same or related meanings. While polysemic or polysemous words abound in the English dictionary, cases of homonymy are rare. Examples of polysemy include: foot/foot; eye/eye where the meanings of the pairs of lexemes are the same descriptively. In other words, the pairs share the same descriptive meaning either in terms of structure or place of location and hence, the same anatomical referents (Kreidler, 1998, p. 52).

Instances of polysemy in the text include:

- (i) ...fertilizer-fertilizer... (pp. 6&7)
- (ii) ...vendors-vendors... (p. 170)

Excerpt V

- Elizabeth had told me what to do to win future elections. “**Fertilizer**,” she whispered to me urgently, ... (p. 6)
- Itinerant CD and DVD **vendors** had their players blaring out music at full volume. (p. 170)

Discussions of Excerpt V and related samples of polysemes

The device of polysemy as employed by the writer, sees the term, ‘fertilizer’, in sample (i), having the same descriptive meaning as the ordinary word, ‘fertilizer’. Denotatively, the term ‘fertilizer’, is defined as a chemical substance used to enrich a soil in order to improve its yield. In other words, ‘fertilizer’ is used to enrich. Thus in the novel, the word ‘fertilizer’, is a political term used referentially to mean something good to enrich oneself (it refers to money). In both cases therefore, the word ‘fertilizer’ has the same anatomical referent as something used to enrich (be it chemical substance or money). Also in (p. 170, sample ii), the term, ‘vendors’, has the same descriptive meaning. It means or refers to itinerant sellers or hawkers. However, while a vendor is generally construed as an itinerant seller of newspapers, the other meaning of vendors and as used in the novel, means itinerant sellers/hawkers of medicine.

Homonymy: Thakur (2007) avers that homonymy is divided into three; homonyms, homophones and homographs (Thakur, 2007, p. 32). Homonyms are pairs of lexemes with the same word form, same pronunciation but different meanings (left/left; kind/kind). Homophones are pairs of lexemes of same pronunciation but different word form and meanings (read/reed; sea/see). Homographs are pairs of the same word form but different pronunciation and meanings (bow/bow; read/read (past form)).

Instances of homonymy in the text include:

- (i) ...services-services... (p. 74)
- (ii) ... sweet-sweet... (p. 123)
- (iii) ... prayer-prayer... (p. 223)

Excerpt VI

- My **sweet** darling Mark. (p. 123)
- “I will first of all put the question on Hon. Aminu’s amendment which now becomes **prayer** No 5. ...” (p. 223)

Discussions of Excerpt VI and related samples of homonyms

The device of homonymy is also employed by the writer. In the novel, ‘prayer’ in (p. 223, sample iii), is an instance of a pair of homonyms. In this case, ‘prayer’ is considered a pair of lexemes with the same

spelling, same pronunciation but different meanings. Hence, the word 'prayer' as used in the novel means a decision-making statement which is comparable to an order. The meaning of 'prayer' as used in the text is thus, the non-restrictive sense. This is because the restrictive sense /meaning of the word, 'prayer' as contained in the dictionary means either a person that prays or an address to a special deity.

Surprisingly, samples of homophones and homographs are absent in the novel. What are the implications and conclusions?

Implications and Conclusions

From the study, teaching and learning of the English simple sentences kicks off from the knowledge of the English word lexicon. In other words, words and their meanings are foundational to English language teaching and learning. Basically, the English simple sentences cannot be taught in isolation; words, phrases and clauses are relevant to its teaching. Thus, the 'to-infinitive' and the lexical relations identified and discussed in the study are for effective understanding of the teaching and learning of the English lexicon.

The paper thus discovered that the simultaneous occurrences of the different lexical relations informed the choice of lexemes in the literary text. By implication, lexical relations are equivalent to meaning-making devices. The identified lexical relations in the text included antonymy, synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, polysemy and homonymy. Although there were samples of antonyms, synonyms, hyponyms, meronyms, polysemes and homonyms in the novel, instances of homographs and homophones were rare. Thus discovered were the 'most prominent lexical relations' employed by the writer: synonymy and antonymy. The reason is not farfetched; the novel/literary text is political and as such, characters may share the same or different views/ ideologies through their actions and inactions.

In addition, to understand the text, the writer systematically employed words that would make it easier for readers and learners to assess the strengths and weaknesses of notable characters through their connection or relationship with different human activities. Hence, human beings in the novel were involved in a state of opposition. Also, characters in the novel were noticed upholding one view or the other for the sake of political self-assertion. Instances of pairs of synonyms and antonyms in the text included ever-ready Colt Defender with the synonym, pistol; and human with the antonym, inhuman respectively. Hence, learners and readers were put through the possible and effective use of different words to convey same meaning or otherwise. The writer therefore was able to employ synonymy and antonymy successfully because words have the ability to co- occur meaningfully in context; a term known as collocation/permissible word combination (Thakur, 2007, p. 47).

The paper also discovered that the centrality of the identified two 'to-infinitive' expressions in the literary text necessitated the presence of the different inherent lexical relations in the novel. The two infinitives, which function as the subject of the sentence in each case; "To kill is a crime: to kill at the right time is politics"; and "To get my nomination confirmed at the constituency level had been a fierce struggle"; were used in the novel to elucidate political beliefs and intents. As a result, the writer employed expressions which mean the same thing as the other or mean different thing from the other in order to paint reality or mock individuals.

For the sake of meaningful lexical relationships therefore, the study discovered that characters in the novel are 'marked members' of one political position or unit of the other. Thus, characters in the novel could either be perceived in terms of their hierarchies in politics (hyponymy (p. 13)); some share the same beliefs (synonymy (p. 306)), some differ in opinions (antonymy (p. 35)) and some refer to things around them differently in order to suit a particular purpose:(synonymy (p. 33), polysemy (p. 170), meronymy (p. 171) and homonymy (p. 74).

The study recommends the simultaneous use of literary text of this nature in the teaching and learning of the English lexical relations in secondary and post-secondary levels of learning. This is needful in order to aid a better understanding of the English word meaning and interpretation. The study concludes by averring that a writer's diction or choice of words could be made interesting if literary writers painstakingly employ different lexical relations in order to convey intended meanings of literary texts to readers as enunciated in Wale Okediran's, *Tenants of the House*.

References

- Abiodun-Eniayekan, E. N. (2016). A Socio pragmatic Study of Values of Nigerians as Exemplified in Wale Okediran's Tenants of the House: Implication for a Political Caste System. *LASU Journal of Humanities*, 10, 191-200.
- Biber, D., Johansson, S., Leech, G., Conrad, S., & Finegan, E. (1999). *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English*. Longman.
- Denham, K., & L öbeck, A. (2010). *Linguistics for Everyone- An Introduction*. Wadsworth.
- Duffley, P. (2003). The gerund and the to-infinitive as subject. *Journal of English Linguistics*, 31(4), 324-352.
- Edokpayi, J. N. (2017). The Language of Satire in Nigerian Politics: A Study of the Syntactic Parameters in Wale Okediran's Tenants of the House. *African Journal Online*, 6(1-2), 354-375.
- Ekpang, J. N. (2014). Literature and Politics: A Semantic Analysis of Wale Okediran's Tenants of the House. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 5(23).
- English grammar rules for using the infinitive. Retrieved April 4, 2020 from <https://www.english-at-home.com>
- Hoey, M. (2005). *Lexical Priming-A New Theory of Words and Language*. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.
- Infinitive English Grammar EF. Retrieved April 4, 2020 from <https://www.ef.com>
- Kreidler, C. W. (1998). *Introducing English Semantics*. Routledge.
- Loos, E., Anderson, S., H., Day, Jr. Dwight., Jordan, P., & Wingate, J. D. (2004). "What is lexical relation?" *Glossary of Linguistic terms*. Linguallinks.
- Moutoux, E. R. (2020) *Infinitives*. Retrieved April 4, 2020 from <http://www.german-latin-english.com/grammarinfinitive.htm>
- Nordquist, R. (2020). Understanding the 'to' Infinitive in English Grammar. *ThoughtCo*. Aug.27.2020,thoughtco.com/to-infinitive-meaning-1692471.
- Ojea, A. (2008). A feature analysis of to-infinitive sentences. *Atlantis Journal of the Spanish Association of Anglo-American Studies*, 30(1), 69-83.
- Okediran, W. (2009). *Tenants of the House*. Nelson Publishers Limited.
- Oloruntoba-oju, O. (2012) A Voice from the Clinic: Wale Okediran, *Tenants of the House*, On Creative Writing and African Literature. *West Africa Review*, 21, 26-35.
- Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1972). *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. Longman.
- Saeed, J. I. (2003). *Semantics-Second Edition*. Blackwell Publishing.
- Thakur, D. (2007). *Linguistics Simplified –Semantics*. Bharati Bhawan.
- The Infinitive-English Grammar Revolution. Retrieved April 4, 2020 from <https://www.english-grammar-revolution.com>
- What Is the Infinitive Form of a Verb? (with Examples). Retrieved April 4, 2020 from <http://www.german-latin-english.com/> ;www.grammar-monster.com
- 7ESL INFINITIVES (2023). Infinitives: What Is An Infinitive? Functions &Examples. 7ESL 2023
- LearnEnglish-British Council 'to' –infinitives. Retrieved June 10, 2023 from [https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/...](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/)