

AN ATTEMPT TO A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES IN ENGLISH AND MASHI

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ABSTRACT: A language aims at communicating and communication always means transfer of information from a source to a target.

In any language community there is a variety of functions that constitute its structure and ways of available to its members which is different from a given community to another.

English and Mashi being languages in different areas, they have some similarities and differences in their ways of being used especially in different patterns and meanings by speakers. This article will present the way English conditional sentences are used in English and the way they are used in Mashi. The latter is language spoken in Bushi area Such as Walungu and Kabare territories in South-Kivu Province in DRC.

English as a foreign language in Bushi and an Indo-European language, it does not correspond systematically to the same construction ways. This article, therefore uses conceptual meanings to equip English /Shi language learners and speaking people with strategies that will help them learn English conditional sentences with less difficulties and provide teachers of English with some techniques that they may utilize when teaching conditionals to Shi /English speakers learning English/Mashi.

KEYWORDS: contrastive analysis, conditional sentences, english, mashi.

1 METHODOLOGY

This article that falls within the framework of fieldwork will be concerned with the collection of data from books other and other printed scientific documents relevant to the topic .

In addition to that ,the author of the present article being a Shi native speaker , will make use of his knowledge of Mashi.

Also he will interview other native speakers of Mashi (Informants) in order to have complete information on Mashi conditional sentences.

2 INTRODUCTION

The study of contrastive Analysis of conditional sentences between English and Mashi has attracted my attention because the learning of English by a Shi speaking person is always influenced either positively or negatively by Mashi . This Contrastive Analysis of conditional sentences in English and Mashi aims at equipping Shi language speaking people with strategies that will help them learn English conditional sentences with less difficulties. This study aims at providing English teachers with some techniques that they may utilize when teaching conditionals to Shi speakers learning English.

A conditional sentence is a sentence consisting of two clauses : a dependent clause with if or answer to if - clause. The if - clause expresses the condition and the main clause contains the consequence of a given situation.

e.g. If she gets ill, she will give up smoking.

If I study Spanish, I shall go to London

According to A.J. Thomson et al, (1986:197), there are three main types of conditional sentences in English :

- The Conditional sentences Type one or Probable condition or possible condition, or open condition or real condition.
- The conditional sentence Type II or improbable Condition or unreal present.
- The conditional sentence Type II or impossible Condition or unreal past.

A part from the three main types of conditional sentences there is the conditional sentence Type Zero or statement of universal truth in which we use the present tense in both Sub – clause and main – clause. It is used to show what usually happens if a given condition is realized.

There is no change in the tense.

e.g: If the flowers are not given water, they wither away.

If you drop a stone in the river, it sinks.

In the conditional sentence Type Zero the following expressions are taken into account especially when we are talking about factors in a certain or given problem : Take account, take into consideration, consier. e.g If we take his opinion into consideration, we can work better.

A Shi conditional sentence like an English Conditional sentence is made up of subordinate Clause and a main – clause. The subordinate clause contains the condition and the main clause carries the consequence. The subordinate clause that contains the condition usually takes *nga, nKa, ka* to express the condition.

Caziga, Casinga, Erhi..... Ka, Ciru..... Ka, Akaba, Erhi akaba, Akaba nanga, to express the result in the main clause.

According to HOSTENS (1972:67) there are three types of conditional sentence in Mashi.

- Type and : The real (possible) Probable / Open Condition
- Type two : The unread present / Improbable Condition
- Type three : The unreal past / impossible Condition. However, there are variations for each type.

The Conditional sentences type One is the sentence that accepts to insert **nka, nga, Ka** between the subject and the radical or in the subordinate clause / main clause.

e.g: - **Nka** mugwerhe obuyemere bw'okuli ntaco cankamuyabira.

(If you have strong faith nothing can be difficult for you).

- The particle **Nka** occupies the initial position before pronominal prefixes *n', wa', mu', rhu', ba', o-, a-*, but if the subject of the sentence is a noun the particle "**nKa**" becomes movable.

It takes either the initial position or appears after the noun.

e.g: Mwali wa Buhendwa **nK'**ali mwinja arhankanigwa. / **Nka** mwali wa Buhendwa ali mwinja arhankanigwa.

The particle **Ka** is the variation of **nKa** used with verbs such as **Kugenda, Kulerha, Kulunda,** and it means **if**.

e.g: - **OKayemera** nayisha

(If you accept, I will come).

- **MuKagenda** sezi, mwanahika duba.

(If you go in the morning you can arrive quickly).

- **Casinga / Caziga, Casinga erhi / Caziga erhi.**

Casiga expresses what is essential and casinga expresses a wish and both words mean **Provided that**. In this case that sentence starts with the main clause.

e.g: - Nakulinda **Caziga** oyishe

=> I will wait for you provided that you come.

- Bakuha nkafu isharhu **Caziga** abahe omuhiro.

=> They will give you three cow's provided that you give them your daughter.

When one wants to emphasize to given confirmation about an existing situation, he can add "erhi" to these words. Thus they become CAZIGA ERHI or CASINGA ERHI. Then the verb in the main clause is in the present perfect tense.

e.g: - Okanjaciraga wene caziga erhi nakubwizire.

Whether you insult me at not, no problem provide that you I have told you.

▪ **Erhi Ka and Ciru..... Ka.**

Then particle **nKa** can also vary in **Erhi..... Ka** or **Ciru..... Ka**, in some occasions. In these cases the subordinate clause may begin with **erhi** meaning **in case** or **if** or by **Ciru** meaning **even if** followed by a verb of form : Nankagenda, naKangenda.

Form : Erhi + Subject + Ka.

e.g: 1) Erhi mwenewinyu akabiha, ona muhanule.

=> In case your relative misbehaves, adj/se him

2) Erhi wakacifinja muka bene, wangoma.

=> If you envy someone's wife, you sin.

▪ **Akaba** means if.

The clause that starts by Akaba following a verb remains invariable. It is placed at the beginning of the conditional sentence.

e.g: 1) **Akaba** isu lyawe lirhuma wajira ecaha snaliyomole.

=> If your eye leads you to sin you remove it.

2) **Akaba** waninda, nayisha.

=> If you wait for me, I will come.

▪ **Akaba**

It is placed after the nominal prefix before a verb in the conditional clause.

e.g : 1) **Akoba** arhamire, arhamuke.

=> If he is tired, he may take a rest.

2) **Gukaba** mugozi mwalongeza larha, mwacilingiza olukulu.

=> If you lose for my father for a rope, you will create more problems.

3) Ecibuzi cawe **Cikaba** cayanyire amashuwa ga bene, onacibage.

=> If your sheep eats someone's plants you can slaughter it.

3 CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND MASHI

The contrastive analysis as a branch of applied Linguistics whose main concern is the teaching, and learning of foreign language, helps to discover genetic relationship between two languages, and establish some details of the similarities and differences between two attested languages.

Constructive analysis is the linguistic domain concerned with the comparison of two or more languages in specific language fields.

It aims at predicting and explaining aspects of non – native learner which are due to the influence of the mother tongue and, in multilingual societies of other additional languages that learners know before they engage in the learning of a given language.

4 POSSIBLE CONDITION

4.1 SIMILARITIES IN POSSIBLE CONDITION

- Both Mashi and English have words that express a condition in the subordinate clause. In English we have “ if ” expressing the condition. In Mashi the **if** has its equivalent : **Ka, nKa, erhi, Akaba, acibaga, erhi Kube,**

e.g : If we speak Swahili at School we will be punished

=> Erhi rhwakaderha eciswahiri aha masomo, rhwanahanwa.

- In both languages the subclause attests the simple present and the main clause attests the future.

e.g : If we speak nakagenda buno, nanacigwarha amutuga.

=> If I go now, I will Catch a bus.

- A sentence in both languages is composed of two clauses; the subordinate clause and the main clause. There is no matter which comes first.

The clauses are separated by a comma if the subordinate clause starts the sentence. But if it begins with the main clause the comma disappears.

e.g: 1) If he does not bring my money, I will be displeased.

=> Akaba arhadwirhi enfranka zani, nayishi gaya.

2) I will be displeased if he does not bring my money.

=> Nayishi gaya akaba orhandwirhi enfranka zani.

- Note that in some sentences if one omits the introductory words to express the condition, the sentence in both languages may Keep the same meaning.

It cannot change.

e.g: Ompe enkafu, nakuha ishwa.

=> You Give me a cow, I will give you a piece of Land

- In both languages, conjunctions are attested. In English we have non compound Conjunction **if, unless, Whether,** and Compound Conjunctions **Provided that, in Case, if Only.**

In Mashi we have non Compound conjunctions **nKa, Ka, aKaba, Caziga,** and compound ones **erhi, aKaba, acibaga, erhi, Ka, Ciru acibaga erhi, erhi Kube, ...**

- In both languages the subclause influences the main clause, i.e, the clause that contains the consequence depends upon the clause that contains the condition.

If the latter is Complete, the former will get its realization.

e.g: Larha akayisha, munamuhe eci citabu.

=> If my father comes, you give him this book.

One can notice that the only condition to give the book to the father is for him to be there or to come. If the father does not come, they cannot give him the book. But if he comes he will get it.

- Both languages change in tenses to express a present or a future condition.

4.2 DIFFERENCES IN POSSIBLE CONDITION

- In Mashi, each, sentence has two clauses: The subclause and the main clause. In the subordinate clause the condition is expressed in the present, but in the main clause it is expressed either in the present, in the future or / and in the past.

This is not the case in English, the present, future or past is not accepted in the main clause.

In Type I, English speakers refer to present in Subclause and the future in the main clause.

e.g: Nkaba na nKafu nyinji buno,rhinga nakabire mugale.

=> If I have many cows now, I will be rich.

- Mashi has got three main tenses: the present tense, the past tense and the future tense; each with ramifications to express conditionals, whereas English requires two main tenses: the Present tense and the past tenses. The future tense does not exist because it refers to simple present and present continuous tenses in English. Two or more tenses are covered by one tense in English in conditional sentences. We do not talk about the future as formal category: what we do say is that certain grammatical are, capable to express the semantic category of FUTURE TIME.
- Conditional sentence Type I morphology / form in Mashi is different form that in English.

In Mashi the particle “**Ka**” is often located between Pronominal suffix and the radical, and other particles **Acibaga, nKaba, erhi, ...** do not. But the particle **nKa** can occur either between the pronominal suffix and the radical or at the beginning of the if –clause. They occur either at the beginning or after the sentence:

Mashi has the following structure; Subject + if (particle) + verb + complement in if –clause: But the English Conditional sentence structure in if – clause is if + subject + simple present + complement in Type I.

e.g: Mukarhana, munagwishire.

=> If you get tired, you will sleep.

- One word in Mashi can contain the subject (pronoming suffix), conditional word, direct (indirect object, verb in conditional sentences Type I. This is not the structure we have in English conditional sentences. What a Shi speaker can express in one word, the English speaker can express it in four or five words.

e.g: Mukababwira, barhakacyisha.

=> If you tell them, they cannot come anymore.

5 UNREAL PRESENT CONDITION

5.1 SIMILARITIES IN UNREAL PRESENT

- Both Mashi and English have words that express a condition in the subordinate clause.

In English we have “**if**” .In Mashi the **if** of English has **Ka, nKa, erhi, aKaba**, as its equivalent.

e.g: Akaba murhabimanyaga bwinja, murhakabidesire.

=> If you did not know those words well, you should not speak about them.

- In both languages the subordinate attests the simple past tense and the main clause attests the present conditional.

e.g: Acigaga ciru, ntakuhanzagya, wakadesire mpu ntakusima.

=>If only I didn’t forbid you, you would say that I don’t love/like you.

- A sentence in both languages is composed of two clauses: The subordinate clause and the main clause. There is no matter which comes first. They are separated by a comma if the subordinate clause starts the sentence. But if it begins by the main clause the comma disappears.

e.g: Rhinga alibusire acigishiragwa n’embaraga.

=> He would suffer if he married a prostitute.

- In some sentences if one omits the word that expresses the condition, the sentence in both languages keep the same meaning.

e.g: Mwanywire amanvu gani, mwakampirage enfranka.

=> You drank my beer, you might give me money.

- In both languages conjunctions are attested. In English we have non – compound conjunctions (**if, Unless, whether**) and compound conjunctions (**Provided, that, in cas, if only, as long as, as if**). In Mashi we have also, non-compound ones (**erhi akaba, erhi.....nKa, acibagaga Ciru, acibaga erhi, erhi Kube, ...**

e.g: Acibaga ciru ngasi lusiku rwasomaga, rhwaKarhenzire omu ba burhanzi.

=> If only we studied every day, we would be among the best pupils in the class.

- In both languages the sub – clause influences the main clause; i.e, the clause that contains the consequence depends on the clause contains the condition. If the latter is complete, the former will get its realization.

e.g: Akaba Nshombo ayishire lwa Mugobe, naKajire mulamas sa

=> If Nshombo came on Saturday, I would go to great him.

- Mashi and English can be expressed subjectively.

The sentence hereafter illustrates this :

e.g: Ashushire nKa abusirwe n’omuzungu.

=> He looked as if he were born by a white answer.

5.2 DIFFERENCES IN UNREAL PRESENT

- In both Mashi and English there are two clauses :

The sub – clause and the main clause. In Mashi the condition in the sub – clause is expressed in the simple past but the main clause is expressed either in the present, the future or on the past in Type II.

This is not the case in English because the present, future or past is not acceptable in the main clause.

In type two, English speakers refer to the past in the sub- clause and present conditional in the main clause.

e.g: AKaba enkafu yawe yali mbi, oyishiyibaaga.

=> If your cow were bad, you would slaughter it.

- Conditional sentence type II form in Mashi is different from the one of English. In Mashi the particle “Ka” or “nKa” can occur between pronominal suffix and the radical, But the English Conditional sentences does not: the word “if” expressing the condition occurs either at the beginning of the subordinate clause or in the middle of the sentence to express the condition.

e.g: Akaba mwajire emwa Bahati, Muyishigija n’emwani

=>If you went to Bahati’s place, you would come to my place next.

- What can be expressed with more words to express the condition in English can be expressed in one word in Mashi. In Mashi one word contains the subject, the conditional word, the direct / indirect object, verb but in English this is not possible.

The man clause in Mashi starts by the sequence RHINGA, SINGA or RHINGA. In English there is no sequence expressing the consequence.

e.g . Ocigendage bulya, wakahisire embere.

=> If you went that time, you would arrive early.

- It is possible to get the inversion of the subject and the verb in English. The inversion is done with “were” in the conditional sentence Type II/unreal present.

But in Mashi it is not possible. The sentence can be meaningless.

e.g : If we were to have more rain, our crops would grow better.

Inversion: were we to have more rain, our crops would grow better.

Mashi : Nka.rhwali baKugwarha nKuba nyinji, emburho zirhu zakakuzire bwinja.

6 TYPE THREE / UNREAL PAST CONDITION

6.1 SIMILARITIES IN TYPE III

- Both languages have words that express a condition in the sub clause. In English we have “ if ” of English has the following equivalent:

Ka, nKa, erhi, aKaba, acibaga, erhi Kube,

e.g: Acibaga nali nyishisoma rHINGA naguzire ecitabu.

=> If I had Known how to read I would have bought a book.

- In both languages the sub clause attests the past and the main clause attests the present, past and future.

e.g: Ocigendaga i injo sezi, orhakolobire.

=> If you had gone yesterday morning, you wouldn't have got wet.

- In both Mashi and English a sentence is composed of two clauses : The subordinate clause and the main. There is no matter which one comes first.

The clauses are separated by a comma if the subordinate clause starts the conditional sentences.

But if the main clause starts the sentence the comma is dropped.

Eg. Erhi aKaba wamuhire zIRYA usaranga, anagulaga omutuga bunO.

=> If you had given him that gold, he can buy a car today.

- In some sentences, one can wish to omit the introductory words that express the condition.

The sentence will remain the same in meaning

e.g: Nagwerhi ensaranga, nakaziguzire mutuga

=> If you had given him that gold, he can buy a car today.

- In same sentences, one can wish to omit the introductory words that express the condition.

The sentence will remain the same in meaning

e.g: Nagwerhi ensaranga, naKaziguzire mutuga

=> I had had money, I would have bought a wheeled vehicle.

- In both languages conjunctions are attested. In English we have non compound conjunctions (**if, unless, Whether, ...**) and compound conjunctions (**Provided that, in Case, if Only, as long as, as if**). In Mashi we have also non - compound conjunctions (**nKa, Ka, aKaba, Caziga**) and compound ones (**erhi, aKaba, erhi Kube, erhi.... Ka, acibaga erhi, acibaga ciru, ciru akaba**).

e.g: 1) Ncigulaga gulya mutuga nail nacyunjuza.

=> If had bought that wheeled vehicle I would have regretted .

2) Rhucigendaga hulya lusiku, rhwakakuhesire

=> If we had gone that day, we would have gone with you.

- In both Mashi and English, the sub clause influences the main clause, i.e, the clause that contains the condition. If the latter is complete, the former will get its realization. Whereas in the conditional Sentence Type III the condition is unreal past. It in both languages if we consider the past perfect in the sub- clause and the past conditional in the main clause.

6.2 DIFFERENCES IN TYPE III

- In Mashi each sentence has two clauses: The sub – clause and the main clause. In the subordinate clause the condition (action is expressed in the past perfect tense and the main clause is expressed either in the past, in present or in future in

Type III. In English this is not possible in the main clause. The past perfect is attested in the sub-clause and the past conditional in the main clause.

e.g. Ncibaga n'enkafu nyinji, nakabire mugale

=> If I had had many cows, I could be rich.

- Conditional sentences type three form (morphology in Mashi is different from the in English).

In Mashi the particle "Ka" is located between the particules "nKa" "acibaga", "nKaba", "erhi.... do not occur between the pronominal prefix and the radical. But in English, the conditional structure in if –clause is not like one above of Mashi. The if expressing the condition occurs often at the beginning of the sub – clause.

e.g: Erhi akaba ahire larha enkafu, akayishweka.

=> If he had given a cow to my father, he will raised it/would have raised it.

- An idea that may be expressed in a few words in English can be expressed in one, word in Mashi.

One word in Mashi can contain the subject, the conditional word, the direct or indirect object and the verb. But in English we cannot find such a word.

e.g: Bacimurhabazagya, arhakafire.

=> If they had helped him, he wouldn't have died.

- In English the inversion of verb and subject is possible, but, in Mashi it is not possible.

e.g: Ocinyumvagya rhinga ebi byoshi birhakalinzire byahika.

=> If you had, obeyed my orders this disaster would not have happened.

Inversion : Mashi : Yumwagya oci rhinga ebi byoshi Birhakalinzire byakuhikira (nonsense).

English : Had you obeyed my orders this disaster would not have happened (possible).

7 GENERAL SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

7.1 GENERAL SIMILARITIES

To establish similarities genetic relationship between languages in conditional sentences is to show how they correspond systematically in some ways. A familiar example of a genetic relationship between languages is the one that shows that similar words in meaning in French and Italian. Those words are a particular sound of French may correspond to some other particular sound of Italian because they belong to the same linguistic area.

Thus, these two languages can facilitate the target language learning process.

This is not the case with English and Mashi Conditional sentences. English is an Indo – European language and Mashi is a Bantu language. They both do not belong to the same environment of expression.

Thus they do not correspond systematically to the same construction ways. The prediction of learning difficulties and the determination of areas where the two languages differ is the most important point in the technique of C.A.

Hereafter are the most important similarities between both Mashi and English in all the types of conditional sentences:

1. Both languages attest three types of conditional sentences, i.e, type one/ real condition, Type II/unreal present and Type III/unreal past.
2. In both Mashi and English conjunctions are attested. In English we have compound conjunctions (**Provided that, in Case, If only, as long as, as if**. In Mashi we have also non compound conjunctions (**nKa, Ka, aKaba, Caziga, Casiga**) and compound conjunction ones (**erhi aKaba, aciba erhi, erhi..... ka, acibaga Ciru, erhi kube. Ciru... akaba, ...**).
3. Tenses in both languages help to express conditional present condition, a future or past condition.
4. Both languages have words that express a condition in the subordinate clause. In English we have the word; "If". The latter has its equivalents in Mashi which are "Ka", "nKa", "erhi", "akaba", "acibaga", ...

5. A sentence in both languages is composed of two clauses; the subordinate clause and the main clause. There is no matter which comes first.
6. In both languages the two clauses are separated by a comma if the sentence starts by the sub – clause But if it begins with main clause, the comma is dropped.
7. In both languages the sub – clause influences the main clause, i.e, the clause that contains the consequence (main clause) depends on the clause that contains the condition. If the latter is complete the former can take place.

These are train similarities we presume will facilitate the acquisition of conditional sentences in general in both Mashi and English.

7.2 GENERAL DIFFERENCES

English and Mashi are quite different from each other when they are contrasted with themselves.

They do not share many phonological and morphological contrasts, their sentence structure are such that a word – for – word translation is not always possible and they do not share any considerable amount of vocabulary. The problem posed by vocabulary tends to be practical rather than theoretical that is why making the difference between two languages is the most important stage in Contrastive Analysis. The latter determines areas where the two languages differ. In this way, the difference leads to the prediction of difficulties that non – native learning English is likely to face . Simply because learners always attempt to transfer their mother tongue structures into the target language.

This assumption is shared by most linguists among which **Weinreich** quoted by **BADERHA C.** (2004:480).

An attempt to a Contrastive Analysts of the (1984 : 44) states that the greater difference between the two systems, i.e, the more numerous the mutually exclusive forms and patterns in each, the greater is the learning problems and the potential area of interference.

The most important differences to be mentioned between the variety of Mashi conditional sentences spoken in Bukavu and English ones are the following:

1. Conditional sentences morphology (form in Mashi is different from that of English.

In Mashi the particles “**Ka**”, “**NKa**”, “**Ci**” are located between the pronominal suffix and the radical. Also these particles can occur /appear at the beginning of the sub – clause. But in English the word **if** expressing the conditions always placed at the beginning of the if – clause to express the condition. And also in the middle of the sentence if the sentence starts with the main clause.

e.g: 1) **Okagenda bunu wanahika duba.**

* You go now, you can arrive quickly.

=> If you go now, you will arrive quickly.

2) **Mucimuhaga aluhya, rhwanKayumwirhe.**

* You if him give the proof, we would understand.

=>If you gave him the proof, we would understand.

2. In English, what one can express in more words can be expressed with one word in Mashi.

One word in Mashi can carry the subject (pronominal prefix), conditional sentences Type I, Type II and Type III. In English it is not the case. These consequences can be expressed separately, word – by – word.

e.g. **Mukababwira**, barhakacyisha.

* You If them tell, they can’t again come;

=> If you tell them, they cannot come again.

3. In English the inversion verb – subject is attested. In Mashi this is not acceptable /possible.
4. In Mashi each sentence has two clauses: the sub – clause and the main clause. In both languages the subordinate clause in Type I can be expressed in the subjunctive and in Type three in the past perfect but the main clause in all the three types are expressed in simple present, simple past and future time.

The tenses in Mashi have ramifications.

But in English this cannot work.

In Type I we have the simple, present, in Type II we have the subjunctive and in Type III we have the past perfect in the if – clause; Type I we have the future time, Type II the present conditional and Type III we have the past conditional only.

In sum, these are the main differences in conditional sentences between Mashi and English. That can cause difficulties to Shi Speakers in the expression of conditional sentences in English. This does not necessarily mean that individual speakers of English have more vocabulary than individual speakers of Mashi.

Let us say that languages do not in general differ in the complexity of their grammatical system as whole.

Mashi and English are facing precisely the problem of assimilating structures of sentences at an unusually fast rate, and is not used by speakers of other languages in specialized contexts.

8 PEDAGOGICAL PROBLEMS

As differences exist between English and Mashi especially because they belong to two totally different linguistic communities Bantu Language (Mashi) and Indo-European one (English) and they do not have the same structural features even if some likenesses are also possible, there must be some pedagogical problems.

This section will attempt to put difficulties that Mashi are likely to face while learning English:

1. Mashi native speakers are likely to translate a grammatical element where it is not possible and use incomplete application of rules although they know them.

For instance, *Okayishiyisha muceracera, oyishinderhera zirya nsaranga zani.*

- If you come earlier morning you bring that money my
- If you will come earlier morning tomorrow, you will bring me that money.

He succeeds to use the future “will” in the main clause but he fails to use the simple present in the sub-clause. He replaces what he supposes to be easier with what the difficult to him.

It is worth recommending the teachers of English to be attentive to the language pupils produce.

2. The factor that particle words in Mashi appear into the verb between the radical and the pronoun or at the beginning of the sub-clause can cause problem to a Shi learning English. In English, it is not movable whereas in Mashi it is movable. It can occur initially or medially.
3. A Shi speaker may have difficulties in using English tenses appropriately as the if clause or main clause in Mashi can be either in present, in past or future. All these difficulties come from the multiplicity of Mashi tenses in comparison to English ones. Shi learners of English may get more and more upset in trying to adjust in conditional sentences.
4. Intonation also causes problems to a Shi speaker learning English. The conditional sentences type three are mainly stressed in Mashi. A Shi speaker tempts to stress the sentences in English conditional sentences type three. Therefore he makes mistakes.

For instance, *Ociyishaga lishinjo, rhinga nakasimire*

If you had come the day before yesterday, I would have been happy.

5. Another problem a Shi learner of English always makes is the confusion between the regular verb ending in – ed in the past and past participle, and the irregular one in English with the past tense in Mashi ending in – ire or – aga.

They think that as there is a distinction between regular and irregular past tense and past participle in English it must be the same case in Mashi. For instance, the verb “*Kufa*” in Mashi (= to break down in English); he will say “* ed” in English. This is a Shi thought.

e.g. *Acibaga omutuga gwani gurhafaga, nakagwasire liry ipigipigi.*

* If my wheeled vehicle had not broken down I should have caught that motorcycle. He should say.

If my wheeled vehicle had not broken down, I would have caught that motorcycle.

9 CONCLUSION

This article has attempted to contrast conditional sentences in English and Mashi order to predict possible difficulties a Shi learner of English may face in learning conditional sentences in English. To achieve this we discussed three main types of conditions in both English and Mashi. It is during this discussion that we noticed that there are different forms of verbs that are a regular part of these clauses in these conditions in both languages. These forms rarely vary in English. Yet it is true that occasionally the meanings of a sentence require that we refer to a real conditional situation in both Mashi and English. This mixing of the three forms is permissible and normal in both languages if the meaning requires it.

We also noticed that languages do not in general differ in the complexity of their grammatical system as a whole. Both English and Mashi are facing precisely the problem of assimilating the structure of sentences at an unusually fast rate. In addition English and Mashi do not correspond to the systematically in the same construction ways. That is why the learning process is not easy to define.

This contrast we study has helped us to confirm our hypotheses demonstrating that both English and Mashi attest similarities and differences in their conditional sentences systems. Those differences observed helped us predict certain difficulties a Shi learner of English may encounter.

We afterwards suggested some implications to prevent such difficulties to occur in the learning of conditional sentences in English for a Shi speaker. Thus teachers of English will profit from this article to design adequate corrective methods in case problems in conditional sentences occur when teaching.

To sum up, this article can or not be perfect. It may bear some shortcomings. That is why we wish further skillful researchers to carry out further research on this article for example by studying error analysis in the use of conditional sentences by Shi people learning English. In addition, scientific criticisms, suggestions or corrections are welcome.

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