Abstract
The aim of this study was to describe how verbal extensions affect the valence number of verbs focusing on the derivation of causative, passive/reflexive, applicative, reciprocal and stem formatives. The study followed qualitative cross-sectional design with following structuralism approach to linguistics description. Though most of the Gurage language varieties largely have similar morpho-syntactic operations, the present study was based on the Gumer variety for purpose of consistency in transcription. We used IPA symbols and phonemic transcription which was glossed with Leipzig's morpheme-by-morpheme approach. The data were elicited from six key informants from Arekit town in Gumer district. It was found that the causative \{a-\} and double causative \{at-\} increases argument by one and two, respectively. The morpheme \{ja-\}, which has dative and ablative meaning, increases an argument at the object position. The applicative locative, instrumental, benefactive and malefactive increase arguments of a verb. The locative and instrumental are marked with a homophonous morpheme \{bə-\}. The benefactive and malefactive are derived with \{-n(l)-\} and \{-b(w-)\}, respectively. Valence decreasing operations are passive/reflexive extension \{tə-\} and the impersonal passive extension \{-i-\}. Frequentative/intensive and reciprocal extensions maintain the valence of a verb the same. It was found that there are stem forming extensions that may increase or decrease valence as in a-\dʒə\dʒə\rə\m'caused trouble', tə-\dʒə\dʒə\rə\m 'be in trouble'. The form *\dʒə\dʒə\rə\m' without the prefixes has no meaning. It implies that both the root and the prefix are bound. Copulative constructions are problematic to be considered verbal extension since they are formed from nouns or adjectives. They are also problem to be considered an argument thereby increasing, decreasing or maintaining valence because they carry verbal element.