

## A Contrastive Study of the Order of Attributive Adjectives in English and Sereer SIIN

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**Abstract:** Contrastive analysis (CA) is a sub-discipline of linguistics dealt with comparison of two or more languages; it permits to detect the similarities and differences between them. This study aimed at contrasting the order of attributive adjectives in English, an Indo-European language and Sereer Siin, a Negro African language spoken in Senegal in the area of Fatick. The study involved 25 male students who were Sereer speakers and learners of English as a second language at the English department of Cheikh Anta Diop University. A test of 112 items in both languages was given to them. It was composed of 56 in English and 56 in Sereer. These students were asked to order correctly in a sentence two attributive adjectives in each language. However, the results revealed that in both languages there were more differences than similarities. However, the identical features of both languages are the fact that : adjectives of size precede adjectives of shape and of age, adjectives of color are placed before adjectives of Origin/nationality and of purpose; and adjectives of material are positioned before adjectives of purpose. There is an exception with *naas* which is the only adjective of age that should be placed after adjectives of size. Thus, this paper will enable to promote and develop the Sereer language and culture around the world. It will definitely be an invaluable resource for English speakers who are interested in the functioning of the order of attributive adjectives in Sereer Siin.

**Keywords:** contrastive study, attributive adjectives, order, English and Sereer Siin.

### INTRODUCTION

An adjective can be defined as a part of speech that modifies or describes a noun or a pronoun. For Traditional grammar, adjectives refer to characteristics or qualities. Its main function is nothing than to make a description or give information about things, ideas and people: nouns or pronouns. However in descriptive grammar, an adjective is considered as an entity that limits other categories. According to Meetu [1], he states that:

*For better understanding let us break the word Adjective as „Ad+ject; i.e., adds to the subject“. So it can be said that words that add to the subject are known as adjectives. Adjectives are words that modify, and add more meaning to the noun or the pronoun. E.g.: lazy girl. (What kind of girl is Rania? The answer is lazy. The word „lazy“ is an adjective as it gives more information about the noun Rania.) The naughty boy was punished. (Which boy was punished? The answer is naughty. The word „naughty“ is an adjective.)*

To analyze the order of attributive adjectives in English and Sereer Siin, this study will adopt

Contrastive Analysis (CA) as a theoretical framework. The analysis will focus on the English mnemonic called OSASCOMP, which stands for *Opinion, Size, Age, Shape, Color, Origin, Material, Purpose* [2]. It will as well enable to see if both languages have a similar or different manner of ordering attributive adjectives; what could help English speakers who would like to learn Sereer Siin language.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

A few studies were conducted in the order of adjectives. It is the case of David Kemmerer & *et al.*, [3] and Nicoladis, E & Rhemtulla, M [4]. For the use of multiple adjectives to modify a noun, David Kemmerer and al investigate on the neural substrates of the semantic constraints of multiple adjectives order. The investigation concerned three tests on 34 brain-damaged patients and 19 healthy participants. Indeed, during it happened that Six patients failed a test that required them to discriminate between semantically determined correct and incorrect sequences of adjectives e.g., *thick blue towel vs. \*blue thick towel*. However, the latter passed a test that assessed their knowledge of two purely syntactic aspects of adjective order—

specifically, that adjectives can precede nouns, and that adjectives can precede other adjectives. They as well passed the last test that assessed their knowledge of the categorical (i.e., class-level) features of adjective meanings that interact with the semantic constraints underlying adjective order- e.g., that *thick* is a dimensional adjective and that *blue* is a color adjective. Consequently, according to researchers, these behavioral findings showed that the six patients have selectively impaired knowledge of the abstract principles that determine how different semantic classes of adjectives are typically mapped onto different syntactic positions in NPs. As for the study of Elena Nicoladis and Mijke Rhemtulla, it focuses on the manner children in the preschool years learn the use of many adult-like grammatical. The argument focuses on the manner that novel verbs are used by children in verb clause: many English-speaking 2-year olds are willing to use novel verbs in ungrammatical order; by 4, few children are willing to use novel verbs in a non-SVO order. In verb clauses, the semantic/syntactic role are determined by the word order (e.g...subject). By focusing on verbs, researchers didn't manage to take into consideration the fact that children might as well be learning the relation between semantic/syntactic function and meaning. For the test of this interpretation, a lesson about novel adjectives is taught to 35 monolingual English-speaking children between 2 and 4 years old either in a prenominal or postnominal position. Results of their study showed that for the fact of reversing the order of novel postnominal adjectives, 4-year olds children managed to use the new adjectives in the order they were formed. The suggestion of results reveals that during children are learning to map word order onto semantic/syntactic function during the preschool years. Nevertheless, as far as my knowledge is concerned, there is neither such a descriptive study on Sereer Siin nor a contrastive one on this point in English and Sereer Siin.

#### METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the purpose of the study, a descriptive analytical method was used. The sample consisted of twenty five (25) male students who were Sereer by birth and speak Sereer as their first language. These students were as well learning English as a second language at the English department of Cheikh Anta Diop University. However, a test of 112 items composed of 56 in English and 56 in Sereer, was given to them after consulting experienced teachers in both languages for the reliability of data. The latters were asked to order correctly in a sentence two attributive adjectives in each language.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study presented in the following sections show the differences and similarities between English and Sereer Siin in the way of ordering

attributive adjectives in a sentence. The results showed that there are more differences than similarities. Nevertheless, both languages only share some features such as: adjectives of size precede adjectives of shape and of age, adjectives of color are placed before adjectives of Origin/nationality and of purpose; and adjectives of material are positioned before adjectives of purpose. But, it happens that the adjective *ɲas* is the only one which excluded from the adjectives of age that should be placed after adjectives of size.

#### ADJECTIVES OF OPINION AND SIZE

For ordering these adjectives, English and Sereer Siin have a difference. In English, adjectives of opinion precede adjectives of size as *comfortable*, *small* in (1) and *beautiful*, *big* in (2) whereas in Sereer Siin, adjectives of size are placed before the ones of opinion as *neewu*, *farju* in (3) and *mak*, *mosu* in (4) .

(1) *My friends rent a comfortable small room*

(2) *She leaves in a beautiful big house*

(3) *Naak neewu farju*  
N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
"A small ugly cow"

(4) *Begax mak mosu*  
N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
"A Nice big door"

#### ADJECTIVES OF OPINION AND SHAPE

English and Sereer Siin do not use the same order concerning the classification of these two kinds of adjectives. In English, adjectives of opinion precede adjectives of shape as *delicious*, *round* in (5) and *nice*, *square* in (6), what is not the case in Sereer Siin which positions adjectives of shape before adjectives of shape as *ɲobu*, *xeddu* in (7) and *ndambatu*, *mbelu* in (8).

(5) *They ate delicious round cakes*

(6) *Dad bought a nice square table*

(7) *Mbind ɲobu xeddu*  
N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
"A stiff ugly house"

(8) *Mburu ndambatu mbelu*  
N-ADJ-ACC-ADJ ACC  
"Succulent flat bread"

#### ADJECTIVES OF OPINION AND AGE/TEMPERATURE

There is a difference between English and Sereer Siin in so far as in English adjectives of opinion precede adjectives of age/temperature as *strange*, *old* in (9) and *pretty*, *young* in (10), contrary to Sereer Siin

which firstly uses adjectives of age and then adjectives of opinion as *maak*, *mosu* in (11) and *qas*, *fax* in (12).

(9) *He rent a strange old house*

(10) *My brother married a pretty young girl*

(11) *Mbind maak mosu*  
N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
"An old beautiful house"

(12) *Ngaw qas fax*  
N-ADJ-ADJ  
"A Good new water pot"

#### ADJECTIVES OF OPINION AND COLOR

In English, adjectives of opinion precede adjectives of color as *disgusting*, *white* in (13) and *terrible*, *red* in (14), whereas in Sereer Siin, adjectives of color are positioned before the ones of opinion as *baal*, *xubbu* in (15) and *yeex*, *farju* in (16).

(13) *I ate a disgusting white candies*

(14) *The lady wears a terrible red hat*

(15) *O tewo baal o xubbu*  
CM-N-ADJ-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A beautiful black woman"

(16) *Mbaal yeex farju*  
N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
"An Ugly red sheep"

#### ADJECTIVE OF OPINION AND ORIGIN/NATIONALITY

In both languages, there is a different way of positioning these adjectives. In English, adjectives of opinion precede adjectives of nationality/origin as *wonderful*, *Spanish* in (17) and *funny*, *German* in (18) while in Sereer Siin; it is the opposite as *Sereer*, *pelu* in (19) and *Halpulaar*, *safu* in (20).

(17) *He stayed a wonderful Spanish hotel*

(18) *The teacher wears funny German shoes*

(19) *Sacc no sereer pelu*  
N-DET-N-ADJ ACC  
"A succulent Sereer couscous"

(20) *Jaw no Halpulaar<sup>1</sup> safu*

<sup>1</sup>The Halpulaarens who are a group that speaks Peulh represent the second main group (23.8%). The Toucouleurs and Peulhs need to be distinguished. They are mainly located in the Ferlo, the Senegal River valley, in the Badiar and the High Casamance. Breeders

N-DET-N-ADJ ACC  
"A succulent Peulh meal"

#### ADJECTIVES OF OPINION AND MATERIAL

In English, adjectives of opinion are placed before adjectives of material as *bad*, *diamond* in (21) and *good*, *silvery* in (22); what is totally different from Sereer Siin where adjectives of material precede the ones of opinion as *pata*, *mosu* in (23) and *wurus* and *fax* in (24).

(21) *She gave him a bad diamond ring*

(22) *He writes with a good silvery pen*

(23) *Jong a pata mosu*  
N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A beautiful wooden bed"

(24) *Cex wurus fax*  
N-N-ADJ  
"A Good golden jewelry"

#### ADJECTIVES OF OPINION AND PURPOSE

In English, it happens that adjectives of purpose are placed after opinion adjectives, and it is the case with *strange*, *tennis* in (25) and *beautiful flower* in (26). But in Sereer Siin, there is a difference because adjectives of purpose are positioned before the ones of opinion, as *mofuir*, *mosu* in (27) and *juliir*, *farju* in (28).

(25) *He has a strange tennis racket*

(26) *She lives in a beautiful flower vase*

(27) *Dudan mofuir o mosu*  
N-VINF-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A beautiful sitting bench"

(28) *O sar o juliir o farju*  
CM-N-CM-VINF-CM-ADJ ACC  
"An ugly praying mat"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SIZE AND SHAPE

In both languages, there is no difference to order these adjectives, that is to say that adjectives of size precede adjectives of shape. Moreover, this can be noticed with *big*, *round* in (29), *small*, *rectangular* in (30), *mak*, *yaju* in (31) and *jiig*, *jofu* in (32).

(29) *Senegal has a big round stadium for wrestling*

(30) *He lives in a small rectangular flat*

(31) *O xol o mak o yaju*

and traditionally nomadic, nowadays they are severely affected by rural exodus and sedentary lifestyle (especially the Toucouleurs) [5].

CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-ADJ ACC  
 "A big large field"

- (32) *O lox o jiiig o jofu*  
 CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-ADJ ACC  
 "A long straight stick"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SIZE AND AGE/TEMPERATURE

On the one hand, it is possible to mention that English and Sereer Siin share a common feature by the fact that adjectives of size are placed before adjectives of age as *enormous*, *ancient* in (33) and *short*, *young* in (34), and *ndeb*, *nogoyu* in (35). On the other hand, there is an exception with the adjective of age *qas* that can be positioned before and after adjectives of size, as in example (36).

- (33) *She saw an enormous ancient building*

- (34) *My brother married a short young girl*

- (35) *Pis ndeb nogoyu*  
 N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
 "A Short old horse"

- (36) *Mbind qas neewu*  
 N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
 "A Small new house"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SIZE AND COLOR

English and Sereer Siin do not share the same approach concerning the order of adjectives of size and color. In English, adjectives of size are supposed to precede adjectives of color as *huge*, *yellow* in (37) and *long*, *blue* in (38), whereas in Sereer Siin, it is the opposite; and this can be noticed in (39) with *baal*, *newu* and in (40) with *ndan*, *ndabbu*.

- (37) *It is a huge yellow wall*

- (38) *He is driving a long blue car*

- (39) *Mbaal baal newu*  
 N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
 "A small black sheep"

- (40) *Ndoki ndan ndabu*  
 N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
 "A Short white shirt"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SIZE AND ORIGIN/NATIONALITY

English is totally different from Sereer Siin in the way of ordering these two sorts of adjectives. Adjectives of size are placed before adjectives of origin/nationality in English as *tall*, *French* in (41) and *big*, *Italian* in (42), while Sereer Siin firstly uses

adjectives of origin/nationality and then adjectives of size; what can be noticed in (43) with *chinois*, *newu* and in (44) with *Bambara*, *tabu*.

- (41) *They have a tall French teacher*

- (42) *Dad bought a big Italian boat*

- (43) *Pay no chinois newu*  
 N-DET-N-ADJ ACC  
 "A small Chinese pagne"

- (44) *O tewo Bambara* [<sup>2</sup>] *tabu*  
 CM-N-N-ADJ ACC  
 "A short Bambara woman"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SIZE AND MATERIAL

To classify the adjectives of size and material, one can notice that there is a difference between these two languages. In English, adjectives of size are placed before the ones of material as *short*, *wooden* in (45) and *small*, *diamond* in (46), contrary to Sereer Siin, where adjectives of material are supposed to precede adjectives of size. Moreover, it is the case with *xalis*, *mak* in (47) and *wurus*, *jiiig* in (48).

- (45) *He makes short wooden tables*

- (46) *They sell small diamond glasses*

- (47) *O jaj xalis o mak*  
 CM-N-N-CM-ADJ  
 "A big silvery bracelet"

- (48) *O lox o wurus o jiiig*  
 CM-N-CM-N-CM-ADJ  
 "A long golden stick"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SIZE AND PURPOSE

There is a difference between English and Sereer Siin concerning the order of these two kinds of adjectives. In English, it is noticeable that adjectives of size precede adjectives of purpose as *small*, *sleeping* in (49) and *long*, *flower* in (50) while in Sereer Siin; adjectives of size are placed after the ones of purpose as *jufiir*, *ndeb* in (51) and *mbokator*, *mak* in (52).

- (49) *There is a small sleeping room*

- (50) *I saw a long flower vase*

<sup>2</sup>The Bambara (Bambara: *Bamana* or *Banmana*) are a Mandé ethnic group native to much of West Africa, primarily southern Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Today they make up the largest Mandé ethnic group in Mali, with 80% of the population speaking the Bambara language, regardless of ethnicity [6].

(51) *O mbap o jufiir o ndeb*  
CM-N-CM-VINF-CM-ADJ  
"A small running pants"

(52) *Mbind mbokator mak*  
N-VINF-ADJ  
"A Big assembling house"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SHAPE AND AGE/TEMPERATURE

Concerning the adjectives of shape and age/temperature, English and Sereer Siin have a different approach by the fact that in English, adjectives of shape precede adjectives of age as *rectangular, new* in (53) and *square, old* in (54) what is not possible in Sereer Siin which places adjectives of age before the ones of shape as *nogoyu, ndambatu* in (55) and *xiid, jobu* in (56).

(53) *He has a rectangular new bag*

(54) *She sat on a square old chair*

(55) *Fambe nogoyu ndambatu*  
N-ADJ ACC-ADJ ACC  
"A fat old ewe"

(56) *Mburu xiid jobu*  
N-ADJ-ADJ ACC  
"A Stiff ancient bread"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SHAPE AND COLOR

*Oval, white* in (57) and *triangular, yellow* in (58) shows that adjectives of shape are as well placed before adjectives of color in English, what is different from Sereer Siin's method which requires the opposite, that is to say that adjectives of color precede adjectives of shape as *ran, yaju* in (59) and *yeex, jofu* in (60).

(57) *The President of USA has an oval white office*

(58) *Modou was carrying a triangular yellow door*

(59) *O sar o ran o yaju*  
CM-N-CM-N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A large white mat"

(60) *A celem a yeex a jofu*  
CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A straight red iron"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SHAPE AND ORIGIN/NATIONALITY

There is a perceptible difference between both languages in the way of classifying adjectives of shape origin/ nationality. As far as English is concerned, adjectives of shape are supposed to be placed before the ones of origin/ nationality as *flat, Irish* in (61) and

*round, Chinese* in (62), while this structure is not at all possible in Sereer Siin. In this language, it is adjectives of origin/ nationality that precede the adjectives of shape as *naar, jobu* in (63) and *Pulane, yaju* in (64).

(61) *He is selling flat Irish TV set*

(62) *My sister has a round Chinese phone*

(63) *Gelem no naar o jobu*  
N-DET-N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A stiff Moorish camel"

(64) *Mbind no Pulane yaju*  
N-DET-N-ADJ ACC  
"A large peulh house"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SHAPE AND MATERIAL

Concerning the classification of adjectives of shape and material, there is no similarity between both languages in so far as English places adjectives of shape before adjectives of material as *round, cotton* in (65) and *rectangular, wooden* in (66) while Sereer Siin adopts the opposite; what can even be noticed in (67) with *bañ, pata* and in (68) with *xalis, yaju*.

(65) *Dad has round cotton pillows in his room*

(66) *I proposed him a rectangular wooden bed*

(67) *A Sac a bañ pata jofu*  
CM-N-CM-N-N-ADJ ACC  
"A straight wooden soup-ladle"

(68) *O don o max xalis o yaju*  
CM-N-CM-N-N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A large golden door"

#### ADJECTIVES OF SHAPE AND PURPOSE

In both languages, the placement of these two adjectives is not identical. In English, adjectives of shape precede adjectives of purpose as *oval, learning* in (69) and *round, flower* in (70), but with the use of *bogor, yaju* in (71) and *ñamir, jobu* in (72), it is perceptible that in Sereer Siin, adjectives of purpose are placed before the ones of shape.

(69) *Students are in an oval learning room*

(70) *He used to buy round flower vases*

(71) *A mbeñu bogor a yaju*  
CM-N-VINF-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A large washing bucket"

(72) *O mañ o ñamir o jobu*  
CM-N-CM-VINF-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A stiff eating spoon"



### ADJECTIVES OF AGE/TEMPERATURE AND COLOR

English and Sereer Siin have a different manner of classifying adjectives of age/temperature and color, because in English adjectives of age/temperature are supposed to be placed before adjectives of color; what can be noticed in (73) with *ancient, black* and in (74) with *cold, red*. But, as for Sereer Siin, adjectives of age/temperature are placed after the ones of color as *tan, bubu* in (75) and *baal, sumu* in (76).

(73) *This is an ancient black barouche*

(74) *He is drinking a cold red water*

(75) *A tokol a tan a bubu*  
CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A cold white pot"

(76) *A celem a baal a sumu*  
CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-ADJ ACC  
"A hot black iron"

### ADJECTIVES OF AGE/TEMPERATURE AND ORIGIN/NATIONALITY

Regarding the order of these two kinds of adjectives, both languages do not share the same structure, in so far as English, as *new, Swiss* in (77) and *young, Japanese* in (78), positions adjectives of age/temperature before adjectives of origin/ nationality, while Sereer Siin adopts the opposite and it is the case in (79) with *paal, miñu* and in (80) with *naar, nogoyu*.

(77) *He lent him a new Swiss cloth*

(78) *He is a young Japanese player*

(79) *O bap no paal o miñu*  
CM-N-DET-N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"Ancient Wolof<sup>3</sup> pants"

(80) *Gelem no naar o nogoyu*  
N-DET-N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"An old moorish camel"

### ADJECTIVES OF AGE/TEMPERATURE AND MATERIAL

There is no common structure between English and Sereer Siin to arrange adjectives of age/temperature and material. In English, the order of *ancient, wooden*

in (81) and *hot, plastic* in (82) shows that adjectives of age/temperature precede adjectives of material, contrary to Sereer Siin where adjectives of material are positioned after adjectives of age/temperature and this can be noticed with *dad, qas* in (83) and *celem, miñu* in (84).

(81) *This is an ancient wooden bed*

(82) *A hot plastic chair*

(83) *A dok dad a qas*  
CM-N-N-CM-ADJ  
"A new straw room"

(84) *O don o max a celem a miñu*  
CM-N-CM-N-CM-N-CM-ADJ ACC  
"An old iron door"

### ADJECTIVES OF AGE/TEMPERATURE AND PURPOSE

For ordering these two kinds of adjectives, English and Sereer Siin do not have the same approach. So, *old, running* in (85) and *hot, dining* in (86) shows that English firstly positions adjectives of age/temperature and then adjectives of purpose, while in Sereer Siin, adjectives of purpose are positioned before adjectives of age/temperature; a fact that appears in (87) with *mbeiir, maak* and in (88) with *mbogor, qas*.

(85) *Take my old running shoes*

(86) *It is a hot dining room*

(87) *Pay mbeiir maak*  
N-VINF-ADJ  
"A sleeping pagne"

(88) *Ngaw mbogor a qas*  
N-VINF-CM-ADJ  
"A new washing water pot"

### ADJECTIVES OF COLOR AND ORIGIN/NATIONALITY

English and Sereer Siin have the same manner of ordering these two sorts of adjectives; that is to say they position adjectives of color before adjectives of nationality/origin. Indeed, this can be noticed with *yellow, Japanese* in (89), *red, British* in (90), *dan, pulane* in (91) and *yeex, Bambara* in (92).

(89) *I bought a yellow Japanese fridge*

(90) *He writes with a red British pen*

(91) *Mbind dan no pulane*  
N-ADJ-DET-N  
"A white Pulane house"

<sup>3</sup> Wolof is a language of Senegal, the Gambia and Mauritania, and the native language of the Wolof people. Like the neighbouring languages Serer and Fula, it belongs to the Senegambia branch of the Niger-Congo language family. Unlike most other languages of the Niger-Congo family, Wolof is not a tonal language [7].

- (92) *O box o yeex no Bambara*  
 CM-N-CM-ADJ-DET-N  
 "A red Bambara dog"

#### ADJECTIVES OF COLOR AND MATERIAL

Concerning the classification of adjectives of color and material, both languages do not adopt the same structure in so far as in English, adjectives of color precede the ones of material as in (93) with *purple, plastic* and in (94) with *white, silvery*, whereas in Sereer Siin, adjectives of material are positioned before the ones of color; it is the case in (95) with *celem, yeex* and in (96) with *pata, baal*.

- (93) *She wanted a purple plastic bucket*

- (94) *He eats with a white silvery spoon*

- (95) *Jong a celem a yeex*  
 N-CM-N-CM-ADJ  
 "A red iron bed"

- (96) *Begax a pata baal*  
 N-CM-N-ADJ  
 "A black wooden door"

#### ADJECTIVES OF COLOR AND PURPOSE

There is no difference between English and Sereer Siin in the way of ordering adjectives of color and adjectives of purpose. In both languages, adjectives of color precede adjectives of purpose; what is perceptible with *white, dining* in (97), *blue, tennis* in (98), *tan, yeeriir* in (99) and *ran ñamiir* in (100).

- (97) *He builds a white dining room*

- (98) *They used black blue tennis racket.*

- (99) *Musa a jika a tokol a tan a yeeriir*  
 N-AUX-V ACC-CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-VINF  
 "Musa bought a white drinking pot"

- (100) *Musa a jika a bañ o ran o ñamiir*  
 N-AUX-V ACC-CM-N-CM-ADJ-CM-VINF  
 "Musa bought a white eating spoon"

#### ADJECTIVES OF ORIGIN/ NATIONALITY AND MATERIAL

English and Sereer Siin have no similarity concerning the position of these two kinds of adjectives in a sentence. In English, adjectives of origin/nationality are supposed to be positioned before adjectives of material as *Canadian, silver* in (101) and *French, wooden* in (102), contrary to Sereer Siin where adjectives of material precede the ones of nationality/origin as *njelem, pulane* in (103) and *dad, Hausa* in (104).

- (101) *He is writing with a Canadian silvery pen*

- (102) *She sleeps in a French wooden bed*

- (103) *dudan njelem no pulane*  
 N-N-DET-N  
 "A pulane iron bench"

- (104) *A Mbaw dad no Hausa*<sup>4</sup>  
 CM-N-N-DET-N  
 "A Hausa straw kitchen"

#### ADJECTIVES OF ORIGIN/ NATIONALITY AND PURPOSE

English and Sereer Siin have a different way of arranging adjectives of origin/ nationality and purpose. In English, adjectives of origin/ nationality are placed before adjectives of purpose as *Iraqi, waiting* in (105) and *German, running* in (106), whereas in Sereer Siin, it is the opposite; what is noticeable in (107) with *bogor, paal* and *yongir, Balante* in (108)

- (105) *I am in the Iraqi waiting room*

- (106) *He wears German running shoes*

- (107) *A tokol a bogor no paal*  
 CM-N-CM-VINF-DET-N  
 "A paal washing pot"

- (108) *Mbind yongir no Balante*<sup>5</sup>  
 N-VINF-DET-N  
 "A Balante palavering house"

#### ADJECTIVES OF MATERIAL AND PURPOSE

English and Sereer Siin have an identical approach in the way of classify these two kinds of

<sup>4</sup>The Hausa (autonyms for singular: Bahaushe (m), Bahaushiya (f); plural: Hausawa and general: Hausa; exonyms: Ausa; Francophonic spelling: Haoussa) are one of the largest ethnic groups in Africa. The Hausa are a diverse but culturally homogeneous people based primarily in the Sahelian and Sudanian Daura area of northern Nigeria and southeastern Niger, with significant numbers living in Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Chad, Togo, Ghana, Sudan, Gabon and Senegal [8].

<sup>5</sup>The Balanta (Guinea-Bissau Creole and Portuguese: *balanta*; French: *balante*; lit. "those who resist" in Balanta) are an ethnic group found in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and The Gambia. They are the largest ethnic group of Guinea-Bissau, representing more than one-quarter of the population. Despite their numbers, they have remained outside the colonial and postcolonial state because of their social organisation. The Balanta can be divided into four subgroups, three of which are Balanta Kentohe, Balanta Ganja and Balanta Brassa, the largest of which are the Balanta Brass [9].

adjectives. Both languages position adjectives of material before adjectives of purpose; a fact that can be noticed with *woolen*, *sleeping* in (109), *aluminium*, *boiling* in (110), *njelem*, *mofiir* in (111) and *faliit*, *mbeir* in (112).

(109) *She hid the woollen sleeping bag*

(110) *He bought an aluminium boiling coffee-pot*

(111) *dudān njelem mofiir*  
N-N-VINF  
“An iron sitting chair”

(112) *Pay faliit mbeir*  
N-N-VINF  
“A Cotton sleeping pagne”

### CONCLUSION

The paper examined the differences and similarities between English and Sereer Siin in the manner of ordering multiple attributive adjectives. So, after a test of 112 items given to 25 male students studying at the English department of Cheikh Anta Diop University, it was perceptible that both languages only share common features. In any case, attributives adjectives are still essential characteristics in the

grammatical functioning of both languages. That's why it is necessary to do more work in English and Sereer Siin in order to better understand their differences and similarities.

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