The derivational morphology of Shinasha language

Adugnaw Techane Amanu (✉ adugnayitaysh@gmail.com)

Injibara University

Habtamu Anbessie Woyila

Injibara University

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Abstract

This study has attempted to identify lexeme formation processes in Shinasha language. The researchers used elicitation/ linguistics interview / to collect the necessary data. Hence, Shinasha language has four word formation processes. These are derivational, compounding, reduplication and some words by changing the tone pattern of the language. With regard to nominalization: abstract, instrumental, result, gerundive and manner nominals are derived from nouns, adjectives and from verbs by suffixing bound morphemes. Concerning to Shinasha verbs, there are four types of verbs: causative, passive, reciprocal, transitive and imperative verbs which are only derived from root verbs through suffixation and by changing the sound morphemes. On the other hand adjectives are formed from nouns and verbs. The main Shinasha compound words are nouns, verbs and adjectives. They are formed by combining the same or different word classes. The third type of word formation process is reduplication. It forms frequentative and plural nouns of the language. The fourth process is tone variation; it is used to form nouns and verbs from other verbs and nouns by changing the pitch patterns of the language.

Introduction

This study is concerned with word formation process in Shinasha language which is classified under Omotic language family. So this introduction contains background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, delimitation of the study and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

The Shinasha people are one of the groups of people who are living in Metekel administrative zone of Benshangul Gumuz regional state. The Shinashas are Christians and their main occupation is farming (Ashenafi 1989). Shinasha people also known as "Bowro" or "Boro". They live in North of the Blue Nile in the Metekel zone of Benshangul Gumuz regional state (Bender, 1987). According to 1999 census the population is around 62, 486 individuals. Their neighbors in the area include Gumuz and Oromo people.

The name Shinasha is not used by the people. They call themselves and their language "Bora" (Ashenafi, 1989). However, the name Shinasha is commonly used in literature for explaining their identity. Because of this reason, the researcher has used this name throughout this research.

The Shinasha language or Bowro is a North Omotic language spoken in Western Ethiopia by the Shinasha people (Ashenafi, 1989). Its speakers live in scattered areas in north of the Abay River in Dangu, Dbat'i, Bullen and Wombera districts which are parts of the Benshangul Gumuz regional state.

Shinasha language consists of a number of sub groups including north Gonga to which Shinasha belongs (Fleming, 1976). Shinasha is a member of kefa group along with Kefa/Mocha and Anfillo (Bender, 1987). Shinasha language has two dialects: Taribera, which is spoken in lowland Shinasha and

Gybere, which is spoken in highland Shinasha (Bender, 1987). This study specifically focused on the Shinasha language spoken in Bulen (taribera dialect) and wombera (gybere dialect) districts.

According to (ashenafi, 1989) there are a few linguistic researches done on Shinasha language. As a result, the language is not well known like, any other Omotic languages. In addition most of the previous studies have been limited to list of words phonological and morphological sketches. But recently some Ethiopians and foreigners have been studying it (Ashenafi, 1989).

Morphology is the scientific study of words. Morphology is divided into two: lexical/derivational/ morphology and inflectional morphology. Lexical/derivational/ morphology studies the way in which new items of vocabulary can be built up out of combinations of elements. Whereas, inflectional morphology studies the ways words vary in their form in order to express a grammatical contrast. In addition to this, it deals with the inflectional forms of various lexemes (Crystal, 2003).

The expression "word formation or word making" or "word building" means the process of creating or forming words out of sequences of morphemes or words (crystal, 2003). Word formation process refers to all processes connected with the formation of new words by derivation, compounding, reduplication etc which is a matter of morphology. In word formation process major word formation processes /derivation, compounding and conversion/ and minor word formation processes /acronym, backformation, blending clipping, coinage, reduplication / are involved.

1.2 Statement of the problem

So far, two researchers Fekadie Baye (1988) and Rotland (1990) have conducted researches on Shinasha morphology. In their study they have shown types of lexical categories of the language (nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs) of Shinasha language or they have listed only the grammatical categories. However, they did not show word formation processes of the language. So, the researcher is interested to fill this gap and to come up with the word formation processes of Shinasha language. Furthermore, Shinasha has a few linguistic works done on it, especially the word formation processes of the language, which is the concern of this research did not touched up. Hence, this study will address the following basic questions.

1.3 Research questions

1/ how are new lexemes formed in Shinasha language from already existing words?

2/ what are the major and minor lexeme formation processes in Shinasha language?

1.3 Objective of the study

1.3.1 General objective

The main objective of this study is to assess lexeme formation processes of Shinasha language

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- To show how are new lexemes created in Shinasha language.
- To examine the derivational process of Shinasha Language.

1.4 Significance of the study

This study will have contributions in the understanding of word formation process in Shinasha language in particular and Omotic languages in general. Since none of the previous works have dealt with the process of word formation of Shinasha in detail (Rotland, 1990) the present study will have the following contributions.

1. It will increase our understanding of the word formation processes of the Shinasha language for Shinasha people.
2. It will help for the preparation of dictionary, teaching materials and other related pedagogical grammar materials.
3. It will provide linguistic materials for comparative study of the Omotic languages.
4. It can serve as a call for other researchers to do extensive study and further research on the language.
5. It will provide word lists for those Shinasha language learners to learn the language easily.

1.5 Delimitation of the study

There are four Shinasha speaking districts, namely Dibat'i, Wonbera, Bulen and Dangur. This study was limited to Shinasha spoken in the district of Bulen and Wombera. In addition to this the study has been limited only on word formation of the language. The study describes the word formation process involving derivational affixes, compounding and reduplication etc.

Research Methodology

Most lexeme formation research by its nature involves conducting descriptive research. Based on this, the researcher has followed descriptive research type.

3.1 Source of Data

In this study, the researcher has collected data essentially from both primary and secondary sources. So the researcher has collected data from primary sources by using elicitation. The secondary sources are from articles and phonetically transcribed word lists of Shinasha language from different sources.

3.1.1. Sample Size

Linguistics by its nature does not require total population. Since it is difficult to ask and collect data from the whole Shinasha community, the researcher has taken sample. Therefore, for the fulfillment of this study the researcher has selected only two districts purposively among the four Shinasha speaking districts. The researcher has also selected twenty Shinasha speakers purposively as informants based on

their language ability to collect reliable data, because the researcher presumes twenty informants are enough to conduct such research. Here the researcher has used purposive sampling to get both native and literate respondents from two districts from both primary and secondary schools.

3.1.2. Sampling technique

To select samples or informants the researcher has used purposive sampling technique, because the researcher is not the speaker of the language that is going to be conducted a research on it and the researcher has selected ten informants purposively from Bullen and ten informants from Wombera to get native speakers of the language from both highland (gybre) and lowland (taribera) dialects.

3.2 Data collection instruments

To collect the necessary data the researcher has employed elicitation and at the same time the researcher has used tape recorder, because the language is a tone language. The researcher has conducted elicitation for forty days with selected informants to get the necessary data: forty days with selected respondents.

3.3 Method of data analysis and interpretation

The researcher has employed only qualitative data analysis method. This means the researcher has analyzed the data using statements and some important examples based the selected theoretical framework. Moreover, to analyze the data collected from informants, has transcribed the data phonetically using tape recorder.

Data Analysis

DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the body of the paper that is data analysis. In this chapter the researcher discusses Shinasha word formation processes: derivation, compounding, reduplication and Shinasha word formation by changing tone patterns.

4.1 Derivation

Derivation is the process of forming new words by attaching the derivational affixes to different bases or stems. In Shinasha language, different derivational affixes are attached to form new words. Derivation includes derived nouns, derived verbs, derived adjectives and derived adverbs in Shinasha.

4.1.1 DERIVED NOUNS

Nominalization is the process of forming new nominals by adding derivational affixes to a base. The base for forming Shinasha nominals can be, verbal, or adjectival. It is investigated that in this language abstract agentive, manner, gerundive and result or process nominals are formed by attaching derivational suffixes.

Derived nouns are different in type. These are abstract nominals, agentive nominals, manner nominals, gerundive nominals and result nominals.

4.1.1.1 Abstract nominals

In Shinasha language complex abstract nouns are formed from different bases. The first abstract nominal's are those nominals added the suffix morpheme /-òná/ to have their abstract form. The following examples are given below.

Noun base abstract nominal

ná?á "child" → ná?ooná "child hood"

nihá "Father" → nihooná "Fatherhood"

ngú f á "boy" → ngú f ooná "boyhood"

?è f [i] wá] "brother → [?è f [i] woona "brother hood"

As it has been indicated in the above data, Shinash nouns are formed nouns by adding the suffix /-òna/and when this morpheme is added vowel changes happened that means the base vowel/a/ is deleted. And the second abstract nominals are those nominals added the suffix motpheme /-òní/. The following examples are given below.

Adjectival base abstract nominal

k'ò:tsá "fat" k'ò:tsooní /k'òts ská/ "fatness"

dò:fá "lazy" dò:fooní "laziness"

f átská "coword" f átò:f ooní "cowardice"

In the data given above, most Shinasha abstract nouns are formed by attaching the suffix morpheme /-òní/. Even though, both of them are abstract noun forming suffixes. In addition to this, when both suffixes added to the stem, the ending vowel of the stem is deleted.

4.1.1.2 Agentive Nominal

Agentive nominals refer to the doers of the actions expressed by verbs. In Shinasha language complex nominals of this sort are formed by suffixing /íroní/ to verb roots. Let us see some examples of shinasha language.

Verb root Agentive nominal's

wáká "to swim" wák'íroní "Swimmer"

gò:f á "to plough" gò:fíroní " former"

finá "to work" finírooní "worker"

As it has been seen from the above examples agentive nominal producing /iròni/ is simply attached to the base. But when the suffix /ròni/ is added the stem vowel /à / is deleted.

4.1.1.3 Manner nominals

Manner nominal's express the way of manner of doing the action of the verb from which they are derived. In Síhinasha language attaching the suffix /ò:ní/ to the verb root is an important way to form manner nominals. The following examples are presented below.

Verb root manner nominals

ímá "give" ímooní "way of giving"

ámá "go" ámooní "way of going"

ḡúná "love" ḡúnìooní "way of loving"

As it has been indicated in the above examples most Shinasha manner nominals are formed by adding the suffix /ò:ní/ and when this morpheme is added the verb stem vowel /a/ is deleted.

4.1.1.4 Gerundive nominals

In Shinasha language most Gerundive nominals are formed from verbal roots by adding the suffix /ír/ to the verb roots.

Verb roots gerundive nominals

woosá "to run" woosír "runing"

čàḡá "to insult" čàḡír "insulting"

ṭòlà "to jump" ṭòlír "jumping"

As it has been indicated in the above examples gerundive nominals are formed from verb roots by taking the morpheme /ir/ in different tone levels (high and low tone). When this morpheme is added the gerundive vowel /a/ is deleted.

As it has been shown in the above example, the result nominal producing /εε/ is simply attached to the bases. But when the suffix /εε/ is added the ending vowel of the stem /-a/ is deleted.

4.1.2 Derived verbs

Verbalization is the process of forming verbals by attaching derivational affixes to a base. In Shinasha language the process of creating verbal elements is applied by attaching different suffixes to verbal root bases.

4.1.2.2 Passivization

The passive forms in Shinasha are derived by the suffixation of –èèrè /èr/. Some examples are given below.

active verbs passive verbs

kèw "he bought" Kèw-èèrè "it was bought"

ím "he gave" í'm-èèrè "it was given"

kút "he cut" kút- èèrè "it was cut"

úud "he killed" úud- èèrè "it was killed"

4.1.2.3 Reciprocal Verbs

Reciprocal verbs are formed from verb roots by attaching the suffix morpheme / éjǎ/. The condition is illustrated by the following data given below:

verb root reciprocal verbs

gǎ "to find" gjǎ "find one another"

àtá "to ask" àtéjǎ "ask one another"

dàná "to know" dànéjǎ " know one another"

d3ò:bá "to kiss" d3ò:béjǎ "kiss one another"

As it has been indicated in the above example reciprocal verbs in Shinasha are formed by adding the suffix /éjǎ/ to the root. But when the bound morpheme /éjǎ/ is added then the ending vowel of the stem /a/ is deleted.

4.1.2.4 Transitivity

In Shinasha language verbs are formed by changing the sound morpheme /ε/ to /i/. This is illustrated by the following data:

root verb transitivity verb

àk'εε àk'íε

"become black" "made black"

k'ùp'εε k'ùp'íε

"become strong" "made strong"

ùfɛɛ ùfíɛ

"drinks" "invited to drink"

4.1.2.5 Imperatives

Imperatives are formed from verb roots by adding the suffix /morpheme/ /r/. The following examples are given below:

verb root imperative verb

mìtsu "fry" mìtsur " fry it"

dà:tsu "get" dà:tsur "get it"

u:p'áw "steal" u:p'áwr "steal it"

mí:č "laugh " mí:čr "laugh at"

4.1.3 Derived adjectives

Adjectivization is the process of deriving adjectives from any lexical category. In shinasha language adjectives are formed by attaching different affixes. Most shinasha adjectives are formed by adding the suffix /méchra'/.

Adjectives in Shinasha are formed from verbal roots, and nominal bases. The following examples are given below. First let us see adjectives derived from concrete nominal bases.

Nominal bases derived adjective

dàwà "mountain" dáwáméčrá "mountainous"

àwntsá "gold" áwatsméčrá "Golden"

tò:k'á "mud" tòk'áméčrá "mudy"

As it has been indicated by the above examples most Shinasha adjectives are derived from nouns by attaching the adjective producing bound morpheme/méčrá/. When this bounding morpheme is added the ending vowel of the stem is deleted but, it does not mean that deletion is common to all stems. For example deletion of vowel is common to stems: /áwɟá/ and /fò:kíɟútá/and not common to /béré/and /ɟéjá/.

Secondly let us see Shinasha adjectives derived from abstract nominal bases. These adjectives are derived from nominal bases by adding the suffix /étská/.

Nominal bases derived adjectives

ángá "power" àngétská "powerful"

dàná "knowledge"

dànétská "knowledgeable"

àwsá "gold"

àwsétská "golden"

As it has been shown in the above examples the adjective producing suffix / étská/ is simply attached to the base. But when the bound morpheme /étská/is added, the ending vowel of the stem /á/ is deleted.

4.1.4 Derived adverbs /Adverbialization/

According to informants in Shinasha language adverbs are formed by adding the suffix /-òótse/ to nominal base.

Nominal base	suffix	derivedadverb
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bóorsá "bag"	+	-òótse "from"	bóorsóótse "bag from"
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d3óora "chair"	+	-òótse "from"	d3óoróótse "chair from"
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bòlá "mule"	+	-òótse "from"	bòlóótse "mule from"
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As it has been indicated in the above examples that the adverb producing suffix /-òótse/is simply attached to the noun base. But when the bound morpheme /-òótse/ is added the ending vowel of the stem is deleted.

4.2 COMPOUNDING

In the previous chapter, we have seen the process of word formation by means of derivation. In this section we shall see the process of word formation through compounding. Compounding is defined as a process of forming new words by combining different lexical categories (Bauer, 1983: 28).

In similar way Mathews (1991: 82) defines compounding "as a process by which a compound lexeme is derived from two or more simple lexemes". On the other hand, Radford 1997: 499) defines "a compound word as word built up out of two (more) other words". However it is not the case that every two words combine to form compound form. Rather every language follows certain rules by which it forms its compound (Selkirk, 1984).

Different linguists grouped compounds of a language in to different classes by using various methods of classification. For instance, as it has been cited in Bauer (1983: 202) scholars like Marchand (1969) classify compounds by the form classes of the items that make up the compound. Others like Hatcher (1960) and warren (1978) choose to use semantic classes.

Zepic (1970) sub classifies compounds on the bases of the linking element. On the other hand, Lees (1960) classifies them based on the underlying syntactic functions. Others like Adams (1973) and Jespersen (1942) use the mixture of the above methods.

The usually way of classifying compounds is by function they play in the sentence such as noun as verbs, adjectives etc Bauer (1983: 201) is among the criteria that scholars use for classifying compounds, the semantic criterion seems to be the best because all compounds refer to a single units of reference. Hence in this study the researcher follows the usual way of classifying compounds that is by function they play in the sentence as nouns, verbs adjective etc.

4.2.1 compound nouns

Compound nouns are types of compounds which include noun + noun compounds, adjective + noun compounds, and verb + noun compounds.

4.2.1.1 Noun + noun compounds

In compounding two independent nouns are combined to form a compound noun. In this kind of noun + noun compound the two members of the compound are from the same grammatical category. In such compound formation the head occupies the right hand position. The following *endocentric* examples are presented below.

más'/í/ + dò:nzá más'/í/ dò:nzá

"honey" "bee" honeybee

káfí + ku'tá káfíku'tá

"bird" "house" "nest"

?àw + s'î:râ ?àws'î:râ

eye" "brow" "eye brow
bàkí + kutá bàkí kutá

"chicken" "house" "chicken house"

4.2.1.1.1 Endocentric compounds

An endocentric compound is a compound in which the entire compound has a function similar to one of its part. It is the part of the compound which conveys the basic meaning of the whole compound is said to be its head. The following examples are given below.

tésk + d3ò:râ tésk d3ò:râ

"back" "chair" "back chair"

fìnì + f'èṅá fìnì f'èṅá

" good" "work" "good work"

nguʃ + tòhá nguʃ tòhá

"boy" "friend" "boy friend"

4.2.1.1.2 Exocentric compounds

Exocentric compound refer to the compound refer to the compound that have a different meaning from its component parts. An exocentric compound is a compound in which the entire compound has no a function similar to one of its parts. And the part of the compound does not convey the basic meaning of the whole compound and it has not a head or there is no head in exocentric compound. The following examples are given below.

dàts + dò:nzá dàts dò:nzá

"earth" "own" "snake"

s'áts + njá s'áts njá

"blood" "father" "old man"

s'àlì + ànzá s'àlì ànzá

porcupine" "intestine " "cruel"

Adjective + noun compounds

In adjective + noun compound, adjectives are the first and nominal are the second members the compound. Therefore, these nominals function as heads of the compound. Some *endocentric* examples are given below.

tò:h + ʃèná tò:h ʃèná

"good" "friend" "best friend"

ʃín + gàʃà ʃín gàʃà

"front" "teeth" "fronteeth"

k'éní + kíʃá k'éní kíʃá

"right" "hand" "right hand"

4.2.2 Compound adjectives

Compound adjectives can be formed by combining two adjectives or by combining nominal and adjectival. Some of these compounds in Shinasha are presented below.

Adjective + Adjective compounds

In Shinasha language using different types of colour terminology forms these compounds adjectival. This is shown by the examples below.

àj + ààwò:ní áj ááwò:ní

"black" "brown" "black brown"

ájdék' + bírá ájdék' bírá

"deep" "red" "deep red"

ájdék' + àk'á àjdék' àk'á

"deep" "black" "deep black"

Noun + adjective compounds

These types of compounds are formed from nouns and adjectives. In this noun adjective compound, nouns are the first and adjectives are the second. But in this adjective formation nouns are heads of the compound.

Some examples are presented below:

áw + d3ésá áwd3ésá

"eye" "deficit" "eye deficit"

àfá + gò:ndá àf gò:ndá

"person" "rude" "rude person"

àfá + f éngà àf f éngà

"person" + "good" "good person"

As it has been indicated by examples, in Shinasha language compound adjectives are not as productive as compound nouns.

4.2.3 Compound verbs

Combining nominal's and verbals in Shinasha can form compound verbals. This fact is illustrated by the following examples.

nòné + tski' nònétski

"mouth" "Open" "talk a lot"

má:sá + dék'à má:sádék'à

wife"	"marry"	"get married
tésk	+ d3ò:rá	téskd3ò:rá
"back"	"chair"	"seat with a back"

4.3 REDUPLICATION

In the previous section, we have seen the process of word formation through derivation and compounding. In this section, reduplication in Shinasha will be presented.

Reduplication is a process whereby an affix is realized by phonological material borrowed from the base (katamba, 1993:180). This borrowing or repetition of the base can be complete or partial. In complete reduplication the entire word is copied, while in partial reduplication some part of a word is copied.

4.3.1 Partial reduplication

Partial reduplication is a type of reduplication in which some part of a base is reduplicated (Maravcsik, 1978; 304 and Matthews 1991: 134).

In Shinasha partial reduplication is occurred in plural words some examples in plural words are given below.

base word reduplicated word

kò:p'a "strong"	kò:kòP'á "tortoise"
gú:s "slaves"	gú:sgú:sá "male solves"
ƒíré "scrambling"	ƒíƒíré "listen"

4.3.2 Complete Reduplication

Total reduplication is a type of reduplication in which the whole stem is reduplicated. Some Shinasha examples are presented below.

base word reduplicated word

kúmá (idea)	Kúmákúmá (circle, closed)
pírá (grind)	pìrápìrá (active)
kùtsà (caterpillar)	kùtsàkùtsà (breaking ones knee)
àkà (ape)	àkààkà (trashing)
lèmà (conduct)	lèmàlèmà (sweet)

4.4 WORD FORMATION BY CHANGING THE TONE PATTERN

According to Ashenafi and Wdekend (1990) Shinasha has low and high tone, since it is a tone language. In this language new words are formed by changing the tone pattern. Some examples are illustrated below.

stems	new words formed by changing the tone
pattern	

gáǵá “mould” (V) gáǵà “tooth” (n)

málà “trick” (a) màlà “necklace” (n)

ǵírà “Shelter” (n) ǵìrà “common property” (n)

As it has been shown in the above examples tone change can create new lexemes. In Shinasha language a lexeme can give at least two meanings by through tone variation in each and every syllable.

Conclusion

This part contains conclusion of what the researcher has discussed in the analysis part of this paper.

In this study an attempt was made to identify the types of word formation processes in Shinasha language, a member of northern omotic family. As it has been mentioned in the first chapter, the theoretical frame work followed in this study is the weak lexicalist hypothesis. In addition a hypothesis outlined by Aronoff (1976), stipulates that "all regular word formation processes are word based" is employed. Accordingly, most of Shinasha words are formed mainly by three word formation processes: affixation (derivational), compounding, and reduplication and some words in Shinasha language are formed by changing the tone pattern.

Different types of nominals: abstract, agentive, instrumental, action, gerundive and manner can be derived from noun, adjective, and verbs by suffixation. Among these nominals most take the morpheme /ni/ when derived. This is related with one of the characteristics of the language that most of the nouns end with the vowel /a/.

In this language different types of verbs: Causatives, passives, reciprocal, transitive and imperatives are derived only from verbs. Causative verbs are affixation of /-irÉ/, passives by /-eer/ or /-er/ respectively and reciprocal verbs by suffixing /éǵǵá/ whereas transitive verbs are formed by changing the sound morpheme /é/ to /i/ and imperatives by adding the sound morpheme /r/.

The other word classes formed by affixation are adjectives. Adjectives are derived from concrete and abstract nouns by affixation of /éméčrá/ and /étská/ respectively.

Compounding is the second major word formation process in Shinasha language. In this language, compound nouns, compound adjectives and compound verbs can be formed by combining two words which are in the same or different word classes. The categories included in this process are nouns, adjectives and verbs. In general compound words of Shinasha are two types. These are endocentric and exocentric. In endocentric the word on the right hand determines the meaning of the whole compound.

The third word formation process is reduplication. In Shinasha language it is formed by reduplicating /copping/ the base of noun or verb and the fourth word formation process is tone variation. In Shinasha language new words are formed by changing the tone pattern of the stem.

Generally, while word is formed in Shinasha language it Shows some differences from its base or parts phonetically, morphologically syntactically and semantically. The main phonological process observed is vowel harmony on the last vowel of the words.

Concerning the position of the head, since in case of compounding, the most powerful word in the compound is found in the right side, so it is possible to conclude that Shinasha is a head final language.

Recommendations

In this sub section, the researcher has forwarded the following suggestions.

This study has touched only the highlight of word formation processes of Shinasha language. So, other researchers can conduct further research on each word formation processes of Shinasha language. Since each sub section requires deep investigation.

Declarations

Abbreviations

We do not have abbreviations in the manuscript

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Authors' contributions

Adugnaw Techane a principal investigator designed the study and collected the data and analyzed and interpreted the data. He wrote the draft of the manuscript so many times and selected the appropriate journal and formatted the manuscript.

Habtamu Anbessie a co-investigator commented and revised the manuscript appropriately and made changes. He also edited the manuscript properly. The two authors read and approved the manuscript together.

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Availability of data and materials

The datasets of the study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request

Competing interest

The authors confirm that they do not have competing interest

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