

Editorial of JWAL Volume 44. Issue2

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present volume 44, Issue 2. This volume comprises six papers from eight linguists, covering areas that include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics.

The lead study is by E. O. Ikoyo-Eweto and O. Ekiugbo of the University of Benin, Nigeria and it is titled: *A phonetic analysis of the Uvwie vowels*. Uvwie is a lesser studied, minority language of southern Nigeria. Drawing from evidence of acoustic cues, and building on the works of earlier scholars, the authors are able to establish for the first time 28 phonetic vowels in the language.

C. Onumajuru of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria is the author of our second article, which is titled, *Code-mixing among Igbo preachers*. The article outlines the socio-linguistic implications of code-mixing in Igbo-speaking communities, where some preachers often code-mix Igbo and English to the point that some monolingual Igbo-speakers lose much of the message. The author recommends strategies for minimizing the ill-effects of code-mixing in Igbo-speaking communities.

The third article is written by Kwesi Bisilki and Atchoi Akpanglo-Nartey of the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. Titled *Noun pluralization as a dialect marker in Likpakpaln*, the authors delineate some systematic dialect variations involving two varieties of the Mabia language, Likpakpaln, also known as Konkomba. The data and analyses presented here may have theoretical implications for general noun classification in the Mabia linguistic group and beyond.

The paper *Identity and ideological representation in selected Fela Anikulapo-Kuti's songs* is written by Temitope Ajayi of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Based on the music of a legendary West African musician, this study in sociolinguistics and pragmatics analyses some identity creation ideologies in seven selected songs of the legendary musician.

The fifth paper, titled *An ethnographic analysis of selected Yoruba proverbs in political media chats*, is by Oludare Oluwadoro. This ethnographic study analyses 20 proverbs in the Yoruba language as used by a prominent politician in political discourse, showing how politicians use language as a tool to “woo the hearts of electorates and sell their candidature to them”.

The sixth and final paper, written in French, under the title *Etude comparative du numéral dans deux parlers gangam : le dye et le ngbem*, is a study by Mimboabe Bakpa of the University of Kara, Togo. The author outlines the numeral systems of two dialects of the Mabia language, Gangam, which is spoken in northern Togo. The paper documents many similarities between numerals in these two subsystems but also some important morphological differences between the two dialects studied.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these six articles as well as those of articles that did not make it into this volume. I also wish to thank our authors, readers, and the general West African linguistic community for their enthusiastic interest in JWAL. We have a keen readership and very healthy submission rates. Finally, I thank the editorial board members for some collective team work, especially our able Assistant Editors, Ms Hasiyatu Abubakari and Ms Izabela Jordanoska, for layout and formatting of the six papers into one volume – Volume 44, issue 2.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL