

Editorial of JWAL Volume 46, Issue 2

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present volume 46, Issue 2. This volume comprises nine papers from 11 linguists, covering areas that include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, lexical semantics, sociolinguistics, and corpus studies.

David Roberts, an Independent Scholar living in Togo, in the lead article titled *The Tone of Kabiye Verbal Extensions*, investigates the predictability of tonal patterns of verbal extensions in this Mabia language spoken in Togo and Ghana. Frequencies of phonotactic patterns are counted towards identifying complex stems. The work proposes three underlying tonal patterns involved in these verbal extensions.

The second paper is on Igbo multiword expressions. Titled *A Corpus-driven Study of Multiword Expressions in Igbo*, Michael Chima Ochu of the University of Botswana, adopts a corpus linguistic approach to the study of multiword expressions involving the lexical items ‘mouth’ and ‘eye’. Using concordance studies the paper demonstrates how the extracted word groups from these concordance studies qualify as multiword expressions in the language.

The third paper is authored by Oye Taiwo and Akintoye Samson Japhet of the University of Ibadan and Osun State University, respectively, under the title *Personal Pronouns in the Ilaje Dialect of Yoruba*. The authors discuss the structural hierarchical composition of pronouns which go a long way to inform about their syntactic distribution.

Esther Senayon of Mountain Top University is author of the fourth paper titled *Cultural Policing as a Language Maintenance Strategy among the Ogu People*. Her study investigates a previously unacknowledged strategy in mainstream language shift and language maintenance scholarship which involves informal application of non-forceful, non-coercive and subtle policing strategies by native speakers in maintaining their language and culture. It is these strategies that the paper refers to as *cultural policing*.

In the fifth paper, Maduabuchi Sennen Agbo of the University of Benin, Nigeria writes on a *Typology of Igbo Comitative Constructions*. The paper, which the author claims to be the first study on Igbo comitativity - and this is surprising for a widely studied language like Igbo - aims to identify the semantic types, the shared features and the morpho-syntactic coding of comitativity from purely descriptive perspectives.

The next paper, the sixth in this volume, is titled *Igbo and Yorùbá Verbs of Cooking*, and is co-authored by Amechi Boniface Oha and Samuel Adebayo Ajuwon of the Federal College of Education at Obudu in the Cross River States of Nigeria. Their study explores the nature of culinary terms through a “lexical field” analysis of the generic verbs of cooking of the Igbo language (*sí*) and of the Yorùbá language (*sè*) to determine how their sub-fields are categorized in these two Nigerian languages.

Obed Nii Broohm of the Ghana Institute of Languages is author of the seventh paper. In his paper, titled *Lexical and Clausal Nominalization in Esahie: A Descriptive Account*, the author argues that lexical nominalizations lose all verbal properties whilst clausal nominalizations retain certain verbal features.

In the eighth paper, Abraham Kwesi Bisilki of the University of Winneba writes on body part terms. In his paper which is titled *Body-Part Terms in Likpakpaln*, he notes that the operationalisation of body-part nouns in the grammatical system of this Mabia language follows a lexicalisation process that mainly results in relatively more complex expressions. These denote concepts such as emotions, predispositions, affective states of being, character traits and other abstract concepts including hope, distress, and haughtiness.

The ninth and final paper in this volume of JWAL is authored by Gueche Forso Hugues Carlos of the University of Bamenda, Cameroon under the title *Morphosyntactic and Semantic Curiosities in the Naming Practices of the Nso People*. The major findings of his study are that names in this language are noun phrases, verb phrases, and sentences that serve to express the cultural beliefs of the speakers and are closely related to the events surrounding the birth of the name bearer and the way name givers reacted to them.

Also in the volume is a book review by Kofi Ron Lange on Chumburung authored by Keir Hanford, former editor of JWAL.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these nine 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 continue to attract a keen readership and very healthy submission rates. Finally, I thank the Editorial Board members, especially our able Assistant Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari and Ms Izabela Jordanoska - for layout and formatting of the five papers into one volume – Volume 46, issue 2.

The Editorial Board itself has a new member, Prof Annie Rialland, who was appointed at the Board Meeting during a conference of the West African Linguistic Society in Abidjan, Côte

d'Ivoire in August 2019. At this same meeting it was decided by Council that all Editorial Board members, with the exception of the Editor and his editorial assistants, are appointed for two years at a time, and can only be renewed on a case by case basis depending on how active they are on the Board. So the current Editorial Board expires in August 2021.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL