

## Editorial of JWAL Volume 47. Issue 1

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present volume 47, Issue 1. This volume comprises eight papers from 10 linguists, covering areas that include syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics.

The lead paper is by Agoswin Musah and Aweaka Sandow Atibiri of the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana, and it is titled *Metaphors of Death in Kusaal*. Using a well-known conceptual metaphor theory within functionalist linguistic framework, the authors critically analyze several metaphors of death in Kusaal. The authors are also among the first to implement the suggestion by the Editorial Board that authors of JWAL articles may translate their abstracts written in English or French into one of the African languages they describe in the article.

The second paper is titled *Some Didactic Changes in Yoruba Grammar* and it is authored by Taofeeq Adebayo of Tulane University, USA. The study draws attention to the near-lack of studies on diachronic changes in the Yoruba language. It catalogues some phonological and syntactic changes and then uses principles from historical and generative linguistics to analyse these changes.

Pokua Agyepong and Kweku Osam of the University of Ghana are authors of the third paper in this volume. Their study is titled *The Semantics and Argument Realization Potentials of Akan Verbs of Separation*. The authors do a detailed study of four types of separation verbs using a “Lexicalized Meaning and Manner/Result Complementary” analytic framework. They conclude that the overall discourse interpretations of verb-argument combinations determine the ability of these verbs to participate in argument structure alternations.

The fourth paper is titled *La Question des Langues Minoritaires au Burkina Faso: Le Cas du Wara* and it is written by Bobodo Ouedraogo of Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Burkina Faso. Based on field research in western Burkina Faso, the paper indicates that Wara, a minority language in the region, is in the “process of weakening” because of its contact with prominent lingua franca in the region, such as Dioula and French.

Dame Ndao of the Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal and Hamine Wane of Leiden University, Netherlands are the authors of the fifth paper titled *Le Morpheme Multifonctionnel – oh en Noon*. The paper argues that the morpheme in question, rather than being a homophonous morpheme, is actually a multifunctional morpheme serving as applicative, reciprocal, antipassive, and agentive marker in Noon grammar.

*Non-Verbal Predication and Copulas in Three Mande Languages* is the title of our sixth paper in this volume. It is written by Valentin Vydrin of St Petersburg State University, Russia. The study surveys types of copulas in three different Mande languages – Bambara, Maninka, and Dan.

Oluwadoro Oludare of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria is the author of the seventh paper titled *A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Songs and Chants in Akinwumi Isola’s Saworoide*. The paper focuses on the use of songs and chants in a socio-political satire, and concludes that songs and chants are used in Yoruba society as great weapons to criticize and warn politicians, or express solidarity with them.

The eighth and final paper of volume 47.1 is by Oluwole Tewogboye Okewande of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. This paper is titled *Trace Elements in Oríkì Abíṣò and Ìbejì Related Names among the Yorùbá*. The study looks at different types of names in Yoruba, including praise names and names of twins, and concludes that cultural and other influences on praise names make them closely related to the twin naming system.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these eight papers as well as those of papers 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 eight papers into one volume – Volume 47, issue 1.

I am particularly grateful to all reviewers, authors, and my editorial team for braving all the lockdowns and uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been ranging on since December 2019, to still make Volume 47.1 not only possible but much on schedule.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL