

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 47, Issue 2. This volume comprises six papers from 10 linguists, covering areas that include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexical semantics. In addition to these papers, reviews of two new books that are of interest to JWAL readers are also included in this volume.

Reginald Akuoku Duah of the University of Ghana & Humboldt University, Germany and Obadele Kambon, also of the University of Ghana in the lead article titled *On the Structure of Causatives in Akan* discuss the syntactic properties of two types of causative constructions in Akan. The paper argues that one type is a true serial verb construction while the other type should not be seen as a serial verb construction as claimed in earlier analyses.

The second paper is also on Akan. Titled *Tonal Variation in the Perfect Verb Stem of some Akan Dialects*, Seth Antwi Ofori of the University of Ghana presents a constraint-based account of some verb stems in the Akuapem, Asante, and Fante dialects of Akan. The author argues for the predictability of surface tonal differences in the perfect verb forms of these dialects once the underlying tones of the verb roots are known.

The third paper is authored by Constantine Kouankem of the University of Ngaoundere in Cameroun under the title *The Relative Clause in M̀d̀mb̀ and the Architecture of the Left Periphery*. The author presents different types of relative clauses in the language being analyzed and then establishes the factors that differentiate each of these types from the others.

In the fourth article titled *Lexical Verbs Expressing Modality in Bantu Languages: The Case of Runyambo and Luguru*, Onesmo Nyinondi of Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania and Amani Lusekelo of Dar es Salaam University of College of Education, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania discuss novel ways of documenting and describing two Bantu languages. The Bantu language family stretches all the way from East, Central, and Southern Africa into parts of West Africa, so these languages would be of interest to readers of JWAL.

In the fifth paper, Mohamadou Hamine Wane of Universite Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal and Maarten Mous of Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands in their paper, *Noon Vowel Harmony*, report on Advanced Tongue Root (ATR) vowel harmony in Noon, indicating that variation only occurs in roots while there is a remarkable invariance in affixes.

The sixth and final paper is by Francis Oyebade and Abiodun Samuel Ibikunle both of Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State, Nigeria. In their paper titled *Floating Nasality in ̀dom̀-̀t̀kp̀-̀ An OT Account*, the authors show that the ̀dom̀ language manifests nasality as a floating feature and that nasality conveys a separate independent meaning in the language. Their findings suggest that nasality is a negation marker (Neg. M.) domiciled at the clause final position for sentence negation in the language.

In addition to these six papers, this volume of JWAL also features insightful reviews of two new books on serial verbs and the Mabilia languages.

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 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 (who has joined the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana as a Research Fellow since December 1st, 2020) and Ms Izabela Jordanoska - along with Dr Samuel Alhassan Issah of the University of Education in Winneba, Ghana who is coming in to replace Izabela Jordanoska. Izabela Jordanoska is leaving the University of Vienna after completing her doctoral studies to take up a postdoctoral position in Paris. Izabela has been an excellent Editorial Assistant to JWAL for the past four years and leaves behind a lacuna that is hard to fill. The West African linguistic community is very grateful to her for her service at JWAL. We hope that she can rejoin us in the not so distant future.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL