

Editorial of JWAL Volume 51, Issue 1

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 51, Issue 1. This volume comprises six papers from eight linguists, covering areas that include historical linguistics, syntax, semantics, phonetics, phonology, and sociolinguistics.

The lead paper is by H. Ekkehard Wolff of the University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany and the University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, and it is titled *New Perspectives on Central Chadic Historical Phonology and Lexical Reconstruction*. Continuing from the theme of Volume 50, our Golden Jubilee edition of JWAL, which looked back into 50 years of research on West African languages, this article provides a fascinating account of Chadic historical-comparative linguistics. The author outlines a diachronic evolution of multi-vowel systems and innovative consonants, exhorting young African scholars to take interest in historical-comparative research on African languages.

The second paper is titled *Reflexivization in Efutu* and it is authored by Rogers Krobea Asante and Anthony Amissah of the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. The paper outlines two major ways in which reflexivity is deployed in this South-Guan language, spoken in and around Winneba.

Jonathan Tanihu of Accra College of Education, Accra, Ghana is the author of the third paper in this volume. His paper is titled *The Semantic Extensions of EAT and DRINK in Dangme*. Employing a cognitive linguistic approach, the paper analyses various ways in which Dangme ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs are used, focusing on the semantic extensions associated with these verbs.

The fourth paper is titled *Determining the Status of Oko Within Benue – Congo* and it is written by Bankale Oyetayo Abiodun of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. The paper comprehensively addresses the question whether Oko is an isolate or it belongs to some other classification groups within Benue-Congo. Several proposals are made in the paper, including the claim that Oko has only two dialect varieties and not three as is commonly believed.

Legbeti Temitope Agnes of the University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria is the author of the fifth paper titled *Ososo Orthography: A Proposal*. The paper carefully observes orthographies of nearby languages that native speakers use to write Ososo and argues that these orthographies are not appropriate for the language. The author proposes an orthography that is claimed to better represent the phonological system of Ososo.

Phonetic Characteristics of Implosives and their Allophonic Plosives in Bantu Mpiemo is the title of our sixth and last paper. It is written by Yasuko Nagano-Madsen and Christina Thornell of the University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden, who present a fascinating study of the acoustic-phonetic characteristics of implosives and plosives in Mpiemo, a Bantu language spoken in Central African Republic. JWAL continues to be an important outlet for linguists working on languages in other parts of Africa, and their findings often have implications for the linguistic structure of West African languages, and indeed the fascinating results of this study of implosives and plosives in Mpiemo obviously have implications for implosives and plosives in West African languages.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these six 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 quite healthy submission rates. Finally, I thank the editorial board members, especially our able Associate Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari and Prof Samuel Issah, and our new Assistant Editor Dr Alexander Angsongna for rigorous editorial assistance that moulded all these six papers into one volume – Volume 51, issue 1.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL