

Editorial of JWAL Volume 51, Issue 2

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 51, Issue 2. This volume comprises five papers from seven linguists, covering areas that include morphophonology, syntax, lexical semantics, and beyond.

The lead paper is authored by Vincent Erskine Aziaku and Benedicta Agbesi of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Titled, *The Typology of Reduplication in SEKPELE*, Aziaku and Agbesi show that reduplication in this Ghana-Togo Mountain language is very productive and is an outcome of morphological and syntactic processes that serve to express diminution, augmentation and attenuation.

The second paper is by Obiorah Kenneth Ekezie of the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Under the title *The Discourse Units in Radio News Programs in Igbo Language*, the author analyses discourse units in Igbo programmes, claiming that past studies on discourse in radio programmes “... have largely neglected to explore discourse units in news broadcasts, particularly in Igbo language.”, The paper identifies an exciting taxonomy of discourse units in the language including news signature, announcing time, station identification, greetings, announcing date, self-identification, announcing headlines, news item in full, news commentary, public announcement, credit, and farewell.

The third paper is authored by Elizabeth Kwatekaa Orfson-Offei of the University of Ghana under the title *Negotiating Identity through Language at a Market in Accra: The Case of Indigenous Ga Speakers*. Employing Swann’s identity negotiation theoretical framework and Maslow’s hierarchy of needs theory, the author draws a clear link between language and identity, and based on a survey, shows how native Ga speakers react to the situation in many parts of Accra where Akan, rather than Ga is the lingua franca. The study shows how the native Ga-speaking participants “...negotiated and asserted their identity using their language and what motivated the strategies they employed in doing so”.

The fourth paper is by Mareike Philipp of Universität Potsdam and Joana Serwaa Ampofo of Universität Leipzig. In their paper titled, *Quantifier Scopepe Ambiguities in Akan*, the authors make some fascinating proposals about the topic with regards to Akan. Their findings suggest that relative clause boundaries do not completely block inverse readings in Asante Twi. A segment of these proposals “...contradicts popular assumptions on quantifier scope but is in line with recent experimental work from other languages”. The findings in this paper

provide additional insights into the cross-linguistic phenomenon of quantifier scope ambiguities and the respective theories in this field.

In the fifth and final paper titled *Vowel Doubling in the Adaptation of English Loan words in Yoruba Revisited*, Mayowa Emmanuel Oyinloye of the University of Jos, Nigeria discussed how English monosyllabic words of the structure CVC are adapted to Yorùbá. The author's findings are that the "...English CVC structure is adapted in Yorùbá as CVVCV where the English singleton vowel is doubled, and a paragogic vowel is introduced to open the closed syllable..."

In addition to the five research papers, we also have a book review by Keith L. Snider.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these five 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. Finally, I thank the editorial board members, especially our able Associate Editors, Dr. Hasiyatu Abubakari, and Prof. Samuel Issah, and Assistant Editor, Dr. Alexander Angsongna.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL