

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 52, Issue 2. This volume comprises five papers by eight linguists, covering areas that include phonetics, phonology, lexical semantics, cultural linguistics, ethnopoetics, and beyond.

The lead paper is authored by Evarista O. Ikoyo-Eweto, Lenzemo Yuka, and Esther I. Jamgbadi, all scholars at the University of Benin, Nigeria. Titled *Inherent Vowel Nasality in Esan: Emerging Issues*, the paper sets out to investigate the phonemic status of several attested speech sounds, leading to the unearthing of what the authors consider to be the correct source of nasality of vowels previously analysed as inherent nasal vowels.

The second paper is by Rasmus Bernander of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Under the title *'Want'-Verbs and their Co-Expressions in Rufiji-Ruvuma*, the author analyses some 'want' verbs in a group of Bantu languages, revealing inter- and intra-linguistic variation in their use, among other findings.

The third paper, involving another Bantu language, is authored by Mokake Levi Ekwa of the University of Bamenda, Cameroon, under the title *Communicative Practices in Mòkpè Bride Price Negotiations*. Using participant observation methods and analysing data within the framework of Sharifian's theory of cultural linguistics, the author presents findings which reveal that "the process of bride price negotiation is guided by the use of verbal and non-verbal communicative strategies that showcase the uniqueness of Mòkpè culture."

The fourth paper is by Joseph Peter Yaw-Kan of Gambaga College of Education, Gambaga, Ghana. In his paper titled *An Ethnopoetic Analysis of Anufɔ Dirges*, the author establishes that the dirges in this language constitute a literary product, with the basic structure of most dirges revealing an antiphonal formula. This reflects internal poetic features such as question–statement patterns, repetition, parallelism, metaphor, euphemism, and personification.

In the fifth and final paper, titled *Metaphor and Meaning in Akan Tuber Naming*, Grace Nana Aba Dawson-Ahmoah of the University of Media Arts and Communication, Accra, Ghana, and Patrick Nana Wonkyi of the University of

Education, Winneba, Ghana, study Akan tuber names within the framework of cultural linguistics. Their analysis shows that tuber names encapsulate extensive cultural lore, preserve indigenous wisdom, strengthen community identity, and integrate physical objects into mental frames.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these five articles, as well as those who reviewed articles that did not make it into this volume. I also thank our authors, readers, and the wider West African linguistic community for their continued interest in JWAL. Finally, I express my gratitude to the editorial board members, especially our able Associate Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari and Prof. Samuel Issah, and our Assistant Editor, Dr Alexander Angsongna.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL