

Editorial of JWAL Volume 43. Issue 2

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present volume 43, Issue 2. This volume comprises seven papers from 11 linguists, covering areas that include phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, issues of translation/modernisation of technical terms, and language situations.

The lead article, titled *Ebola-associated terms in Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba* by Herbert Igboanusi, Clement Odoje and Garba Ibrahim proposes and discusses new Ebola-associated terms in Nigeria's three major languages (i.e. Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba) with a view to making information on Ebola accessible to the grassroots population. As West Africa is confronted by new situations such as the outbreak of new diseases it is important for linguists to intervene and engineer the availability of new terms in our languages for addressing these situations.

Lenzemo Constantine Yuka and Raphael Osarensen Iyamu's article on *A unified analysis of the Edo -LV suffix* departs from previous analyses of the suffix as either an iterative reading on verbs suffixed with the -lv extension or a plural reading on arguments (internal in the case of transitive verbs and external in the case of intransitive verbs) and instead accounts for the reading of the Edo-lv suffix as a complex interaction between aktionsart (the features [punctual] and [telic]) and transitivity.

The third article by Ogbonna Anyanwu is on the issue of "endangered" languages. This paper, titled *How endangered are Igbo vocabulary items compared with Ibibio?* questions and examines the phenomenon of vocabulary endangerment in two Nigerian languages, Igbo and Ibibio in order to assess how earnest speakers of both languages are in using some indigenous vocabularies of their languages in their daily interactions. The paper concludes that there is evidence of vocabulary endangerment in the speech of both the Igbo and Ibibio respondents.

The fourth article, titled *Impoliteness in Police-Suspect interaction in Ibadan, Nigeria* by Ajayi Temitope Michael and Oyetade Solomon Oluwole examines the linguistic impoliteness strategies observed in police – suspect interaction (PSI) in Ibadan, Nigeria, within the theoretical purview of Culpeper's Impoliteness Theory. The paper shows that the police employ various strategies such as positive impoliteness, negative impoliteness and mock politeness to threaten the faces of suspects and ultimately overwhelm them while seeking confessions from them.

Ruth Raharimanantsoa in her article, the fifth in this volume, titled *Réduction syllabique, rallongement compensatoire et syllabes trimoraïques en engungwel (bantou B72a)* describes some morphological issues in *Engungwel*, a language which has many contracted forms compared to other languages in the Teke group (Bantu B70). This diachronic and synchronic study presents an overview of the processes of final vowel loss leading to vowel changes, as well as coda consonant loss leading to compensatory lengthening and the emergence of three distinctive vowel lengths.

The sixth article is by Honorine Massanvi Gblem-Poidi and is titled *Analyse sémique des termes de parenté en ncam*. The paper discusses the componential analysis of kinship terms in Ncam (Bassar), Gur (Mabia) language spoken in the localities of Bassar, Kabou, Bangeli, Bitchabe, Bapure, Dimori and their surroundings in the North-West of Togo, and in Ghana, particularly in the localities of Kpandai, Kpassa and Tatale.

The seventh article, titled *The syntax and semantics of lexical causative constructions in Dangme* is written by Regina Oforiwah Caesar. The author explores the syntactic and semantic properties of lexical causative verbs in Dangme, a language that belongs to the Kwa group of the Niger-Congo family of languages. Different types of lexical causative expressions in state and non-state verbs used in expressing lexical causative situations are discussed. The investigation makes substantial use of description and explanation of semantic event, instrument, force and agentive to arrive at a result.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these seven 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 have a keen readership and very healthy submission rates. We are working hard on improving the journal and in this regard will continuously restructure our editorial board and we are even actively considering moving away from our current website to take advantage of more publishing technologies elsewhere. Finally, I thank the editorial board members for some collective team work, especially our able Assistant Editor, Ms Hasiyatu Abubakari, for layout and formatting of the seven papers into one volume – Volume 43, issue 2.

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