

Editorial of JWAL Volume 48, Issue 2

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 48, Issue 2. This volume comprises six papers from eight linguists, covering areas that include morphophonology, syntax, lexical semantics, and beyond.

The lead paper is authored by Gerald Okey Nweya of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Titled *Articulated Structure of the Igbo Tense Phrase Domain*, Nweya presents new insights on the Igbo tense phrase, emphasizing the interaction of morphosyntactic features and their hierarchies. In contrast to previous studies which claim a mirror image where the linear order is the inverse of the hierarchical order, Nweya discovers that morpheme order is derived syntactically via a merge operation with the surface order corresponding to the hierarchical order.

The second paper is by Victoria Owusu Ansah of Accra Technical University, Ghana. Under the title *Morphophonology of Reduplication in Esahie*, the author analyses reduplication from the perspective of processes at the interface between morphology and phonology. The paper shows, among others, that reduplicated verbs involve changes in vowel height for the reduplicant.

The third paper is authored by Mercy Akrofi Ansah of the University of Ghana under the title *The Leteh Give-Verb Nè in Multiple Syntactic Contexts*. Employing grammaticalization theory, the author outlines five different contexts in which the verb occurs, arguing that this morpheme acquires different meanings and functions in each of the five syntactic domains it is found.

Titled *Segmental Processes in Loanword Adaptation in Dagbani*, Iddrisu Abdallah of the University of Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana in this fourth paper provides empirical accounts of the segmental processes that govern loanword adaptation in Dagbani.

In the fifth paper titled *On Kinship Terms and Adnominal Possessive Constructions: Insights from Tongugbe, a Riverine Dialect of Ewe*, Promise Dodzi Kpoglu of the University of Ghana explores the distribution of kinship terms in a variety of Ewe. The author attempts to account for the idiosyncracies that can be noted in the distribution of the kinship terms in the adnominal possessive constructions via functional notions such as linguistic conventionalization, iconicity, and semantics of control.

The sixth and final paper is by Ezebube Chinedu Chinedu, Chukwuneke Ogechukwu Felicia Uchenna, and Okeke Chukwuma Onyebuchi, all of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. In their paper titled, *Conceptualization of Women in Igbo Riddles*, the authors employ Conceptual Metaphor Theory on analysing twelve selected Igbo riddles that indicate that women are conceptualized in these riddles as plants, animals, and celestial bodies.

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. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic which has

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raged on for over two years now, we continue to attract a keen readership and quite healthy submission rates. Finally, I thank the editorial board members, especially our able Assistant Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari, Dr Izabela Jordanoska, and Dr Samuel Alhassan Issah.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL