

Editorial of JWAL Volume 49. Issue 1

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 49, Issue 1. This volume comprises 6 papers from 10 linguists, covering areas that include phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and anthropological linguistics.

The lead paper is by Michael Terhemmen Angitso of the University of Hamburg, Germany, and it is titled *The Form and Function of Diminutive Particles in Tiv*. Based on a cognitive linguistic approach the author carefully analyses the morpho-syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic functions of two diminutive particles in the Tiv language.

The second paper is titled *Temporal Remoteness Markers in Buli* and it is authored by Abdul-Razak Sulemana of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Ghana, Legon. The study compares temporal particles and temporal adverbials in the Mabia language, Buli, and argues that the particles indeed mark tense even if they are optional. Once again, we see from this article that in the Mabia languages the lexical encoding of aspect is often more prominent than that of tense.

Rachel G. Thompson of the University of Ghana, Comfort Ahenkorah of Yale University, USA, and Wendy Kwakye Amoako of the University of Alberta, Canada are authors of the third paper in this volume. Their study is titled *Natural Semantic Metalanguage of Akan*. Using the idea in the emerging field of Natural Semantic Metalanguage that “semantic primes are universal or near-universal meanings that can be expressed as lexical units or morphemes in every language”, the authors analysed Akan data. They found a close match between the Akan and English primes with the exception of a few primes such as MOMENT.

The fourth paper is titled *A Phonological Description of Tone Metathesis in Igbo* and it is written by Aghaegbuna Haroldson Uwaezuoke and George Elochukwu Onwudiwe, both of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria. Based on data from the Ogbunike variety of Igbo, the authors identify and analyse a curious case of tonal metathesis. In so doing, they show that, contrary to the norm that metathesis involves only segmental phonological units, metathesis in this language also sometimes involves suprasegmental phonological units like tone.

Viktoria Kempf of the University of Hamburg, Germany is the author of the fifth paper titled *Divination Discourse in Bezen*. Whereas divination is usually studied by anthropologists, it is viewed from a linguistic perspective in the paper. Tools of

conversational analysis as well as syntactic and rhetorical devices are used to bring about an understanding of the nature, structure, and function of divination.

The sixth and final paper of volume 49.1 is by Deborah Atobrah, Albert Kanlisi Awedoba, and Benjamin Kobina Kwansa, all of the University of Ghana. The paper is titled *An Ethnolinguistic Analysis of Folkzoology in Health and Illness Constructions Among the Kasena of Ghana*. The study looks at Kasena illness domains pertaining to lexemes and phrases about illness, revealing the continued relevance of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems in disease diagnosis and treatment.

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 healthy submission rates. Finally, I thank the editorial board members, especially our able Assistant Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari, Dr Samuel Issah, and Dr Izabela Jordanoska, for handling the peer review process and for the layout and formatting of the six papers into one volume – Volume 49, issue 1. The editorial team acknowledges with gratitude Mrs Mary Bodomo for proofreading all the six papers.

Adams Bodomo

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