

Editorial of JWAL Volume 49. Issue 2

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present Volume 49, Issue 2. This volume comprises five papers from eight linguists, covering areas that include phonology, syntax, lexical semantics, sociolinguistics, and beyond.

The lead paper is authored by Maarten Mous of Leiden University, Netherlands. Titled *Tone and the Verbal Systems of Nyokon*, a Bantu and Cameroon language. It is a careful study of the paradigms within a word containing tense-aspect-mood (TAM) elements. The author looks at intricate interactions involving tone and other phonological aspects within these syntactic constructions.

The second paper is by Pius Akumbu of Langage, Langues et Cultures d’Afrique (LLACAN), CNRS – INaLCO – EPHE, France, and Roland Kießling of Hamburg University, Germany. Under the title *The Lexical Semantics of Verbs in the Babanki Food Domain*, the authors analyse semantic aspects of lexical items in Babanki, another Bantu language of Cameroon. They focus on words dealing with food production, processing and serving, among others. Among some of their findings is the fact that hyponyms which differ with respect to the direct objects they describe are generated in various specific semantic domains.

The third paper is authored by Taofeeq Adebayo of California State University, San Bernardino, United States of America under the title *Women’s Language or Powerless Language: Insights from Yoruba*. The author argues that rather than referring to this use of language by women as women’s language, one should be referring to it as powerless language.

Titled *Loaning and Conditioning in Ijaw Naming System as Strategies for Expressing Filial Relationships*, Kekai Celestina Predia and Opuwei Joseph Zuobbofa, both of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Nigeria, in this fourth paper provide empirical data showing that there is an intricate correlation between certain morpho-semantic sub-domains of lexemes when combined with English names. This combination of English and Ijaw lexical items result in what the authors refer to as phonological conditioning.

The fifth and final paper is by Akpan Eyona Ubon and Gerald Okye Nweya, both of the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. In their paper titled, *The Structure of*

Ibibio Determiner Phrase, the authors employ the Determiner Phrase (DP) hypothesis in Chomskyan Minimalist Program to identify and analyse the internal constituents and hierarchical structure of noun phrases in this language.

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 Assistant Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari and Dr Samuel Alhassan Issah.

Note: The next volume of JWAL is volume 50, which is a 50th anniversary volume. The editor proposes to edit and publish up to 50 articles on the theme: Fifty Years of Research in West African Languages. Established and emerging scholars are invited to write review articles on popular linguistics (phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic sociolinguistic) topics that have been featured on West African languages in the past 50 years. A special call for papers will soon be made available on the JWAL website.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL