

Editorial of JWAL Volume 46. Issue 1

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present volume 46, Issue 1. This volume comprises seven papers from 16 linguists, covering areas that include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

The lead paper is by Samuel Atintono of Accra College of Education, Ghana and it is titled *The Semantic Properties of Separation Verbs in Gurenɛ*. Based on an elicitation from six native speakers the author does a detailed, finer-grained semantic analysis of verbs used in separation events such as “cut” and “break”. His study is couched in descriptive and typological perspectives.

The second paper is titled *Vowel Doubling in Urhobo: The Case of Loanwords* and is written by Don C. Utulu of Delta State University, Nigeria. The study describes vowel doubling in Benue-Congo languages and focuses on a peculiar situation where Urhobo is the only language in the group that prohibits vowel doubling. The paper sets off to explain this peculiar observation using an existing consonant-vowel theory.

Seth Antwi Ofori of the University of Ghana is the author of the third paper in this volume. His study is titled *Rules and Rule Relations in Akan Day Names*. He uses some interesting phonological phenomena, particularly linear and non-linear phonological rules, to explain the socio-cultural phenomena of day names in the Akan language.

The fourth paper is titled *A Realistic Orthography for Ọkọ* and it is written by Ernest Akerejola-Eminefo of Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Based on 30 years of elicited oral data and other documents the author proposes an orthography for the Ọkọ language spoken by the Ogori and Magongo people in Kogi State, Nigeria. In this study the author deviates from existing proposals by suggesting that Ọkọ has 28 phonemes but only 27 realistic orthographic characters.

Reuben Ikotun, Samuel Kolawole and Omobola Aladesanmi, all three of Ekiti State University, Nigeria, are the authors of the fifth paper titled *Sustaining the Yorùbá Language Through Writing: A Case for the Modification of Yorùbá NECO and WAEC Marking Guides*. The paper argues, among other points, for more emphasis on the correct and accurate orthographical knowledge in the marking schemes of various testing bodies.

*Transfer Features from Local Language Contact in Ghanaian Student Pidgin* is the title of our sixth paper in the volume. It is written by Kari Dako of the University of Ghana, Kwaku Osei-Tutu of the University of Ghana, Elizabeth Orfson-Offei of the University of Ghana, Richard Bonnie of Hamburg University, Millicent Quarcoo of the University of Education, Winneba, and Alfred Baiden of Presbyterian University College, Ghana. The paper assesses the lexical and grammatical influences of Akan and Ga on what the authors term as Student Pidgin in Accra, Ghana. The study concludes that Student Pidgin is receptive to grammatical transfers from Akan and some functional elements from Ga.

The seventh and final paper of volume 46.1 is by Samuel Acheampong of St Vincent College of Education, Ghana, Samuel Atintono of Accra College of Education, Ghana, and Samuel Issah of the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. This paper is titled *The Morpho-Syntactic Characterization of Likpakpaan Reflexive Pronouns*. Reflexive pronouns in this Mabia language of northern Ghana, according to the authors, are bi-morphemic. They use this observation to argue for an anaphora status for these items in consonance with classical principles of binding theory within the Government and Binding theoretical framework.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these seven 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 very healthy submission rates. Finally, I thank the editorial board members, especially our able Assistant Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari and Ms Izabela Jordanoska, for layout and formatting of the seven papers into one volume – Volume 46, issue 1.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL