

Editorial of JWAL Volume 48. Issue 1

The Editorial Board of the Journal of West African Languages (JWAL) is pleased to present volume 48, Issue 1. This volume comprises four papers from five linguists, covering areas that include morphology, syntax, and semantics, among others.

The lead paper is by Mercy Akrofi Ansah of the University of Ghana, and it is titled *An Account of Leteh Adpositions*. Among others, the author shows that adpositions in the language are morphologically similar to their respective content words and argues that despite this morphological similarity, adpositions have different syntactic properties from such content words.

The second paper is titled *Ontology Annotation for Natural language Development: A Yoruba Noun Preliminary Model* and it is authored by Akindele A. Aina of Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria and Oye P. Taiwo of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Taking what may be a pioneering approach to ontological annotation of African languages, the authors propose ontological annotation as a way to prepare implicit knowledge of Yoruba core grammar for NLP activities by isolating and tagging some Yorùbá nouns into their component features. The authors eventually develop a model that serves as repositories of data and shared terminology for Yoruba language development and use.

Tosin Akerele of Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Nigeria is the author of the third article, also on Yoruba. The study is titled *Embodied Conceptualisation in Yoruba: Evidence from Spatial Topology*. Using corpus analytical methods, the author shows that the construction of spatial concepts in Yoruba is “motivated by anatomical structure and functions of salient body topological models.”

The fourth paper is titled *A Survey of Property Encoding Expressions in Nkami* and it is written by Rogers Krobea Asante of the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. Using a corpus analytical method, as in the third paper, the author discusses resources that speakers of this Kwa language use to express property concepts. These resources include “...adjectives, verbs, nouns, nominal adjectives, verbal adjectives, possessive constructions, relative clauses, and metaphonymic expressions...”.

In addition to the four research papers, we have also three reviews of books. These reviews are done by Tomi Adeaga, Avea Nsoh, and Francis O. Oyebade, as can be seen in the table of contents.

I wish to thank the reviewers of these four 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. However, the submission rates have dipped a bit, possibly because of the COVID-19 pandemic during which, for some people in some environments, basic survival has been more important than publications. Finally, I thank the editorial board members, especially our able Assistant Editors, Dr Hasiyatu Abubakari and Dr Samuel Issah, for layout and formatting of the four papers into one volume – Volume 48, issue 1.

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I am particularly grateful to all reviewers, authors, and my editorial team for braving all the lockdowns and uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been ranging on since December 2019, to still make Volume 48.1 possible.

Adams Bodomo

Editor, JWAL