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Manuscripts and all correspondence should be sent to:

The Editor, *JOLAN*

eyomensah@gmail.com

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Editorial

The Editorial Team of the Journal of Linguistic Association of Nigeria (JOLAN) is pleased to announce the publication of **Volume 26.1, June 2023** edition of the journal. The articles in this volume are specially selected to address formal account of some fundamental concepts in the syntax of some Nigerian languages. Particular emphasis is placed on topical issues like Wh-questions, grammaticalisation, focus, complementizer, minimalism and reduplication which have been critically analysed to provide a nuanced understanding of the complex nature of human language in a systematic and scientific way. The articles in this volume represent diverse areas in syntactic inquiry and are theoretically-informed descriptive works that have shed light in understanding how sentences work.

In the first article, Akindele Aina examines Wh-questions in the Awori dialect of Yoruba from a GB account, and explains content information relating to persons, things, time, place, manner and so on. The work demonstrates the different elements that are used in marking this question type and highlights the various syntactic structures that licence it in the language. The study has contributed insights into understanding Wh-questions as requirements of discourse with immense morphosyntactic properties.

Ezenwafor-Afuecheta and Bright-Ajoku's paper investigates the grammaticalised status of *Ka* as a comparative marker in Igbo. The study shows that verb and noun categories rather than prototypical adjectives, serve as the predicates of comparison, and *ka* functions as a more grammaticalised form. The authors have offered explanations of the origin of *ka* and its evolution from a lexical item to performing a grammatical function. The study increases understanding of the reconstruction of *ka* and how it impacts language change in Igbo.

William Aigbedo analyses focus as a grammatical relation in Edo. The work explains how the immediate communicative needs of speakers of Edo are satisfied under a particular context or discourse setting. The work highlights the nature of grammatical relations in Edo and its manifestations in certain derivations. Such derivations exhibit a rich agreement system which emanates from the internal structure of the components of such derivations.

Chinedu Anyanwu anchors his analysis of complimentiser in the Kuce language on the minimalist theory, and argues that focus markers in Kuce trigger scrambling, attracting constituents to move to their specifier positions in the higher projection via internal merge. The study contributes new knowledge on contrastive information in discourse function.

Finally, Uwaezuoke and Anachunam explore contrastive reduplication in the Igbo and Hausa languages, and argue that complete reduplication in Hausa does not involve interfix of a morpheme to the reduplicated form as it is seen in Igbo. The work shows that reduplication in Hausa is more complex than in Igbo, especially the partial reduplication, which most often results in creating geminate consonant that is disallowed in Igbo. Hausa also involves both complete and partial reduplication for quantification and intensification; in Igbo, it is only by complete reduplication. The study enables the reader to appreciate how reduplicative patterns are created in Igbo and Hausa, and how the structure and articulation of reduplicative forms are simplified.

This volume offers deep insights into contemporary debates in syntactic inquiry shedding new light on the inner working of syntactic systems in Nigeria languages, and aims to provide the foundation for syntactic theory. In this volume, the reader will rethink the fundamental units and properties of syntax, and appreciate the complexity of human language.

Eyo Mensah

General Editor, *JOLAN*

University of Calabar