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Contents

Editorial	- - - - -	iii
Structural Pattern and Headedness in the Ibibio Determiner Phrase (DP)		
Emmanuel Okon, Victoria Etim & Willie Willie	- - - -	1
The Syntax of Noun Phrase Deletion in Ngwa Igbo		
Jephthah Asuoha	- - - -	28
Verb Stem Alternation in Tiv		
Titus Udu	- - - -	45
The Use of <i>Ajami</i> Script to Enhance English Pronunciation among Adult Learners of English with Arabic Script Background		
Umar Muhammad-Gombe & Clifford Gbeyonron	- - - -	63
A Descriptive Analysis of English Subtitles in Selected Igbo (Nollywood) movies		
Eunice Ukaegbu	- - - -	88
Debranding through Prevarication in the Linguistic Market Place: A Study of Selected Products in Onitsha		
Mfon Ekpe, Kajang Joshua, Timothy Ellah	- - - -	106
Power Dynamics in Nigeria's Political Rhetoric: A Critical Analysis of Presidential Election Campaign Discourse		
Oluwatosin Ogunlana & Felicia Oamen	- - - -	133
Representation of Children and Parents in Proverbs among the Nzema of Ghana		
Mohammed Yakub, James Ababila, Dramani Dari & Timothy Awuah	-	152

Dangme death-prevention names: A socio-onomastic study		
William Dautey	- - - - -	173
A Historiographical Account of Basà Toponyms: A Study of Selected Pristine Settlements in Kogi State		
Philip Imoh	- - - - -	197
Senior Man! A Semantic Classification of Address Terms in Nigerian Pidgin		
Beatrice Oreoluwa, Queendaline Iloh & Eyo Mensah	- - -	218
A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Youth Slang among Apprentices at the Onitsha Market		
Kevin Egbo	- - - - -	243

Editorial

It is my pleasure to inform our teeming readers about the online publication of our flagship journal, JOLAN Volume 28 (December 2025) which represents the highest level of linguistic research from renowned scholars in Nigeria and beyond. Our highlights in this volume are principally on theoretical linguistics and sociolinguistics which are engaged from a wide range of disciplinary impulses such as minimalist program, distributed morphology, critical discourse analysis, socio-onomastics, politeness principles and others. The volume offers a comprehensive survey of these fields in their breath and scope, as well as present intriguing insights into many current issues in contemporary linguistics. The authors have explored the major turns in engaging the syntactic questions in Nigerian indigenous languages, and in addressing sociolinguistic challenges posed by instantaneous translation, prevarication, political discourse, cultural cognition, naming, address terms and slang. The volume is an edge cutting demonstration of depth and a critical discussion of topical issues in Nigerian and Ghanaian linguistics.

Twelve articles that present deeply insightful discussion of properties of structural and anthropological linguistics were rethought. Okon, Etim and Willie provided fascinating insights into the structure of headedness in the Ibibio determiner phrase. The study explores the DP structure in Ibibio, and argues that it can operate as a bare noun, a pronoun, or a noun with other modifiers. It can also function as a noun with a relative clause to exhibit a mixed word order overtly. The linear order of NP-D for DP expressions with the Complement – Head sequence can involve the movement of NP to Spec-DP. Even when the word order of the Complement Head and Head Complement sequences is mixed, the study predicts that DPs will have a head initial order. The study highlights the point that in Ibibio, determiners are truly heads, and the DP structure accurately captures the relationship within a nominal group. Asuoha's paper examines NP ellipsis in Ngwa Igbo in which NP may be omitted from a sentence but its meaning can be understood from the surrounding context. The author argues that NP-ellipsis occurs when the specifier of the DP is occupied by quantifiers, possessives, or numerals. More broadly, NP-ellipsis in Ngwa takes place under syntactic identity with an antecedent NP in the same sentence.

The question of verb stem alternation in Tiv is the concern of Titus Udu's paper. The claim of the paper is that the analysis of Tiv verbal alternation provides insights into the morphophonological rules governing Tiv and explains how various verb forms are derived to express grammatical categories like tense, aspect, mood, and number. The study

concludes that Tiv verbal alternation is signaled by tonal processes, and recommends that tones should be annotated to lexical verbs in written Tiv. Muhammad-Gombe and Gbeyonron's article deals with the use of Ajami script to enhance pronunciation of speakers with English and Arabic script background. The paper argues that the systematic implementation of *Ajamisation* can be an effective pronunciation teaching strategy and recommends integrating standardized *Ajami*-based pronunciation charts, modified orthography, and culturally responsive materials into the ESL curricula. Eunice Ukaegbu's study focuses on error analysis in Igbo-English subtitling of some Nollywood movies. The study highlights the problems and typologies of mistranslation and how it impacts the Igbo non-native speaker/viewer. The study recommends effective training of subtitlers to ensure grammaticality and acceptability in a given context.

The problems of product debranding are the issues highlighted by Ekpe, Joshua and Ellah's paper. The work analyses morphophonological processes involving texts that are manipulated in cloning products. The study considers the implications of debranding on product identity, buyers cognition and government income, and recommends stricter policies and enforcement to avoid distrust in the market environment. Ogunlana and Oamen's scholarly investigation critically examines the manifestation of authority by prominent presidential candidates in the 2023 general election in Nigeria. This discourse is anchored on the framework of critical discourse analysis (CDA), positing that the constructions of power were realised through the strategic employment of discursive techniques such as appeals to emotion, negative framing, criminalization, self-promotion, and polarization. The research ultimately deduces that the campaign rhetoric of politicians was shaped by the foundational ideologies of welfarism, collectivism, and supremacism, which were utilized to portray themselves as powerful figures while depicting their opponents as feeble entities within the Nigerian political arena.

Yakub et al. studied the portrayal of children and parents in Nzema proverbs in Southern Ghana from a linguistic conceptualisation perspective. Findings suggest that the communicative elements encapsulated in the proverbs possess the potential to cultivate constructive relationships between children and parents, thereby promoting social cohesion. A socio-onomastic investigation of Dangme death-prevention names in South-eastern Ghana is the thrust of Dautey's contribution. The study identifies the categories of death-prevention names and maintains that such names are sites for the expression of emotional suffering and consolation. The study also discusses strategies of securing the survival of children through the bestowal of such names, and considers such names as shields against infant mortality. Similarly, Imoh deployed the socio-onomastic theory to engage an analysis of Basa toponyms in Kogi State, North-central Nigeria. The study

unveils the sources of Basa place names, and offers historical evidence to support original land ownership, which is a legitimate way to protect Basa heritage and social assets.

Oreoluwa, Iloh and Mensah explored the semantic classification of address terms among young in Nigerian Pidgin. The study highlights internal variation in address practices given their heterogeneous classification in NP. The study found that sociocultural elements from indigenous Nigerian languages and cultures are woven into NP address practices, and concludes that young people use address terms in NP to enact interactional stances of identity, equality, and solidarity. Significantly, Egbo investigates the use of slang among apprentices in the Onitsha market. According to the investigation, slang is an essential tool for communication that promotes easy engagement and strengthens bonds between apprentices and buyers. According to the study, the usage of slang in informal marketplace contexts helps to maintain group identity and improve transactional performance by bridging linguistic, social, and cultural gaps.

This volume is an invaluable resource that offers informative, insightful and engaging discussions covering a wide spectrum of topics in order to foreground structural and applied linguistic issues. It is a major milestone for linguistic research in the strictest sense with its coverage of a broad range of languages, communities and communicative contexts, the volume builds on methodologically and empirically rich analyses and sound theorized interpretation of data. This volume is simply unputdownable!

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