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# EDITORIAL NOTE

Dear esteemed readers of the Ghana Journal of Linguistics,

It is with great pleasure we announce the publication of this latest issue of GJL! This issue marks our first of 2018 and we are pleased to have four solid double-blind peer-reviewed articles representing a wide range of linguistic research.

The first article, "Coordination in Nkami" by **Rogers Krobea Asante**, discusses the syntactic phenomenon of coordination in Nkami, a lesser known Guang (Kwa, Niger-Congo) language of Ghana using synchronic natural data. In his article, **Asante** describes coordination strategies of Nkami and the number and types of coordinators in the language. He goes on to present data on the morpho-phonological make-up and distributional abilities of Nkami's coordinators, the types of syntactic structures for coordination allowed within the language as well as the semantic effect(s) that the coordinators have on coordinate structures. Additionally, he addresses a few constraints that govern coordination in Nkami. Finally, he discusses the multi-functionality and source concepts of the coordinators. In his findings, **Asante** observes that Nkami employs both syndetic (overt) and asyndetic (covert) strategies for coordination, however the latter has a more restricted distribution, occurring primarily in narratives and pithy sayings for stylistic effect. The author introduces the term Serial Adjective Construction to describe an asyndetic strategy whereby adjectival modifiers in a sentential construction modify the same referent. On the other hand, he refers to a corresponding syndetic strategy that occurs when adjectives qualify different referents within the same construction as Coordinate Adjective Constructions. **Asante** then situates Nkami within its areal milieu comparing and contrasting it with regard to other related languages showing that like other closely related languages, Nkami employs distinct "and-coordinators" for both phrasal and clausal coordination. In conclusion, the author finds that almost all of Nkami's coordinators are multi-functional, and they may be diachronically derived from more lexical or less grammatical concepts.

The second article, by **John Agor**, is titled "Undergraduate Writing in a Second Language Context: Analysis of English Intra-Sentence Issues." The article is a descriptive study, which examines challenges with regard to intra-sentence writing in English, focusing on undergraduate students in public educational institutions in Ghana. In his research, **Agor** administered a short English language test to final-year undergraduate students studying English in the four tertiary institutions represented. The test included various English-language errors in order to ascertain whether or not

final-year students would be able to identify errors within sentences provided. Further, students were to rewrite the sentences to remedy errors identified. The author devised analysis tables in order to determine facility indices of the items and to examine the students' implicit and explicit knowledge of the language features investigated. In his findings, **Agor** establishes that undergraduate English students in Ghana have a wide range of degrees of familiarity with specific intra-sentence writing issues. Furthermore, implicit knowledge with respect to issues under study exceeds students' explicit knowledge values by far. Moreover, the author finds similar quantities of intra-sentence writing challenges from students of each of the institutions investigated. The article has pedagogical implications with regard to the content of communication skills programmes – particularly for students majoring in the study of English.

The third article, by **Gerald Eliniongoze Kimambo**, is entitled "The morpho-syntactic and semantic-pragmatic realisation of definiteness and specificity in Swahili." As conveyed by the title, this article investigates the realisation of definiteness and specificity in Swahili. Previous literature on the subject of how definiteness and specificity are realised in Swahili tends to primarily focus on the morphological domain with little attention to the syntactic domain. **Kimambo**, however, argues that both definiteness and specificity lie at the intersection between morpho-syntactic and semantic-pragmatic domains. The author situates his study in Lyons' (1999) semantic model while describing the manner in which definiteness is realised in Swahili highlighting notions of 'familiarity,' 'identifiability,' and 'uniqueness (as well as inclusiveness).' Further, **Kimambo**, exemplifies how specific and non-specific entities are realised in Swahili. As such, the article provides a more holistic treatment of the realisation of definiteness and specificity in the language.

Finally, "Event and Actors Representation in Selected Nigerian Daily Newspapers" by **Asiru Hameed Tunde, Ogutu Emily**, and **Daniel Ochieng Orwenjo** makes use of the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework and operationalises aspects of van Leeuwen's (2008) socio-semantic model and Halliday's (1985) transitivity system. In the paper, the authors argue that newspaper reportage of Nigeria's 2011 presidential election did not simply inform the public about the outcomes of the election, but rather served to influence how the readership thought about events and statements reported. **Tunde, Emily** and **Orwenjo** emphasise that representations made in the newspaper reports were demonstrably ideological and judgmental. In these reports, the presidential aspirants were selectively included or excluded, genericised or specified and were presented with different levels of voice projection. Other linguistic tools are utilised in the paper such as individualization, assimilation, collectivization, functionalisation, and appraisement. In this article, **Tunde, Emily** and **Orwenjo** observe that representations

of social actors serve to ultimately polarize the reportage and to lace it with bias. The authors conclude from their analysis that the incumbent president (Goodluck Jonathan) was typically accorded a more positive representation and a higher degree of voice projection than other presidential aspirants.

These articles exemplify GJL's commitment to serving stakeholders by continuing to providing a hub for diverse linguistic scholarship. It is our fervent hope that GJL readers will find issue 7(1) engaging, intellectually stimulating and informative as we continue to promote the dissemination of top quality peer-reviewed research from throughout Africa.

This year, in addition to the regular issues, we look forward to a guest-edited special issue on the emerging research area of Areal Semantics. The Guest Editors of the special issue are Prof. Felix K. Ameka, Prof. Maria Koptjevskaja Tamm and Dr. Jonathan Brindle.  The articles to be included were selected from several that were presented at the School of Languages Conference (SOLCON), which took place at the University of Ghana in 2015. We are excited about this issue and we look forward to its forthcoming publication here at the Ghana Journal of Linguistics.

Finally, as always, we at Ghana Journal of Linguistics (GJL) would like to thank authors, reviewers, readers and the entire membership of the Linguistics Association of Ghana (LAG) for their continued support. Additionally, I would like to thank LAG's Executive Board, our Editorial Board, our Editorial Committee and most especially our Consulting Editor, Professor E. Kweku Osam, whose guidance is invaluable. We look forward to future issues of GJL as we continue to showcase the rich tradition of rigorous interdisciplinary linguistic scholarship from Africa and the African world.

**Ọbádélé Kambon**
**Editor-in-Chief – Ghana Journal of Linguistics**

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