

Editorial

The current issue of the *Journal of Linguistics and Language in Education*, Volume 8, Number 1 (2014) carries seven papers written by scholars from East Africa, West Africa, and Southern Africa. The publication of the papers is a testimony to the indisputable fact that the Journal is an important source of vital information on linguistics and matters pertinent to language in education from Africa's established linguists and researchers.

Rugemalira's paper shows the continuing modification of the Bantu noun class system using evidence from Mashami and an underlying semantic motive which is exploited by speakers of the language to derive new forms, a process that wreaks havoc to the traditional distinction between derivation and inflection. In their paper, Obiamalu and Nkamigbo demonstrate that, to a large extent, the loanwords that Mada borrows from other languages violate the language's syllable structure and phonotactics and that, to preserve its structure, the language uses OT constraints that require the output material to be independent of input. The third paper by Wafula discusses the advantages of using theory to inform the criticism of literary works written in Kiswahili and the problems one is likely to run into while applying some of the theories used today.

In their paper, Dhumukwa, Mugari, Mukaro, and Sibanda demonstrate that the teaching of essay writing in English in Zimbabwe contributes to the poor performance of pupils in Zimbabwe's English Language Paper 1. The fifth paper by Mloi and Thetso indicate that the morpheme /bo-/ is distinct from the class 2a prefix /bo-/, and that it is syntactically inactive when affixed to nouns. Additionally, they say that the morpheme can have several meanings when attached to adverbs and qualificatives. The sixth paper by Mogara shows that the juncture morpheme is compulsory in any verbal construction, and that if it is left out a verbal construction becomes ungrammatical. He also argues that semantically the morpheme shows direction from the verb to a grammatical element found in a verbal construction. Finally, Mapunda notes that in social relationships involving superiors and subordinates, subordinates use opaque ways (nicknames) to give clandestine identities to the superiors as a mechanism of expressing their perception(s) of them.

Finally, we hope that our readers will benefit from the seven articles in this issue. We appeal for continued support, both in submitting articles to us and in placing subscriptions for our Journal. Similarly, the editorial committee, the advisory board, and the authors stand to benefit considerably from the dissemination of the KNOWLEDGE found in the papers published in this issue of the Journal.

Dr. Abel Mreta
Chief Editor
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