



GOMBE SAVANNAH

**JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND
COMMUNICATION STUDIES (GOSAJOLLCOS)**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
GOMBE STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 5 Number 1

June, 2024

The Journal

Gombe Savannah Journal of Language, Literature and Communication Studies (GOSAJOLLCOS) is a peer-reviewed journal of the Department of English, Gombe State University. The journal is committed to the development of communication arts through researches in Language, Linguistics, Literature, Theatre Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Arts, Media and Communication Studies. It has both print and online versions. The Editorial board hereby calls for thoroughly researched papers and articles on the subject areas already mentioned. Submissions of papers are accepted all year round but publication is expected to be done in May/June annually. All manuscripts should be accompanied with the sum of ten thousand (10,000) naira only. On acceptance of any manuscript, contributors will pay the sum of twenty five thousand (25,000) naira only as publication fee.

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Department of English,
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Or

Email:sajollicos@gmail.com
Website:https://gombesavannahjournal.com

For further enquiries, please contact:

Editor-in-Chief
SAJOLLCOS, HOD's Office,
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Gombe State University, Gombe
sajollicos@gsu.edu.ng,
Cc: amgombe2@gsu.edu.ng

Table of Contents

A Critical Discourse Analysis of Farooq Kperogi's Article on Pantami Professorship Saga ¹EZE, Patricia and ²ABDULLAHI, Hadiza Bello	1-10
Critical Discourse Analysis of the Speech of Former Senate President Ahmed Lawan on Xenophobic Attacks in South Africa Habu YUSUF	11-21
Overview of Systemic Functional Grammar Theory: Language as a Social Semiotic System ¹ABDUL, Mohammed Adem and ²DANJI Sabo	22-31
Tale of a Poor Girl in Need of a Long Lasting Marriage: An Analysis of Hausa Folktale Abubakar MOHAMMED Gombe Ph.D	32-38
A Morphological Study of Compounds in Twitter Posts on the Covid-19 Pandemic Saleh AHMAD Abdullahi	39-51
A Comparative Analysis of English Language and Nyimatli Language Sounds ¹Jamila ABUBAKAR Usman and Hauwa Kulu GEBI	52-58
An Analysis of Westernisation at Crossroad: An Exploration of Contemporary Hausa-Fulani Communities Abubakar MOHAMMED Gombe Ph.D	59-65
An Assessment of Early Grade Reading in Lower Primary Schools in Gombe LGEA, Gombe State ¹SULAIMAN, Jamila, ²DANGA, Luka Amos PhD, and ³IBRAHIM Adamu Mohammed	66-76
Linguistic Construction of Depression: An Appraisal of Personal Narrative ¹OGUNJIMI, Florence Taiye and ²MOHAMMAD Abubakar Musa	77-86
Monophthongisation of Closing Diphthongs in the Spoken English of Undergraduates of Federal University Wukari ¹Olusola Elizabeth OGUNRINDE, ²Kehinde Emmanuel OGUNRINDE and ³Ichonma Frank YAKUBU	87-100
Implicature in Viewers' Comments: A Pragmatic Study of AFCON 2024 Online Viewers' Responses ¹Jaafar Ahmad WAKILI, ²OLADIPO Abiola Mary and ³Auwal ABUBAKAR	101-109
Cohesion in Selected Essays of Final Year Undergraduate Students of English Hauwa K. GEBI Ph.D and Jamila USMAN	110-125
A Formalist Study of Sexual Metaphors in Achebe's <i>Girls at War</i> and Adichie's <i>The Thing Around Your Neck</i> Danjuma Garba MUSA	126-135

"The Play's the Thing": Illusion, Anti-illusion and the Politics of Femi Osofisan in Tegonni: An African Antigone ¹ Fatima INUWA and ² Christopher ANYOKWU, PhD	136-145
A Morphological Analysis of Acronyms in Nigerian English ¹ Sani GALADIMA and ² Kabiru MUSA	146-156
English Language, Literature and National Development ¹ Aishatu BELLO Umar and ² Mohammed Isa OGBOLE	157-164
Exploring the Theme of Ambition in Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> Khadijah SALEH Abdu	165-171
Re-Inscribing African Women in Patriarchal Culture: A Study of Onwueme's <i>The Reign of Wazobia</i> ¹ Murjanatu Muhammad RILWAN and ² Ibrahim Kanti BALA	172-176
Identity Crisis in Abubakar's <i>Season of Crimson Blossom</i> : A Psychoanalytical Study Sani SAIDU Ibrahim	177-183
The Challenges of Teaching and Learning French in North-Eastern Nigeria: ICT as a Panacea ¹ Abdulkarim MUSA Yola and ² Samirah SALIHU Gwani	184-190
'A Sha Ruwa Ba Laihi Bane': The Sound of Cultural Change ¹ Mohammad ABUBAKAR Musa and ² IBRAHIM Ruth Ishaku	191-200
A Critical Multimodal Discourse Analysis of Sexual Harassment in Kunle Afolayan's <i>Anikulapo</i> ¹ Moshood ZAKARIYA and ² Balikis YETUNDE Isiaka	201-214

CREATIVE WRITING/POETRY

Fatima INUWA

Department of English, Gombe State University

A PAUPER'S FESTSCHRIFT

Kwashiorkor is a disease
In me it's a tree that grows
Spreading its roots daily
As the hookworms in me protest
Feeding daily on bones in my ulcerated stomach
As my stomach churns
And dances to the rhythm of hunger

I am me
My head shaven
With a broken bottle
A clipper is forbidden
A barber shop not my bidden
That I know

Working tirelessly on Mallam's farm
Trekking to the Mallam's wives errands
I am beaten to a pulp
If I sleep without permit
In my matchbox tent

Tatty clothes
Aesthetically perused with holes
A pauper's air condition

Bellow out
This pauper is human
Be humane

SWORDS OF DAMOCLES

Alas, scintillating northern wind
Such evanescent harmattan breeze
With the velocity of your whips
Lashing endlessly
Dancing on harmattan hitten skins
And ringworm infested heads
This pauper naked, sighs and mourns
To the whispering winds
Its pathetic strokes, he endures
With tears flowing like River Euphrates

Denied of this world's joys
Devoid of care
Robbed of mirth
Embezzled of livelihood
Gallivanting in melancholy
Moving from creation to decay

In his memory a scar
That seems from afar
A parental neglect

Oh, this forsaken pauper
Soul slashed with swords of damocles
His dessert pending
Appetizer still booting
Main course deleted

Pleased, the Almighty's orders to perform
Go on ye to the earth and multiply
I speak in this antique tongue
I saw in gradual vision through my tears
Lest ye multiply positively not in negation

So that the vast Republics
That may grow
Resound Sardauna's Northern utopia
Not a pauper's dystopia
Meandering in umbra and penumbra

The sun has long set
Stars peeping out of their blankets
The Almajiri sets
To the Mallam's dungeon
With an empty, rusted plate
His heart filled with swords of Damocles

UMBAGE

Hopeless pauper
Sitting sorrowfully wailing
Shoulders cast down
Like a tempestuous night

Seeing him so piteously perplexed
From within him hell
Outside of him hell

This poor butchered paupers' woes
Writing sorrow on the bosom of the earth
Transformed into Acantha
Shipwrecked of his youth

Striving to receive
A puffing kiss of love
A tender touch of care

This pauper
Embalmed in woe
Enjoying a solemn feast of nothingness
Who hunger drives to seek morsels

Why not
Bestow him with the tree of life
Let him not, for pity's sake
Spend long hours at your door
Stretch a hand to him like mother Leto