GOMBE SAVANNAH JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES VOL. 5 NO. 2 DECEMBER, 2024

GOMBE SAVANNAH

JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES (GOSAJOLLCOS)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
GOMBE STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 5 Number 2
December, 2024

SAVANNAH JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES (SAJOLLCOS)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH GOMBE STATE UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 5, NO. 2, DECEMBER 2024

ISSN: ONLINE: 2811-2261, PRINT: 2787-0286

A Publication of Department of English Gombe State University, Gombe State

Copyright © 2024 SAVANNAH JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES
(SAJOLLCOS) Gombe State University, Gombe State. Volume 5, No. 2 December, 2024.

© Department of English, 2024
Gombe State University,
Tudun-wada Jauro Abare,
Gombe - Nigeria.

All rights reserved.
No part or whole of this Journal is allowed to be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior permission of the Copyright owner.

ISSN: 2787-0286 Print & 2811-2261 Online

Printed in Nigeria @Six-Sweet Printers and Publishers
GSU, Gombe, Gombe State.
Phone No: +2348039511789
E-**mail**: alameenalfira@gamil.com

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.

Editorial Committee

Dr. Abubakar Mohammed Gombe	Editor-in-chief
Dr. Leah I. Jalo	Editor
Mrs. Fatima Shuaibu Gara	Member
Fatima M. Gurama	Member
Mohammad Abubakar Musa	Editorial Secretary

Advisory Board

Professor Saleh Abdu	Department of English, Federal University Kashere
Professor Emmanuel S. Dandaura	Department of Theatre and Cultural Studies, Nasarawa State University
Professor Muhammad Dahiru	Department of Languages, Yobe State University
Professor A. S. Abdulsalam Languages,	Department of Linguistics and Nigerian University of Ilorin
Professor E. U. Ahidjo	Department of English, University of Jos
Professor Nahum Upah Butari	Department of English and Drama, Kaduna State University
Professor Nesther Alu	Department of English, University of Jos

Editorial Policy

Savannah Journal of Languages, Literature and Communication Studies is Produced by the department of English and Literary Studies, Gombe State University, Gombe Nigeria. It invites scholarly and well researched articles on any topic related to language, literary and communication studies. Authors of article(s) should adhere to the following requirements:

- Manuscript(s) should be double spaced on A4 paper with 12 points, Times New Roman.
- Manuscript(s) length should not exceed 5000 words, including titles,

references and/or notes.

- Abstract(s) should not be more than 250 words, followed by four to five keywords.
- Manuscript(s) sent to SAJOLLCOS must be original and previously unpublished.
- Manuscript(s) should adopt either the APA 7th edition or MLA 8th edition format
- Title(s) and subtitles should conform to the adopted referencing style.
- Manuscript(s) would be subjected to editing and peer reviews prior to acceptance and publication.
- Author(s) should provide a bio-data of not more than three sentences at the end of their paper stating their rank, affiliation, research interest and email address.
- All Manuscript(s) for consideration should be accompanied with non-refundable sum of ₦6,000.00 assessment fee.
- On acceptance of any manuscript, author(s) will pay the publication fee of ₦25,000.00
- Creative work publication fee of ₦5,000.00
- All editorial correspondences should be directed to:

The Editor,
Savannah Journal of Language, Literary and Communication Studies, Department of English,
Gombe State University, Gombe.
Email:sajollcos@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
sajollcos@gsu.edu.ng,
C/o: amgombe2@gsu.edu.ng

CONTENT

SECTION A: LANGUAGE

Pragmatic Analysis of Tones and Tonal Patterns in Igala Language
Abdul, Mohammed Ademu **1**

Process Choice Analysis of President Muhammadu Buhari's 2015 Inauguration Speech
Mohammed Maikiyari, Ph.D and Ramatu Tijani Oziti **12**

Quantifiers in English and Izhia: A Minimalist Investigation
Maria-Helen Ekah, Ph.D and Chibueze Egbe Aleke **26**

A Multimodal Discourse Analysis of Images of Banditry in *Daily Trust Newspaper* Cartoons
Umar Uba Abubakar, Ph.D., Benjamin Iorbee, Ph.D and Queen Nguhemen Jebe-Tume **42**

Critical Discourse Analysis of Persuasion in Donald Trump's 2024 Victory Speech
Hauwa Giwa-Ali, Ph.D **60**

Political Discourse Analysis of Selected Plenary Speeches of Nigeria's Senate President Godswill Akpabio
Ahmad Musa Saleh and Abdul'aziz Bako, Ph.D **73**

Rethinking Social Order: Racism within and After Covid-19 Pandemic
Abaya, Henry Demenongo **84**

Irregularities In The Grammar of the English Language: Blindspots for Pedagogical Attention in ESL Classrooms
Cecilia Folasade Ojetunde, Ph.D and Osipeju, Babasola Samuel **105**

An Analysis of Lexical Cohesive Devices in Governor Ahmadu Fintiri's Inauguration Speech
Muazu Hassan and Hauwa Giwa-Ali, Ph.D **121**

Non-observance of Grice's Maxims: A Study of Some Selected Dialogues in the Play – Harvest of Corruption
Abdulkadir Adamu and Usman Maigari Malala **140**

The Morphology of Personal Names in English and Ebira Languages
Amina Salisu Aliyu, Ph.D, Ahmadu Mohammed Dauda, Ph.D and James Jarafu Jawur **153**

Impact of Gamification on Vocabulary Acquisition and Retention among Private Secondary School English Learners In Lagos State, Nigeria
Adedokun, James Adekunle and Olabode, Adeyinka Ayoola, Ph.D **169**

The Expansionist Approach to the Teaching of the English Grammatical Categories: Examples with the Naming Category
Khabyr Fasasi **187**

Digital Media Learning and Postmodernist Classroom Innovations in Nigerian Universities
Maggai Tsokwa and Fatima Inuwa **201**

The Pronunciation of the New English Native Speakers in Nigeria
Ngor, Cornelius Iko-awaji **210**

Lexico-Semantic Analysis of ASUU-FGN Impasse In Nigerian Newspapers
Awoniyi Olalekan Ogundeji and Happiness Uduk, Ph.D **222**

A Critical Stylistic Analysis of a Channels Television Show, 'Politics Today'
Waliyah A. Akeju and Muhyideen Kolawole Ayuba **237**

An Investigation on Functionality and Usage of Language Laboratories for Teaching Oral English in Colleges of Education in Bauchi State
Bakoji Mohammed Fema, PhD, Alhaji Abubakar, PhD and Fatima Mohammed **249**

A Pragmatic Investigation of the Speech of Former President Muhammadu Buhari on Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020
Habu Yusuf **262**

Rhetoricity In Orality: An Analysis of Muhammadu Dan'Anace's "Shagon Mafara"
Garba Adamu, Ph.D and Ashiru Abdullahi **277**

A Semantic Analysis of Selected Mwaghavul Proverbs
Danji Sabo and Kyetu Mandyen DanlamI **286**

Investigating Linguistic Features of North-East Nigerian Suicide Notes
Yunana Ahmed, Ph.D and Danladi, Daniel Boyi **300**

A Morphological Study of Derivational Patterns In Android Smartphone Terminologies
Ahmadu Mohammed Dauda, Ph.D and Abdulkarim Musa Yola **315**

Lexical choices and Ideology in Nigeria's Security and Development Discourse in the Nigeria's Media
Murjanatu Sulaiman-Shika **326**

Syntax and Semantics Interface
Mohammed Gambo, Ph.D **346**

Colonial Legacy in Tunde Kelani's *Saworoide*: Language, Power, and Resistance
Okunnuwa, Sunday J. Ph.D, Ibrahim, Wahab Adegbayi, and Sobande, Olukayode Olukemi **355**

SECTION B: LITERATURE

An Appraisal of Cult Symbols In The Selected Songs of American POP Artists
Tanimu, Abubakar (Prof) and Adekunle, Joseph **365**

Enlightenment for Empowerment: A Feminist Reading of Safiya Yero'S Najah
Manta G. Yadok and Ishaya: Bilyaminu Salman **380**

Arab-Muslim Immigrants and the Limits of Cultural Citizenship in H.M. Naqvi's *Home Boy*
Olamiposi Oyeleye, Ph.D., Oladiran Damilola Peju, Ph.D. and PatrickbCharles Alex, Ph.D. **395**

The Artist and Leadership Failure In Africa: A Study of Ngugi Wa Thiong'O'S Wizard of The Crow
Dr. Manasseh Terwase Iortyer, Prof. Jeff Godwin Doki and Bizuum Godwill Yadok **411**

Narratives of Conflict: A Literary Exploration of Boko Haram's Impact in Politics and Security in Nigeria's Northeast Since 2009
Markus Ishaku **421**

Literary Creativity and the Condition of the Nigerian Writer in the Age of Globalization and Capitalist Economy
Adebayo, Abidemi Olufemi, PhD and Bukola, Olubunmi Iyabo, M.A **431**

Amali's Faces of Shame as Reflection of Leadership at the Altar of Ethics and Decorum
Isah Ibrahim PhD **442**

Of Mothers as Mistresses: Jocasta Complex and Transference in Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's Season of Crimson Blossoms.
David Mikailu Ph.D. **452**

Stylistic Explorations of Love: Conceptual Metaphor In Mariama Bâ'S So Long a Letter and Zaynab Alkali'S The Virtuous Woman
Anwar Danjuma, Maryam Mukhtar Abdullahi, Muntari Babangida and Sulaiman Harisu **462**

The Influence of Nigerian Folktales on National Identity and Values
Jimoh, Olumide Yusuf, Ph.D. and Adedokun, James Adekunle **474**

Discontents and the Quest for National Rebirth in Karen King-Aribisala's Kicking Tongues
Okache C. Odey **487**

An Assessment of Performance of Bauchi State Senior Secondary School Students in Literature-In-English
Professor Asabe Sadiya Mohammed, Dr Alhaji Abubakar and Haruna Shuaibu Hardawa **496**

Betwixt And Between Colonial Hegemony and Contemporaneity: Examining The Voyage of Transmutation In African Drama
Andrew Aondofa Nyikyaa **508**

Investigating the Educational Advisory Roles of Tera Proverbs
Alheri Bulus **527**

SECTION C: COMMUNICATION

The Media Influence on Economic Development Through Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
DANGO, Salamatu Eshi and ABDULLAHI, Hussaina Abaji **535**

Social Media Discourse and Peace Negotiations in Contemporary Nigeria
Peter Ochefu Okpeh, Ph.D., Theodore Shey Nsairun and Okpeadua Sony Okpeadua, PhD **546**

When Robots take over Journalism: systemic Considerations for Artificial Intelligence and Practical Realities in Nigerian Television Newsroom
Maggai Tsokwa and Tebrimam Useni Andefatso **560**

Mitigating Fake News Through Media Literacy Education: The Perception and Experience of Masaka Market Traders in Karu
Ben Ita Odeba, Ayuba Ummah Ibrahim and Desmond Onyemechi Okocha, PhD. **574**

An Assessment of Adherence to Journalism Code of Conduct among Journalists in Plateau State
Dorcas Agabison, Prof. Greg H. Ezeah, Maggai Tsokwa and Orya Theophilus Tertsea **597**

An Assessment of the Two-Way Communication Model of Public Relations Used During the University of Jos School Fees Increase in 2023
James E. Amad, Evaristus J. Ugboma and Chidimma Precious Okechukwu **616**

An Assessment of the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Business Communication in Lafia, Nasarawa state and Makurdi, Benue state, Central Nigeria
EIMOGA Audu **632**

SECTION D: CREATIVE WORKS/BOOK REVIEW

Poems for Savannah Journal of Language, Literature and Communication Studies
Ismail Bala **647**

The Loss-Land
Fatima Inuwa **652**

Dustbins and Dreams
Abdulkadir Mubarak **657**

The Desperate: Desire of a Feminine Soul
Faith Nkeri Aliyu **664**

Gumakan Zamani: A Book Review
Mohammad Abubakar M. **667**

Savannah Journal of Language, Literature and Communication Studies (SAJOLLCOS)
Vol. 5 No. 2: December, 2024 ISSN: 2787-0286 & 2811-2261 (Online & Print)

The Pronunciation of the New English Native Speakers in Nigeria

Ngor, Cornelius Iko-awaji
Department of English and Communication Arts Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Rumuolumeni Port Harcourt.
ngorc89@gmail.com

Abstract
This study examines the English Pronunciation of the New English Native speakers (NENS) in Nigeria. The researcher adopts the survey research method. Likewise, the random sampling technique was used to select one hundred (100) students from ten (10) secondary schools within Port Harcourt metropolis, while the yardstick for the selection is acquisition of English as the first language. The age of the selected respondents ranges between 13 – 18 years. This study considers the optimality theory as its theoretical thrust. A questionnaire with already prepared single and connected words was given to the respondents to read. Their speech productions were recorded using a recording device. For data analysis, the perceptual and the descriptive qualitative methods of data analysis were adopted. The analysis reveals that NENS insert unwanted vowel sounds in their English pronunciation, and that NENS also deletes linking-r in their pronunciation of connected words. The findings also show that the MAX-V faithfulness constraint was violated in the sound production of the respondents. The study suggests that other aspect of New Native English in Nigeria should be investigated, focusing especially on phonemic influence.

Keywords: Pronunciation, New English, Optimality, Linking-r, W-liaison.

Introduction

English is the language of the mass media, politics and trade, academic as well as the lingua franca of Nigeria. English also functions as the official language of Nigeria (Awonusi, 2009; Ngor, 2024b). In Nigerian, English is used on daily bases in one activity or the other. Several linguists have established that the English language in Nigerian society has imbibed some traits of Nigerian indigenous languages, and so it has been nativized, acculturated and Nigerianized in the Nigerian society (Gut, 2004; Josiah & Ekpeyong, 2020; Josiah & Ngor, 2022). Over the years, these linguists have investigated the influence of Nigerian languages on the version of English used by Nigerians, especially the second language users, and very many of the studies proved that Nigerian languages exercise influence on the English language spoken by L2 speakers. In all of these, the focus has been on speakers of English as a second language.

In recent times, linguists have begun to consider a group of new generation speakers of English in Nigeria known as New English Native Speakers

(NENS) (see Jowitt, 1991). According to Udofot (2007), the NENS are the children of the elite who have adopted English as their first and only language. This group of English speakers in Nigeria is neither speakers of a Nigerian indigenous language as the mother tongue nor speakers of Nigerian English as a second language. Rather, they are speakers of English in Nigeria who were born and brought up in township, who acquired English as their first language, and they are of Nigerian parentage. Tinuade & Rotimi (2024) opine that NENS are speakers of English in non-native English environment who acquire English from childhood, attain high proficiency in it and often make it their primary language of communication and thought. Furthermore, Kperogi, (2015) says that English is the only language and the primary means of conceptualization for the NENS. While some NENS others may have additional languages, English remains their dominant code.

There is paucity of research work in Nigeria on the NENS. For instance, Oladipupo (2014b) investigates vowel reduction in the English usage of the New English Native Speakers, while Tinuade & Rotimi (2024) focuses on the epenthetic processes of the English language used by NENS. The current study investigates the English usage of the NENS, exploring their pattern of English pronunciation especially, considering deletion and insertion of elements in their English words.

The Concept of New English Native Speaker

Oladipupo & Akinola (2022) opine that the domesticated variety of English in Nigeria is now referred to as Nigerian English (NigE). The multilingual nature of Nigerian society created room for a conglomerate of different varieties and sub-varieties of English in Nigeria (Gut, 2004). Adetugbo, (2009) establishes that different geo-tribal studies have shown that NigE is divided along ethnic line; this tells more about the influence of the Nigerian indigenous languages on the varieties of English spoken in Nigeria. Also, it shows that the combination of history and different geographical locations in Nigeria aid to shape the English language in Nigeria (Gut, 2004; Awonusi, 2015).

Some decades ago, a generation of English speakers (New English Native Speakers) was identified. These speakers are mostly monolingual, and they have a strong command of the English language. They lack or have a limited ability to speak or understand the local languages spoken around them. NENS are exposed to English language at early age. As a result, it makes them develop a native-like command of the language. Babatunde (2022) opines that the New English Native Speakers refer to individuals who have acquired English as their first language and are using it fluently on daily bases. These individuals have a high level of proficiency in English which enables them to communicate effectively with native speakers of the language.

According to Oladipupo (2018), the emergence of New English Native Speakers in the Outer Circle has challenged the traditional notions of linguistic authority. The source states that these speakers bring their own linguistic and cultural backgrounds to the language, which can be seen as both a strength and a challenge for English language teaching. Oladipupo argues that these speakers should be viewed as co-contributors to the development of the language, rather than as deviations from a standardized norm. Kperogi (2015) confirms that NENS are not considered as native speakers of English because they do not live in the traditional linguistic habitat of native speakers of the Language, say, the United Kingdom, America, Canada, and many more. However, they are not technically speaking English as a second language because English is chronologically their first and only language; rather, it is the only language their parents speak to them. They are certainly not speaking English as an alternate language.

New Native English in Nigeria

Babatunde & Adebola (2023) explore the linguistic shift among Ghanaian and Nigerian NENS and its pedagogical implications. The study concentrates on the background knowledge of English language speakers, their pattern of language usage, and the ability to use concord in their spoken English. It was discovered that NENS need to be exposed to the standard version of English. The results indicate some level of linguistic incompetence among New English Native Speakers in Ghana and Nigeria. These speakers are expected to be competent since they use only English as a medium of communication, but the reverse is the case. The data presented in the study clearly illustrates the extent of the issue, with a majority of the participants performing below the expected standard on various language tests.

Furthermore, Onabamiro (2021) investigates vowel reduction in the New English Native Accent (NENA). The study focuses on the acoustic production of schwa sound in unstressed syllable position by four young Nigerians (aged 13-16) who acquired English as a first language. The sound productions of four Nigerian L2 speakers of English were compared to four Native British English Speakers of English. The analysis reveals a proximity between the L1 English speakers and the British English speaker's production of the schwa sound. It was discovered that vowel reduction in NENA is in conformity with British English.

Oladipupo (2018) examines word stress patterns of the NENS using gender and social class as a yardsticks. The analysis reveals that English usage of the participants did not conform to the Standard British English stress placement, even with the fact that they NENS were exposed to English language early enough in life. Instead, the Nigerian L2 English stress patterns is a replica of Nigerian L2 English stress patterns.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Optimality Theory (OT) as its theoretical framework. It is a linguistic theory that describes the grammatical system. Mbah (2006; as cited in Agbedo 2015), establishes that Optimality theory was propounded by Alan Prince and Paul Smolensky in 1993 in their manuscript entitled "Optimality theory: Constraint interaction in Generative Grammar". OT is a linguistic model that came as a reaction to Generative Grammar (GG) that involves a conceptual crisis at the center of phonological thought. Optimality theory focuses on both the underlying and the surface representation of the grammar known as the input and output. In this theory, both underlying and surface form are related. Optimality deals with constraints, ranking of constraint, and how constraint is used within the field of linguistics, specifically in phonology (Essien, 2023). The field of phonology has always been comparing speakers' level of competence to their performance. It is un-debatable that speakers know something about their languages, but focus in phonology shows what is exactly said by speakers.

A constraint is a structural condition which can either be satisfied by an output-form or violated. According to McCarthy (2008), there are two types of constraints: faithfulness constraints and markedness constraints. Agbedo (2015) notes that faithfulness constrains show how easy it is for the listener to reconstruct the string from the pronunciation. Faithfulness constraints ensure that segments are represented in the output the way they are presented in the input. This simply means that when a segment is changed, deleted or inserted where it is not meant to be, faithfulness constraint is violated. The output that violates the least constraints is the winner or the optimal output. The winner is indicated with a pointing finger (☞). The information about constraint violations is given by the asterisks (*). For example, the asterisk in cell beneath the constraint means that candidate (A) incurs one violation mark from this constraint, while the double asterisk in cell (B) incurs two asterisks, which simply means that there are two violations. The exclamation mark (!) only appears in the loser's cell. This shows the constraint that actively knocked out a loser from the competition for optimality or fatal violation. A candidate that incurs a fatal violation cannot be optimal.

Table 1: Constraints and Candidates

Candidates	Constraint A
☞ Candidate A	**
Candidate B	***!

Optimality theory has three level of operation: GEN, CON and EVAL. The Generator (GEN) takes an input, and generates the list of possible candidates. The Constraints (CON) provide the criteria in the form of strictly ranked violable constraints used to decide between candidates. The Evaluator (EVAL) chooses the optimal candidate based on the constraints while the candidate is the output.

Research Methodology

A survey research method was used for this study, while one hundred (100) students were gathered from ten (10) secondary schools within Port Harcourt city through random sampling method using English as the first acquired language as a yardstick. The age of the respondents ranges between 13 – 18 years. A prepared single word and connected words were arranged by the researcher on a questionnaire for the respondents to read. Their readings were recorded using a recording device. The questionnaire was divided into three sections. Section A comprises of the background information of the respondents, section B was made of single and connected words, and section C has a passage for the respondents to read.

The study utilizes two methods of data analyses: the perceptual and the descriptive qualitative methods of data analysis. Bogdan & Taylor (1975) establishes that the descriptive qualitative analysis method is a research method that produces descriptive data in the form of written words or oral form that can be observed. Furthermore, Mardalis (1999) explains that qualitative descriptive analysis research relates to ideas, perceptions and opinions. According to Cevilla (1993), the qualitative descriptive study is designed to obtain information about existing circumstances and to describe information on current realities.

To perform the audio transcription, the researcher listened to the speech sounds produced by the respondents, and meticulously transcribed the words and the connected words using the Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary of Daniel Jones' 17th edition as his reference point for transcription.

Data Analysis/Results

For the perceptual method of data analysis, the audio recorded clips were listened to, and the pronunciation patterns of the single and connected words by the NENS were identified. It was revealed that NENS inserts vowel and consonant sounds into words that do not bear such sounds naturally. The perceptual analysis also reveals that NENS deletes linking –r in their pronunciation of connected words at the intra-words and the inter-word positions. Three types of linking-r were identified in the performance of the respondents, while W-liaison insertion was also noticed.

Table 2: Vowel and w-liaison Insertion by the NENS

Pattern	Words	RP	NENS	No. of Pronunciation	Percentage
/ʊ/ insertion	Whistle	/wɪsəl/	/wɪstul/	100	100%
	Epistle	/ɪˈpɪsəl/	/ɪˈpɪstul/	100	100%
	Apostle	/əˈpɒsəl/	/əˈpɒstul/	100	100%
	Castle	/ka:səl/	/ka:stul/	100	100%
w-liaison	sword	/sɔ:rd/	/swɔ:rd/	100	100%
	tower	/taʊə/	/tawə/	100	100%
	coward	/kaʊəd/	/kawəd/	100	100%

Table 2 displays vowel insertion in the words “whistle”, “epistle”, “apostle” and “castle” respectively. From their performance, the NENS pronunciation shows the insertion of the vowel sound /ʊ/. It also shows w-liaison insertion on the words “sword”, “tower” and “coward” as produced by the NENS chosen for this study. It also displays the total number of pronunciation of the items, and the percentage of each of the words. It was discovered that the vowel sound /ʊ/ was inserted at the coda position of the words “whistle” /wɪsəl/ - as /wɪstul/, “epistle” /ɪˈpɪsəl/ - as /ɪpɪstul/, apostle and castle respectively. In the same manner, the analysis shows that there is a w-liaison insertion in words like “sword” /sɔ:rd/ - as /swɔ:rd/, “tower” /taʊə/ - as /tawə/ and “coward” /kaʊəd/ - as /kawəd/.

Table 3: Deletion of the Linking - R by the NENS

Linking R	Connected Words	No of Pronunciation	Deletion	Percentage
	so is	100	100	100%
	aware of	100	70	70%
	for instance	100	50	50%
	for example	100	63	63%
Intra-word-linking R	draw [r]ing	100	100	100%
	show[r]ing	100	100	100%
	for[r]ever	100	41	41%
Inter-word Linking R	the car [r] is red	100	64	64%
	many[r] of you	100	100	100%
	chapter[r] eight	100	100	100%

Table 3 displays three types of deletion of the linking – r from the pronunciation of the NENS in their English speech. Firstly, from the analysis, it was revealed that linking –r in the connected words "so is" was dropped in the course of pronouncing the words. The same process of pronunciation was repeated when pronouncing connected words "aware of", "for instance" and "for example". Secondly, NENS deleted the intra-word linking –r in the words "drawing", "showing" and "forever". Thirdly, it was revealed that the inter-

word linking – r was also dropped during utterances by NENS.

Table 4: Consonant Insertion by the NENS - /t/

Pattern	Words	RP	NENS	No. of Pronunciation	Percentage
/t/ - insertion	listen	/lɪsən/	/lɪstən/	100	100%
	whistle	/wɪsəl/	/wɪstul/	51	51%
	castle	/ka:səl/	/ka:stul/	72	72%
	moisten	/mɔɪsən/	/mɔistən/	100	100%

Table 4 shows the voiceless alveolar consonant insertion in the pronunciation of words used for this study. The consonant /t/ is silent in the pronunciation of the words listen in table 4. Yet, the respondents inserted the consonant /t/ in course of their sound production. The /t/ sounds was heard loud and clear in the pronunciation of the NENS. With their fluency in using the English language, NENS demonstrate lack of phonemic knowledge of the English sounds.

Optimality Analysis

Optimality uses constraints and structures as a system to study different pronunciations because there are certain constraints that may affect and cause changes in English sounds. In optimality theory, constraints are violable. If a candidate violates a constraint, it is represented by an asterisk (*), while multiple asterisks shows several violations. A violation that kicks out a candidate is the fatal violation, and the exclamation mark (!) is used to represent it. The candidate that was not kicked out is optimal; its signal is a pointing finger (☞).

Table 5: Showing Faithfulness on "whistle"

Input: Whistle	MAX-V	DEP-IO
A. ☞ /wɪsəl/		!
B. /wɪstʊl/	*	!*

In table 5, the optimal candidate emerges at MAX-V; candidate "A" wins despite the fact that it violates DEP-IO. Candidate "B" violates the faithfulness constraint and it was kicked out.

Table 6: Showing Faithfulness on "epistle"

Input: Epistle	MAX-V	DEP-IO
A. /ɪpɪstʊl/	*	!*
B. ☞ /ɪpɪsəl/		!

In table 6, the input is "epistle"/ɪpɪsəl/. The analysis evaluates two candidates. The "B" satisfies the constraint, while the "A" violates the faithfulness constraint.

Table 7: Showing Faithfulness on "apostle"

Input: Apostle	MAX-V	DEP-IO
A. ☞ /əpɒsəl/		!
B. /əpɒstʊl/	*	!*

Table 7 presents an activity of faithfulness between the constraints. The input generates two candidates, /əpɒsəl/ and /əpɒstʊl/ respectively. The optimal candidate is candidate the "A".

Table 8: Showing Faithfulness "castle"

Input: Castle	MAX-V	DEP-IO
A. ☞ /ka:səl/		!
B. /ka:stʊl/	*	!*

In table 8 above, candidate "B" performs poorly and violates the faithfulness constraint so it was kicked out by the optimal candidate. candidate "A" the optimal candidate. In table 6, candidate "A" is the fatal one, while candidate B is the winner. Table 7 presents faithfulness constraint using the input "apostle", it generates two kinds of candidates: "A" and "B" respectively. The candidate "B" was kicked out due to fatal violation of the constraint. This is because the "A" candidate is responsible for the correct pronunciation of the word "apostle" by NENS, and it is the optimal candidate.

Conclusion

From the analysis carried out, it is discovered that the New English Native Speakers of English in Nigeria delete the vowel /ə/ in words like "castle", "apostle", and many others and they insert the vowel /ʊ/ during thier production of the words. The study reveals that w-liaison technique is also utilized by the NENS. W-liaison is inserted in words such as "sword" /sɔ:rd/ as /swɔ:rd/.

It is also observed that NENS delete linking-r in their production of connected words. For instance, the linking-r in the following connected words "so is", "where of", and "for example" and others were dropped by NENS. In the same manner, the intra-word linking-r was also deleted in words like, "draw[r]ing", "show[r]ing" and "for[r]ever" respectively. The analysis also shows the deletion of inter-word linking-r in connected words like, "chapter [r] eight" and "many [r] of you". This finding corroborates earlier studies conducted by Tinuade & Rotimi (2024); Babtunde (2022). From the Optimality analysis, it is observed that NENS have the tendencies to violate the faithfulness constraint of DEP-IO as shown on table 5. Candidate "B" was kicked out making

The optimality analysis revealed that NENS have a unique pattern of pronunciation that has no exact resemblance with the Received Pronunciation (RP). This study investigates English pronunciation of NENS, and reveals that Nigerian spoken English has a link with the English variety spoken by the NENS; hence, the deletion and insertion of vowel sounds in their English word pronunciation. The variety of English language spoken by the New English Native Speakers in Nigeria reflects the influence of the Nigerian environment irrespective of the speakers' early exposure to English, and their immersion of the English. This study suggests further investigation on the variety of English used by NENS in Nigeria, focusing especially on the phonemic interference.

REFERENCES

Adetugbo, A. (2009). Problems of Standardization and Nigerian English Phonology. In A. B. K. Dadzie & V. Awonusi (Eds.), *Nigerian English: Influences and Characteristics* (pp. 79–199). Sam Iroanusi Pulications.

Agbedo, C. (2015). *General Linguistics: A Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.* KUMCEE-Ntaehe Press Inc.

Awonusi, V. (2009). Some Characteristics of Nigerian English Phonology. In A. B. K. Dadzie &

V. Awonusi (Eds.), *Nigerian English: Influences and Characteristics* (pp. 203–241). Sam

Iroanusi Pulications.

Babatunde, S. Adebola, A. (2023). Linguistic Shift among Ghanaian and Nigerian New English Native Speakers (NENS): Pedagogical Implications. *International Journal of Membrane Science and Technology.* 10. 1203-1125.

Babatunde, S. (2022). Emergence of English New Native Speakers in Nigeria: Reclassifying the English Speakers*. International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature.* 11. 13-17.

Bogdan, R., & Taylor, S. (1975). Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods*.* John Willey and
Sons Plc.

Cevilla, C. G. (1993). *Pengantar Metode Penelitian.* Jakarta: Universitas Indonesia.

Essien, N. (2023). An Acoustic Analysis of Palatalizationn and Palatality: A Case of Nigerian
Speakers of English. *AKSU Journal of English*. Vol 2(1), 171-190.

Gut, U. (2004). Nigerian English: Phonology. In Burridge, K., Kortmann, B., Mesthrie, R. (Eds.) *A Handbook of Variety of English*. (pp.813 – 829). University of Berlin.

Ngor, Cornelius (2024b). Tone Nature of Nigerian English: An Acoustic Analysis. *African*

Journal of Humanities & Contemporary Education Research. Vol 15 (1) 399-415.

Josiah, U. E. and Ekpeyong, O. (2020). An Analysis of the Nucleus Element in the Syllable
Structure of Nigerian-English Bilinguals. In: *AKSU Journal of English*. Vol 3
28-52.

Josiah, U. E. and Ngor, C. I. (2022) Acoustic Analysis of Word Stress Patterns in the Newscasts of Radio Stations in Port Harcourt. *Sokoto Journal of Language, Literature and Linguistics.* Vol. (2), 161-179

Jowitt, D. (1991). New English Native Speakers: A Critical View. *World Englishes*, 10(3), 243-253.

Jones, D., Peter, R., James, H., and Iane, S. (2006). *Cambridge English Pronouncing*
Dictionary. 17th (Eds.), Cambridge University Press.

Kperogi, F. (2015). *Global English: The Changing Face and Forms of Nigerian English in a Global*
World. Peter Language.

Mardalis. (1999). *Metode Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Proposal.* Jakarta: Bumi Aksara.

McCarthy, John (2008). *Doing Optimality Theory: Applying Theory to Data*. Blackwell
Publishing.

Oladipupo, R. O. (2014). Social and Linguistic Correlates of R-liaison in Educated Yoruba
English. *Ife Studies in English Language.* Vol 11(1), 1-13.

Oladipupo, R. (2018b). R-liaison and Linguistic Correlates: An Exploratory Study. *Journal of*
Language and Linguistics. Vol 13(2) 341-356.

Oladipupo, R. & Akinola, A. (2022). Nigerian English Pronunciation Preferences: A Corpus-

Based Survey of Pronunciation Variants *Cogent Arts & Humanities.* Vol 9 (20).

Tinuade, O. and Rotimi, O. (2024). A Chip off the Old Block: Forms and Patterns of Epenthesis
in the Speech of "New English Native Speakers" in Nigeria. *Journal of English*
Scholars' Association of Nigeria. Vol. 26(2) 183-195.

Udofot, I. (2007). English and the Nigerian Situation: Trends and Imperatives. 18th University of Uyo
Inaugural Lecture.

07034309797