

# Review of: "Lexico-Syntactic Study of English Usage in Online News Responses and Their Implications for 21st-Century Pedagogy"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is potentially an interesting study, but it needs further work to make it a more useful contribution to the field. First of all, it's important to place Nigerian English within the broader context of World Englishes. I would suggest that Edgar Schneider's book 'Postcolonial English: Varieties around the World (2007)' would be a good place to start, as it discusses Nigerian English and what stage it has reached on his Dynamic model as compared to other World Englishes. This is a widely accepted model and provides examples of different linguistic features as evidence of the level of codification of the various varieties.

The Methodology section is very short and requires considerable expansion. It is not clear how the readers' comments were selected, or how large the corpus is. The abstract states that it is 'about 100 sentences', and in the text it is '100 readers' comments' (about a sentence each?). This is nowhere near enough data to make any empirical claims about general trends within the variety (for example, the claim in the findings that codeswitching and code mixing are 'common').

The Findings and Discussion section needs more explanation and discussion of the examples presented. For example, in the section on 'Semantic Extension,' it's hard to see how many of the examples presented change the conventional meaning of the word, and some of the examples belong in a different section (e.g., 'gotta' for 'gutter' belongs in the following section on non-standard spelling). It would also be preferable to use objective terms such as 'non-standard' rather than judgemental descriptors like 'distorted' and 'deviant'. In the section on 'Deviant use of Grammar,' there is no discussion of how these examples are typical of Nigerian English rather than common 2nd-language user errors. On this note, it would be helpful for the authors to note which of the features they identify are also included in the Dictionary of Nigerian English. They write about a Standard Nigerian English variety in their discussion, but also note - in the same paragraph - that Nigerian English is 'undergoing a standardization process,' so it is not clear to what extent the variety has been codified (see my earlier comment about the need to refer to an authoritative source on the development of the variety).

There are several unsupported statements made in the paper, for example, in the Introduction 'The rapid expansion of the vocabulary' - what evidence is there that the vocabulary is expanding rapidly?; 'Many studies have often focused on...' - give examples of these studies; the claim 'readers' comments posted in response to online news articles encompass the entire Nigerian populace of over 250 ethnic groups and more than 400 languages' (also made in the abstract) is not

clearly referenced. Does this refer to the Henrich and Holmes reference used in the previous paragraph?

After revising the paper, I would recommend that the authors get a 1st language speaker of English to check it to eliminate various infelicities that other reviewers have also commented on.