

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.

The paper "Lexico-Syntactic Study of English Usage in Online News Responses and their Implications for 21st-Century Pedagogy" focuses on a topic of very high interest, which has an important impact not only on the knowledge of the variety of English used in Nigeria but also on the defence of pluricentric language varieties in African countries. The authors could extend their bibliographical research to other cases, such as Portuguese in Portuguese-speaking African countries. It would be interesting to compare similarities in the sociolinguistic status, as well as linguistic properties common to other languages in contact with multilingual and multicultural contexts.

Valuing the Nigerian variety of English as an official linguistic variety and as the language of instruction requires a linguistic description of the standard variety of Nigerian English. Like other language varieties, it is subject to internal, geographical, and social variation. The recognition of a standard variety of Nigerian English has the instrumental value of facilitating the learning of a language for the exercise of citizenship.

To achieve this goal, the authors could improve the following conceptual and methodological aspects:

- Elimination of inappropriate concepts about linguistic variation such as "correct" and "incorrect," or the view of the variety of Nigerian English as a dialect.
- Clarification of the use of concepts such as "standard English" and "standardization". Throughout the text, the authors refer to "standard English" as "British English" or "standard Nigerian English". It should be clear when they refer to one or the other.
- In the literature review, information on general characteristics of Nigerian English at phonological, morphological, and syntactic levels should be provided. These characteristics are relevant at the interface with the lexical-syntactic study.
- Characterization of the textual genre "online news response," which is a genre associated with informal registers. This is not an academic genre, but it is an interesting genre for collecting data on the characteristics of Nigerian English used by speakers with digital communication habits.
- Detailed presentation of the corpus and participants (with quantitative information).
- Expansion of the analyzed data.

- Rationale for data analysis within the SFG framework (e.g., improve the theoretical explanation of the data).

Regarding pedagogical issues and teaching pluricentric languages, the reference to current works in educational linguistics on English or other languages, such as French, Spanish, or Portuguese, should be included. For English, we suggest Devereaux, M. & Palmer, C. (2019). *Teaching Language Variation in the Classroom: Strategies and Models from Teachers and Linguists*. Routledge.

The paper would benefit from proofreading.

Authors should feel encouraged to revise and improve this article, which is of great importance for the recognition of Nigerian English within the framework of global English.