

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

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As a native English speaker, I find it fascinating how different cultures adapt languages to fit their own cultural norms. In that respect, I think this is an important and interesting topic. Much of this is because of the representational nature of words – they are never what they claim to be (the word “cat” is not an actual cat and is open to interpretation based on a person’s experiences with cats and their place in a culture). I’m glad to see that the first few paragraphs of the paper recognize this process. Personally, I don’t think this process is “wrong” from a cultural perspective, but it does create communication problems when interacting with others.

Paragraph 6 begins, “Many studies have often focused on several domains such as...” In academic writing, it is generally best to use ‘word economy’ for brevity and clarity in writing. For example, it could be changed to, “Studies focus on domains such as...” This also replaces the passive “have often focused” with a more active verb structure, and some journals place word limits on articles, so this word economy allows authors to place more information in the article. Check other places in the article where passive verbiage could be made active. For example, in some cases, verbs such as “has always been” can be replaced with “is”; “has become” changes to “becomes”; “have argued and referred” becomes “argue and refer.” Check places where the words “have” and “has” are used.

There are a few paragraphs with missing periods on the last sentence – minor repair.

The objectives make sense. Objective i is quite clear; you could consider changing “find out” to “study,” and for objective ii, “justify” to “identify.”

At the end of this section, before you go to the review of literature, you could provide a brief (paragraph) “preview” of the structure of the paper – what can the reader expect. By telling the reader what to expect, it alerts them to content and structure and can reduce the tendency of readers to wonder, “Why didn’t they do...?” It frames the reader inside your article.

The review of literature is good and makes sense.

The method could use a few more details. Is Opera News a Nigerian organization, and what is its position in the Nigerian news landscape? The selection of the sample was clear. Provide a couple of examples of features that reflect Nigerian English specific to some of the comments. What are you going to do with these deviations? Are you grouping them into

similar deviations to know if there are particular areas where problems are prevalent, and where they seem unique to particular individuals? Later in the paper, you mention “code-switching, translation equivalents, metaphor and idioms, semantic extension, distorted spellings and punctuations, deviant use of grammar, and coinages.” Were these categories part of your method, and did you look specifically for these items? If so, this can serve as methodological guidance. If these are categories created from your research, then you can mention in the method that you are using an inductive process to identify the primary categories of problems.

This doesn't have to do with your paper, but it is a personal thought. I know the BBC releases news in Pidgin. It seems this undermines the process of using correct English, although it might be “good communication.”

The rest of the paper is quite interesting and thoughtful.

Congratulations - nice work. This is an interesting and thoughtful study – and I'm glad to see that you use the English language clearly and effectively.