



ISRG PUBLISHERS

Abbreviated Key Title: ISRG J Arts Humanit Soc Sci

ISSN: 2583-7672 (Online)

Journal homepage: <https://isrgpublishers.com/isrgjahss>

Volume – I Issue-VI (November – December) 2023

Frequency: Bimonthly



## THE USE OF ENGLISH ARTICLES AND TYPES OF ARTICLE ERRORS IN SELECTED NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS: IMPLICATIONS FOR LINGUISTIC AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Dr. Dare Williams, OMOTOYINBO\*

Department of Arts Education, Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

| Received: 21.11.2023 | Accepted: 24.11.2023 | Published: 02.12.2023

\*Corresponding author: Dr. Dare Williams, OMOTOYINBO

Department of Arts Education, Faculty of Education, Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

### Abstract

*This study aims at considering the use of English articles and types of article errors, in some selected Nigerian Newspaper: Implication for Linguistic and national development in Nigeria. Three Newspapers were randomly selected. The errors detected were identified and classified based on the Surface Structure Taxonomy (SST) of errors (omission, addition and substitution) The nature, distribution and significance of Nigerian newspapers, misuse of the English Article 'A', 'AN' and 'THE' are identified and discussed. Spanning the period of one week (Monday 14th to Sunday 20th November, 2022) a total of 89 lead articles from three widely read Nigerian newspapers were scanned. The results reveal that The Nigerian Tribune has the highest manifested occurrence of the misuse of the definite article "THE" in its lead, from front and back page stories and the instances of substituting article A for THE. (Seven (7) copies of the paper in one week of publication were with about 90 errors). Following the Tribune is the Punch which had errors of the misapplication of the English elliptical rule in 49 issues. The paper with the lowest incidence of the misuse of article was the "Nation" having 15 misapplication of article THE, including article A and AN in 78 issues).Consequent upon the research findings, the researcher opines that: The media houses should become more sensitive to public opinion about the use of English articles improving their standard through regular training of personnel. Equally, during employment, preference should be given to those who have knowledge of journalism and are competent in the use of English language. In ad dition, regular seminars, refresher courses and workshops, have to be arranged. Also, monitoring bodies like the Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Union of Journalists should be more proactively functional ensuring that members are kept abreast of rules and developments*

**Keywords:** Error analysis, English article, journalism, Nigerian Newspaper, misapplication.

### Introduction

The effectiveness of a language as an indispensable tool for national security, development and good economy rests with how

people use it. The major advances in sociolinguistic research over the past half century indicate clearly that languages are shaped by

their use. And for English, the users number up to seven hundred million, living in every continent of which less than half are native speakers. The ideologies and beliefs associated with the language shows that both native and non-native speakers use the language for a wide range of public and personal needs. Effectiveness in the use of any language especially the English language stands the fact that the articles, tenses, paragraphing, mechanics are all pertinent elements for proper communication, comprehension and cohesion. Ignorance of the above may thwart the intended meaning between the encoder and the decoder. However, the concern of this paper is an attempt to reveal the importance of the articles "A" "An" and "The", making use of some non-human elements, Three widely read newspapers ("The Tribune", "The Punch" and "The Nation")

In Nigeria, English is accepted as the official language; as a second language (L2), as a language of jurisprudence, Law, Teaching/learning and as a lingua franca. Since English is not acquired in a native speaker's environment in Nigeria, learners of the language experience more difficulties than native speakers. Apart from mother tongue interference, the learners' socio-cultural background contributes immensely to the inadequate and inefficient learning of English language. This is evident in the wrong application of rules and principles guiding the use of the language.

Most countries of the world recognize that the language of the mass media is predominantly English. The implication of this is not to show that our indigenous languages are not used in delivering news or used in Newspapers. The English language is non-indigenous to Nigeria, but it is the nation's official language and her lingua franca. English is neither the mother-tongue nor the first language of any of the over four hundred ethnic groups in Nigeria. English language, though borrowed and inherited by Nigeria, gained wider functions in the development, security and sustainable economy of the country. It has not only become the language of the colonial administration, it is a school subject, the language of instruction in school and a language of politics and prestige, when compared with the indigenous languages.

The function of English as the tool for disseminating news has assumed a new dimension in the post-independence Nigeria. In the electronic media, English remains the most widely used language for science and technology, newscast, advertisement, news reporting, documentary, discussion programmes, talk shows, phone in programmes, and so forth. In this regard, English language has virtually been adopted by the government as the official language in Nigeria, bringing about the use of the Language in government affairs, disseminating information and news as being done in Journalism and used as the language of the Media and business transactions.

English Language encompasses different aspects such as phonological, semantic, syntactic, morphological, and grammatical etc where articles are the major concern. English Articles have become a larger part of our everyday life in terms of conversation and even in writing meaningful text. The importance of the English Articles cannot be overemphasized as it lays claim to whatever meaning users are to communicate and when they are wrongly used, they alter and change the meaning we are communicating.

#### The English Articles?

The word 'article' is derived from the Latin word 'articulus' which means 'joint'. Articles are classified as grammatical words and they refer to determiners which play the primary role of

differentiating the uses of nouns. Articles belong to a small group of important little elements but they exert a great deal of influence in the contexts where they are used. As a matter of fact, the classification and syntactic function of a word or expression can change with the misuse of an article. Articles are placed before nouns and they determine whether the nouns referred to are specific in nature or general, among other things.

English articles such as "a" "an" and "the" are the most commonly used words in English, and yet their usage is in fact incredibly complex. Part of the complexity can be attributed to the fact that the English article system does not consist of one-to-one form and meaning relationships. This complexity poses a number of challenges for non-native speakers of the English. When an article is wrongly used, the resultant construction is inevitably clumsy. Second language learners of English in Nigeria demonstrate language transfer errors within the English language article system. According to Eyisi (2003)

"The major error in the use of determiners is mainly with the omission of the definite or indefinite article where it is obligatorily needed. This omission is, no doubt, a result of interference of our mother tongues since most Nigerian languages do not possess any separate morpheme for the article."

The correct and wrong uses of the English articles are manifested even in the pages of national newspapers that can be traced back to the use of articles. Newspapers are extremely useful learning tools to students and the general public in Nigeria. People that read newspapers have a better awareness of the world around them and they are better informed of the current global issues. Newspapers are continuous sources of information and education, their sentence structures must be as lucid as possible. Incredibly as may sound, this is not case in Nigeria. The pages of many newspapers are replete with various types of errors, prominent among which is the misuse of articles in sentence structures. Every newspaper needs to uphold a very high flawless standard before their varied reading public, as newspapers and journalists are taken to be models of linguistic excellence. Newspapers in Nigeria tend to use the English language in ways that suit them, not minding the grammaticalness and correctness. If the English articles are wrongly used, the connection between the noun and the article which define the meaning of the noun may be lost. Generally, these deviations affect comprehension of the whole text causing a considerable degree of confusion for speakers and second language learners of the English language.

The media workers are always in a hurry to publish their papers so as to meet the demands of readers, especially in the case of daily news scripts. In their attempt to meet a deadline, there is always this curiosity to rush their publications and in the process, it becomes difficult for proper editing of scripts. This results in errors such as typographical errors, omission of articles, wrong use of prepositions, concord errors, disordering of words, among others.

Inevitable occurrences of errors in news scripts are equally as a result of the involvement of incompetent people without the proper skills and knowledge of journalism who are employed in the media houses or radio and television stations. This, therefore, often leads to language errors in news scripts. Wrong expressions and wrong use of English articles in news scripts have contributed to the deteriorating standard of the use of the English language in society. Meanwhile, the news scripts as instruments for mass communication should help foster the use of good English among

Nigerians. Unfortunately, news scripts are perpetrators of bad English. Furthermore, some Nigerian news scripts have deviated so much from the rules governing the use of good and standard forms of the English language. As a result, the researcher believes a careful study of the use of the English articles in some selected Nigerian news scripts such as the Punch, the Tribune, the Daily Trust, the Nation etc becomes imperative. That is why this work is borne out of a desire to study the patterns of English articles usage (wrong and correct) in the selected news scripts.

## Purpose of the Study

Considering the huge importance of language especially the English language for sustainable economy, security and national development, both locally and internationally, an urgent attention should be paid to how the English articles are implored in Nigerian newspapers,

### Research Questions

The following research Questions are raised to guide the purpose of the study:

1. How are the English articles employed in the Nigerian newspapers to convey meaning and thought?
2. How are some of these English articles wrongly used in the Nigerian newspapers?
3. How could the wrongly used English articles be corrected and averted in the Nigerian newspapers?

## Concept of Mass Media

Mass media, therefore, refers to channels of communication that involve transmitting information in some way, shape or form to large numbers of people. It can also refer to communication devices which can be used to communicate and interact with a large number of audiences in different languages. Devices that are used to communicate to the public include printed documents, television, radio, DVD, cassettes, the internet etc. The mass media is divided into three namely: electronic, news media and print media.

## The News Media

This media is also called Online Media. The new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) such as Internet brought to limelight the phenomenon of the new (online) media. The online media is otherwise known as the news media because it is a departure from the old or conventional media of radio, TV, newspaper and magazine. The term encompasses computer mediated communication technology. It implies the use of desktop and portable computers as well as wireless and handheld devices. The form of communicating in the digital world includes: Internet facilities like World Wide Web, bulleting boarding, email, Online Newspapers and Magazines, Internet Radio, Blogs websites, social media. Etc.

### The Print Media

The press in Nigeria dates back to 1846 when a printing press was established in Calabar. It was established by the Presbyterian Church and the essence was to print religious books and pamphlets. The establishment of the first newspaper in Nigeria can be traced back to 1859 when Reverend Henry Townsend of the Anglican Mission (A missionary) established a newspaper that was called "Iwe-irohin Fun Awon Egba" meaning, the newspaper for the Egba people. (Akpobo, 2012:5) Reverend Henry Townsend is seen as the father of Nigerian press. He printed modern newspapers

despite the fact that he was a religious man. Print Media include: Newspapers, magazines, booklets, brochures, billboards, press release and other textual documents.

### The Grammatical Roles of the English Articles

In actual usage, nouns appear in noun phrases, and the kind of reference such a noun phrase depends on the accompanying 'determiner'. One can distinguish three classes of determiners set up on the basis of their position in the noun phrase in relation to each other:

Central determiners (e.g., the, a, this).Pre determiners (e.g., half, all, double).Post determiners (e.g., seven, many, few).

The definite and indefinite articles are the commonest central determiners and their distribution depends on the class of the accompanying noun. Usually, the definite article is said to precede the expression of entities already mentioned, and the indefinite article is claimed to precede that of newly introduced ones.

This paper attempts to show that although "a" "an" and "the" do make up a grammatical system in Modern English, the articles also have quite different roles in the grammar. It tries to show how the presence or absence of an article may result in an ambiguity having its bearing on the translation. The examples used in this study have been collected from varied sources including newspapers, journals and books. Some other examples are from the researcher's own experience in teaching English as a foreign language.

For Dixon (2005: 26), the pre-head structure of a noun phrase (NP) with a common noun as head is an adverb modifying a complete NP, e.g., simply, such as, even, really, what a; a pre determiner, e.g. all (of), some (of), one (of), another (of), any (of), one-quarter (of); a determiner, which can be an article (the, a) a demonstrative (e.g., this, those) or a possessive word or NP (my, Tom's, the old woman's); a superlative (tallest, most beautiful), a comparative (taller, more beautiful); or an ordering word (next, last) and/or a cardinal number (three) or a quantifier (many, few) or qualifier (some, any); an ordinal number, e.g., fourth; one or more adjectival modifiers; one or more modifiers describing composition (e.g., wooden), origin or style (e.g., British), purpose/beneficiary (e.g., rabbit in rabbit food, medical in medical building).

Although only one element may be chosen from the above, there may be more than one in the other slots. The English articles are grouped together. They can occur as determiners. "The" is the same as demonstratives, from which the definite article developed. It must be the slot for "the" since it can precede a full array of choices from slot (d); for example, the (c) next (d) two (d) fastest (d) horses.

Note that any of the items in slot (b) can be followed by "the" from slot (c) plus a head noun in plural inflection; for example all/some/both/one/any/ one-quarter of the dogs. A(n) can only be used with a singular noun and so is not possible (save in highly unusual contexts) after most slot (b) items; one would not normally say, for instance, \*all/ some/ any of a dog. However, fractions may be followed by a(n) plus a singular noun, as in one-quarter of a cake

## USES OF THE ARTICLES

### The Indefinite Article

Singular indefinite noun phrases have several basic uses (Jacobs, 1995: 109):

The specific indefinite use refers to a specific entity that is not yet familiar to the addressee and not uniquely identified by the noun phrase, e.g.,

She saw a tall tree with purple blossoms.

A young accountant interviewed her.

The generic indefinite use indicates a class of entities, e.g.,

They advertised for a three-bedroom apartment.

A car can be very expensive.

The generic predicate noun phrase use provides a classification; this is a special case of the generic indefinite use, e.g.,

Toby was a deerhound.

Denver is an interesting city.

## The Definite Article

The definite article “the” is used with almost any kind of noun – count or non-count, singular or plural – except for non-count proper nouns. It is used when its noun phrase indicates an entity that should be identifiable. The entity may be taken to be identifiable for any of the following reasons (Jacobs, 1995:110):

It has previously been identified to the reference.

There is only one such entity or event, at least in our everyday experience, e.g., the earth, the sun.

Within a particular context, the entity is something which exists, e.g.,

in the context of a family, one can talk about the father, the mother, etc.

in the context of a human body, one can talk about the head, the nose, etc.

in the context of a law court, one can talk about the judge, the defendant, etc.

in the context of a process, event, book, poem, or anything else viewed as a linear sequence, one can talk about the beginning, the middle, and the end.

In the context of things viewed as occupying space, one can talk about the front, the top, the left-hand side, and the exterior.

### The Article “a” “an” and “the” Number Modifier One

One function of “a” and “an” is to be the unstressed equivalent of one. Consider an NP X rabbit(s), where X is a number or quantifier. We can focus on the identity of X, as in column (a) – where the number or quantifier is stressed – or on rabbit(s), as in (b) – where the noun is stressed. (a)

'one rabbit	a 'rabbit	} 'rabbits
'two rabbits		
'five rabbits		
'twenty rabbits		
'many rabbits		
'few rabbits		

Regular count nouns in English take an obligatory number inflection, with zero suffix for singular and –s for plural. If the actual non-singular number is not to be specified, nothing precedes:

(a)	(b)
the 'one rabbit	the 'rabbit
the 'two rabbits	} the 'rabbits
the 'five rabbits	
the 'twenty rabbits	
the 'many rabbits	
the 'few rabbits	

Since “the” simply precedes above, we might expect the “rabbit”. However, “the” and “a” make up a single grammatical system and are mutually exclusive, so that we just get the 'rabbit.

### Underlying Sequence of Articles

Article “the” is often used in a generic sense, e.g. I dislike the bagpipes. Further, a(n), or just the plural form of a countable can be used with a generic sense.

The fox is a cunning animal. (comparing the prototypical fox to other animals)

A fox is a cunning animal. (any unspecified member of the set of foxes)

Foxes are cunning animals. (the whole class)

Since “the”, “a” and “an”) are mutually exclusive, in instances where one might expect a sequence of articles, only one may appear.

- Underlying the plus “a”. As shown in (33-34) of section 5, where the plus “a” would be expected, we get just “the”.
- Underlying “a” plus “the”. If there are several paintings by Raphael called The Madonna and Child, one could say:

I looked at a [The] Madonna and Child by Raphael.

In each of (i) and (ii), the first of an underlying sequence of articles is retained: each of (i) and (ii), the first of an underlying sequence of articles is retained: the a becomes the and a turns out to be a.

One can also get a sequence of underlying the, as in (59) or aa as in (61), being reduced to just one occurrence.

He lives at the end of Bedford Street nearest to the Strand.

He lives at the [The] Strand end of Bedford Street.

I have a suitcase which is a little heavier than yours.

I wish I had a [a] little heavier suitcase.

## Using Articles as Devices for Disambiguation

One powerful device of structural ambiguity is the set of plural and non-count nouns. Cottle (1975:47) shows that while there is a definite article for singular as well as plural nouns, there is no indefinite article for plural nouns. Put differently, while most singular nouns require an article, plural nouns do not require an article when the noun is indefinite since no such article exists.

The absence of an article makes it more likely that a noun will be confused with a different part of speech. For example, the use of a plural waffles creates an ambiguity as to whether waffles is functioning as a noun or some other part of speech. An article would require a noun interpretation of waffles. Further, the absence of an article often creates confusion about the location of constituent boundaries where his delineation makes it easier for particular noun or parts of noun phrases to be confused with other parts of speech. For example, a sentence that reads “Only a few high schools have carefully developed programmes” it is unclear whether the word developed is functioning as a verb in a present perfect construction, or whether it forms part of the noun phrase constituent (an adjective modifying the following noun). An article

would eliminate such an ambiguity. If, for example, the verb phrase in the sentence were “have a carefully developed programme” or “have carefully developed a programme”, no such ambiguity would be possible since what follows an article must be part of a noun phrase. This is just the sort of situation one may find in the following humorous texts that use a gerund phrase:

Girl: Are you fond of moving pictures.

Boy: Oh, yes, very.

Girl: Then you won't mind moving some down out of the attic for Mother.

Question: What's worse than raining cats and dogs?

Answer: Hailing taxis.

Notice that the use of a plural is essential in these texts in order for the ambiguity to work. If we take a singular, there is a difference between “hailing a taxi” and “a hailing taxi”.

Like plurals, non-count nouns such as rice, milk, sand, and so forth, also constitute powerful devices. Whereas count nouns lack indefinite articles with their plural, non-count nouns, which have no plural form, go even further by also resisting any indefinite articles with their singular.

As in the case of plurals, non-count nouns may create a confusion regarding constituent boundaries or the nature of a particular constituent. For a useful comparison we may look back at an example mentioned earlier. We saw how the plural in “Only a few high schools have carefully developed programmes” causes a problem for interpretation.

## ARTICLE USAGE IN ENGLISH:

The treatment of article usage here presented is not exhaustive; it is subsidiary to the analysis of the test applied to a group of students. We shall first consider the classification of NOUNS, then look at articles in terms of reference so as to set up the co-occurrence restrictions on articles, and finally we shall present a table of article usage. In this section we draw on A Grammar of Contemporary English (1974) by QUIRK et al. The examples taken from it appear between inverted commas.

Three important criteria are used; the first is grammatical which produces the two primary classes, Common nouns; with number inflection and-which take articles, proper nouns: those which lack articles contrast and rarely inflect for plural. The second is countability: in terms of the grammatical distinctions between count and mass nouns. The third is a semantic criterion, which cuts that concrete and abstract nouns can belong, to either count or mass classes of noun. The criterion of count-ability applies to common nouns only and yields two classes of nouns; count nouns - those that conform to the category of number and mass nouns which have no number contrast and are seen as having no "natural bound" (130), LYONS says that the notion of countability "is inherent in the lexical structures of all human languages" (283) although its characteristics vary from language to language. In spite of the fact that there is a tendency for concrete nouns to be count and for abstract nouns to be mass, count-ability is not determined by logic; nouns such as advice, furniture, information and music are mass nouns in English while in Portuguese they are count. We need only mention here two co-occurrence restrictions on articles:

- 1) Singular count nouns either concrete or abstract cannot take ZERO ARTICLE,
- 2) Child should be obedient.
- 3) This is difficulty.

4) Mass nouns, whether concrete or abstract, never take the INDEFINITE ARTICLE.

5) This is a good butter.

I have a home work to do.

The other restrictions are dealt with in the following section.

## REFERENCE AND ARTICLE USAGE

The GCE presents the following types of reference: generic, specific, situational, unique and linguistic. The first three apply to common nouns, unique reference applies to proper nouns, while linguistic reference can apply to any kind of noun. Generic reference shows what is normal or common for members of a class, species, etc. Specific reference particularizes, that is, it points to specimens of a class, species, etc. Situational reference also specifies- the existence of ONE, but in this case the uniqueness is part of the knowledge of the speakers, for

Instance in “Who is going to answer the telephone”?

Unique reference is restricted to proper nouns, as they unambiguously specify the existence of ONE, e.g. Dickens, England, Sunday, etc.

### Generic reference

Singular count nouns can take definite or indefinite article while mass and plural counts take zero article.

- 1) The cat eats fish
- 2) A cat eats fish
- 3) Cats eat fish, but The cats eat fish.
- 4) Milk is good for children.  
but The milk is good for children
- 5) Cigars are less harmful than cigarettes.  
but The cigars are less harmful than the cigarettes,

When modified by an of-phrase mass nouns and plural counts take the definite article without losing their generic reference. The article limits the reference only to a certain extent, but does not take from the nouns its generic characteristic.

- 1) He likes the music of Brazil
- 2) He likes the wines of France  
If however the modifier is an adjectival, zero article is used.
- 3) Nigerian women  
but The Nigerian women
- 4) American Literature  
but The American Literature

### Situational reference

The group of nouns with situational reference comprises certain common nouns which take zero articles in abstract or idiomatic expressions. For example - school, church, hospital, class, college, bed, university. When their primary purpose is implied.

- 1) He goes to school alone.  
but He goes to the school alone.
- 2) She goes to church every day.  
but She goes to the church every day.
- 3) They are still in bed.  
but They are still in tie bed

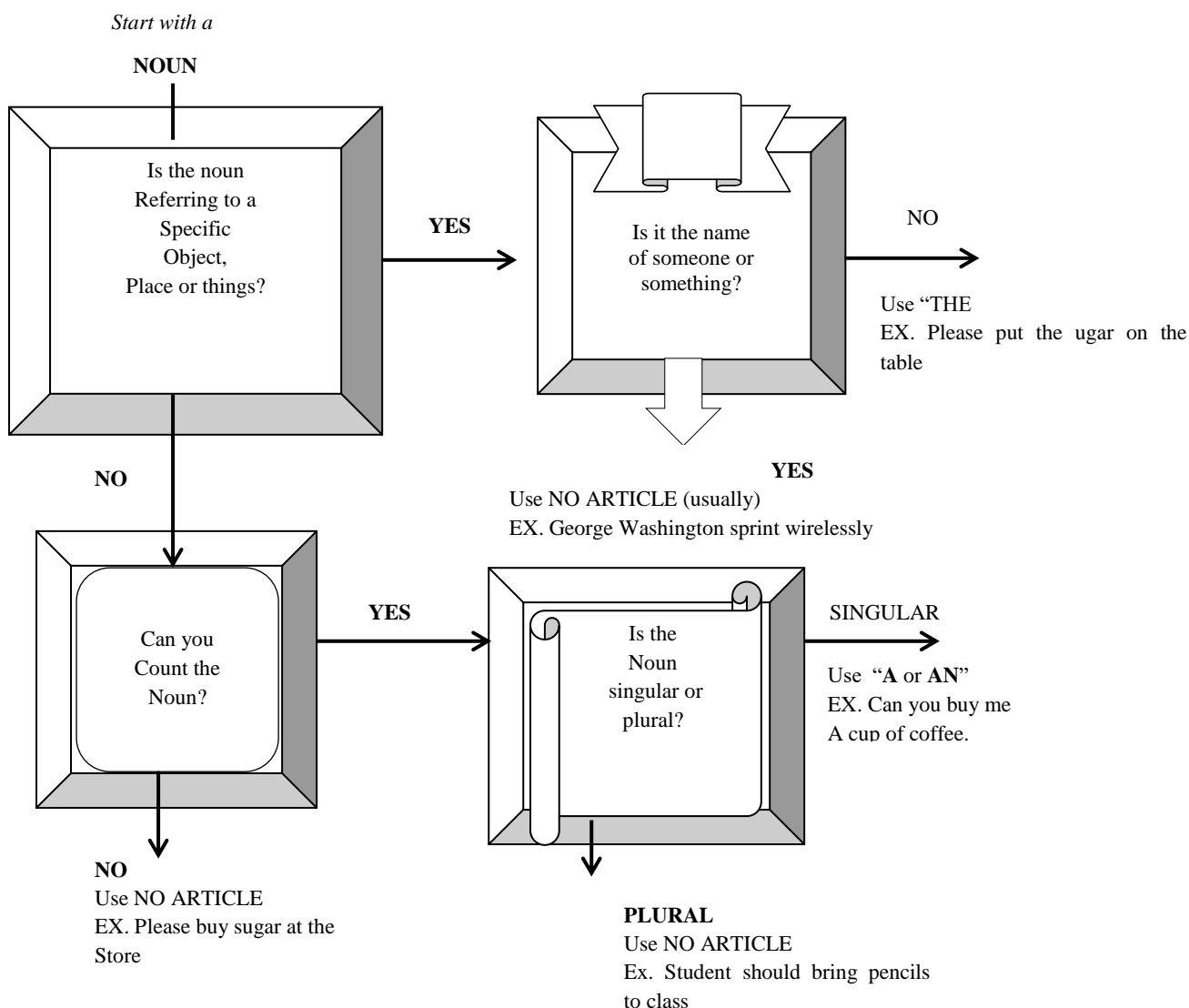
It can thus be concluded that reference is very important as regards article usage. The different possibilities here presented have provided evidence that the use of definite, indefinite or zero article

before a noun does not depend only on the class to which that noun belongs. At the same time, the reference attributed to the clause has to be taken into consideration.

## NO ARTICLES

We do not need to use articles for generalizations in the following cases: General ideas, e.g. Religion are an important consideration. Countable, plural nouns, e.g. Seminars are instructive [the example, 'The seminars are instructive', would refer to a specific set of seminars].

The flowchart below featured in the worksheet Articles by the Connors Writing Center at the University of New Hampshire, shows the basic process of choosing an article: (FIGURE 1.2.)



(Connors Writing Center, University of New Hampshire)

## Research Design

The study adopts an integration of library research. It will be a non-experimental research design based on linguistic method in its analysis of selected newspapers.

This study adopted descriptive research design. The design is suitable for this study because this study involves collection of information materials from the selected newspapers on the usage of the English articles adopted in writing them

## POPULATION

The research subject will be non-human elements. The population will comprise all newspapers published in the English language in Nigeria.

## Sample and Sampling Technique

This study adopted the simple random sampling technique. For the purpose of this research, three newspapers will be randomly selected from a list of national newspapers in Nigeria using the simple random sampling technique. I intend to select The Punch, The Nation and The Nigerian Tribune because they are national papers and they are widely read.

## Data Collection

Textual data were collected from the newspaper articles, cover stories and editorial.

## Data Analysis

Textual data was analysed based on the research questions. The relevant data was used to answer the research questions formulated for the study.

**TABLE I**

**TABLE OF ERRORS IN THE USE OF ENGLISH ARTICLES IN THE NIGERIAN TRIBUNE**

DATE	Monday 14th November, 2022 To Sunday 20th November, 2022							
Days	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fry.	Sat.	Sun.	Total
Number Of Issues Containing Errors	06	07	10	06	15	02	08	54
Copies With Errors	01	01	01	01	01	01	01	07
Misuse Of THE(omission and insertion)	06	08	12	12	09	11	04	62
Misuse Of A	03	03	05	03	03	03	01	21
Misuse Of AN	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	01

**TABLE OF ERRORS IN THE USE OF ENGLISH ARTICLE IN THE PUNCH**

DATE	Monday 3rd October, 2022 To Sunday 9th October, 2022							
Days	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fry.	Sat.	Sun.	Total
Number Of Issues Containing Errors	05	04	12	10	07	09	02	49
Copies With Errors	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	07
Misuse Of THE (omission and insertion)	09	08	09	06	07	09	10	58
Misuse Of A	02	02	02	03	01	05	01	16
Misuse Of AN	01	0	0	0	0	0	0	01

**TABLE OF ERRORS IN THE USE OF ENGLISH ARTICLES IN THE NATION**

DATE	Monday 14th November, 2022 To Sunday 20th November, 2022							
Days	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fry.	Sat.	Sun.	Total
Number Of Issues Containing Errors	02	01	04	04	0	0	03	14
Copies With Errors	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	5
Misuse Of THE(omission and insertion)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	01
Misuse Of A	2	3	1	4	0	0	4	14
Misuse Of AN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

## Results of findings

Of the 21 copies from three Nigerian newspapers whose front page, back page and lead items were scanned. The Nation was the only paper that was virtually error-free, i.e. free of the error of the inappropriate non-use of the definite article "THE". It had only few 'article' errors in one week of publication. The errors are in term of substituting article A where article "THE" is required. This figure

is insignificant when compared to the 'Punch' and "The Nigerian Tribune". Furthermore, in The Nation, all the lead items, front pages, back pages and the articles scanned were virtually error free in term of using article "THE". It does not indicate any case of omission or unnecessary insertion of article "THE".

In contrast to the Nation, The Nigerian Tribune exhibits the greatest occurrence of the misapplication of the article "THE"

(omission, insertion). Approximately 100% of all the copies collected during the course of this research were not without the error of the wrong ellipsis of THE (see Table 1).

From the results obtained, it becomes clear that the Nigerian Tribune exhibits largest account of errors followed by the Punch while the Nation was virtually error free on like the others among the three papers scanned over one week.

Furthermore, these three newspapers, together, stand clearly apart from one another. The three together perform differently in their use of English articles as they exhibit different account of errors.

## ANSWERING THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

### RESEARCH QUESTION 1:

How are the English articles employed in the Nigerian newspapers to convey meaning and thought?

Article is a word that combines with noun and defines whether a noun in any sentence or phrase is specific or not. The English language uses articles for identifying nouns. Articles act much like adjectives. Articles clarify whether a noun is specific or general, singular or plural. An article appears before the noun it accompanies.

Nigerians newspapers are written in the English language which employs the use of articles. Since articles are very important in English language, they are important aspect of writing communication. Newspapers are written in English language and it employs the use of articles and these articles are employed in the Nigerian newspaper in the following ways;

- They are used as referents in a news item.
- They are used to indicate definite nouns and indefinite nouns.
- They are used as device for disambiguation.
- They are used in place of some demonstrative adjectives in the news item.

Without these articles, the communication processes would be disrupted thereby making most of meaning the news items is trying to pass across useless.

### RESEARCH QUESTION 2:

How are some of these English articles wrongly used in the Nigerian Newspapers?

Articles “A”, “AN” and “THE” are grammatical elements of cohesion. They are used to make statements and sentences more meaningful. In this regard, their uses cannot be overemphasized as they are important in our everyday writing when it comes to the English language.

Some of the instances in the misuse and omission of these English articles in the following selected Nigerian Newspapers; The Nigerian Tribune, The Punch and The Nation, as discussed below:

### ENGLISH ARTICLE ERRORS IN NIGERIAN TRIBUNE OF 14<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> NOV, 2022.

Page 1 of the released newspaper article of the Nigerian Tribune dated Monday 14th November, 2022, there are some omission of article “THE”. Article “THE” was omitted in the write-up below;

“The Nigerian Guild of editors has inducted the managing director and editor-in-chief of the African Newspapers of Nigeria (ANN) PLC, publishers of Tribune titles, Mr Edward Dickson; \*Lagos state Commissioner for information, Mr Gbenga Omotoso; \*

Special Adviser on Media to former president Goodluck Jonathan, Mr Reuben Abati and 12 others as fellow.....”

In the news article above published by the Nigerian Tribune, the English article “THE” was omitted severally. The news item pinpoints the appointment of some set of individuals and these individuals have titles attached to their names. The titles must be pre-modified by article “THE”. This not the case as the article “THE” was omitted in the write-up above. The correct form should read;

“The Nigerian Guild of editors has inducted the managing director and editor-in-chief of the African Newspapers of Nigeria (ANN) PLC, publishers of Tribune titles, Mr Edward Dickson, THE Lagos state commissioner for information, Mr Gbenga Omotoso, THE special adviser on media to former president Goodluck Jonathan, Mr Reuben Abati and 12 others as fellow.....”

Other instances of omission of the English article “THE” in the Nigerian Tribune news article published on 14 November 2022 include

“..\* Imo state governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma...”

“..\* president of the Guild, Mr Mustapha Isah...”

“...\* chairman of the body of Benchers, Chief Wole Olanipekun...”

English articles are used to describe whether a noun is definite (specific) or not definite (unspecific). For a definite noun, we use article “THE” and for an indefinite noun, we use article “A” (for words starting with consonant sounds) and article “AN” (for words starting with vowel sounds).

Therefore, in discussing about name titles and accolades, the right article must be used to precede them to make them more meaningfully specific. In any case that these titles are not specific or not referring to a particular person. They may be used without the definite article “THE”.

The titles in the example cited above are specific as they refer to individuals whose names were later mentioned. Since they are specific, they must be preceded by article “THE”. If these titles serve as adjectives, they will not be preceded by article THE. For instance;

President Bola Tinubu, Chairman Wole Olanipekun, Governor Rotimi Amaechi and so on.

In the news item published by the Nigerian Tribune on Monday 14 November 2022, there are many instances of the omission of article “THE”. Some of which are cited below;

“...\* NPHCDA executive director...” (Page 3)

“...in the coverage of the elections, stressing that \* 2023 polls would play a critical role in survival and future of the nation” (Page 3)

“Dr Dele Ashiru confirmed this to \* Nigerian Tribune...” (Page 4)

“\* Chief of defence staff...” (Page 4)

In the examples cited above, article “THE” was omitted and these may be due to errors on the part of the editors of the news script. To buttress this further, many of the above errors were later corrected in other paragraphs that involve them. For instance;



“..ahead of THE 2023 general election” (article “THE” is used)  
Page 4

“\* 2023 polls would play a critical...” (article” THE” was not used) Page 4

“..reportage of \* 2023 general election” ( article “THE” was not used) Page 4

All these are as a result of lack of proper editing of the news script and inconsistency of the editors as they are not well groomed in the understanding of the English articles.

Also in the news script, article “A” was used where it supposed not to have been used and also in many cases, it was used where article “THE” was supposed to be used. For examples:

PAGE 4 of the published news article on Monday 14thNovember, 2022

“Meanwhile, in a memo by the branch to members of the union, which was obtained by the Nigerian Tribune, ASUU asked all stakeholders to come out on Tuesday for the rally, saying “a people united can never be defeated”.

In the underlined statement above, so many things are wrong.

Firstly, the use of article “A” to pre-modify “PEOPLE”.

Secondly, the arrangement of the sentence among others.

In the underlined statement above, article “A” is misused as it cannot precede the noun “PEOPLE” as “PEOPLE” means “more than one”. Article “A” cannot precede a plural noun. It can only precede unspecific singular noun that starts with consonant sound. Therefore, the usage of article a should have been omitted. And also about the arrangement of the quotation “a people united cannot be defeated”, there is something wrong with it.

A----article

PEOPLE---noun

UNITED---adjective

In the rule of grammar, adjectives come before the nouns they modify, therefore the statement should have read;

”A” united people.....”

And also while talking about the use of article “A” with the noun PEOPLE, it is already a fact that articles can only be used to modify nouns. Articles “A” and “AN” can only be used to modify singular nouns, therefore using article “A” with PEOPLE is wrong because PEOPLE is a plural noun. The correct version of the statement should have read;

A people united

A united people

All these are as a result of wrong use of article “A”

The instances of the substitution of article “A” for article “THE” in the

Nigerian Tribune

Article “A” is unspecific in describing or referring to nouns while article “THE” is specific and can be used as reference item. There are many instances in which article “A” is used in place of article “THE” which shows the inappropriate editing of the news item in Nigerian newspaper especially “THE NIGERIAN TRIBUNE”.

This can be seen on page 3 of the news item released on Monday 14 November, 2022. See below;

“Nwosu gave the charge at a three day workshop themed “Effective Coverage and Reportage of 2023 General Election; organized for journalists in the south west”

In the example cited above, three day workshop has been identified therefore it is specific. The use of article “THE” would have made the statement more clear and elaborate. The role of article “THE” in that statement is to serve as a reference item especially as cataphoric reference in linguistic domain.

It will make the reader understand the fact that the statement is talking about a particular three day workshop titled “Effective Coverage....” Which make that workshop more specific. Therefore, article THE would have suit the statement better as in;

“Nwosu gave the charge at THE three day workshop themed.....”

Other instances are

“Opaleye made the disclosure during A panel discussion titled....”

Instrad of “Opaleye made the disclosure during THE panel discussion titled....”

“...the Abuja-Kaduna rail corridor was halted due to A terrorist attack on March 28.....”

But

“.....the Abuja-Kaduna raid corridor was halted due to THE terrorist attack on.....”

When talking about days, articles are not expected to be used as they are proper nouns, e.g. MONDAY ( zero article)

TUESDAY (zero article)

WEDNESDAY (zero article) and so on.

But when we talk about parts of the day, article “THE” is expected to be used, e.g.

In THE morning

In THE afternoon

In THE evening

The same thing applicable to months and years. When talking about months, articles are not expected to be used as months are proper nouns but when we talk about parts of months such as beginning, middle, ending etc. article THE which is the only definite article is expected to be used and failure to use it will lead to ungrammatical sentence. This is predominant in the Nigerian Tribune news scripts. For example;

PAGE 5, 14 November, 2022

“.....making every necessary effort to ensure it resumes before \* end of November” (article THE is omitted).

There is a problem of inconsistency which the editors of the Nigerian Tribune are facing. The error they made when they omitted article “THE” in the above example was later corrected by them in other script in another paragraph in PAGE 5 as in;

“.....by all necessary quarters to ensure we resume before THE end of November...”

The editor omitted the article in the first paragraph but later corrected it in another expression that contains it in another paragraph. This is a lapse on the part of the editors because in the context of a process, events, books, poems, or anything else viewed as a linear sequence, one can talk about;

The beginning

The middle

The end. Article “THE” must be used.

#### **ERRORS IN THE PUNCH OF 3RD OCT TO 9TH OCT, 2022.**

The misuse of the English articles in the PUNCH newspaper published on Friday 7th October, 2022 include;

- The omission of definite article “THE”
- The substitution of article “A” for article “THE”
- Ambiguous statements which can only be made less ambiguous with the insertion of an article.

In so many instances, article “THE” is omitted in the PUNCH newspaper published on Friday 7th October, 2022. The instances are explained below:

In the article titled: PDP crisis: Aggrieved governors report Atiku to BOT, list peace conditions; paragraph 7, page 2, article “THE” was omitted following a title which has already been recognized. The statement goes thus;

“...before Atiku selected \* Delta state governor, Ifeanyi Okowa as his running mate....”

The omission of article “THE” in the above statement makes the sentence less specific as we don’t have two governors presiding in Delta state. And also, the referent has been recognized. Therefore, article “THE” should have been used before “Delta State Governor” to make the title specific as the statement is talking or emphasizing only on Delta state governors who is IFEANYI and not governor. The correct line is;

“...before Atiku selected THE Delta state governor, Ifeanyi Okowa....”

And also in the said article titled above, we have another instance of omission of article “THE”. In Paragraph 27 of the article titled above published by the PUNCH, we also have a sentence which practically omitted article “THE”.

“...by the passage of the motion, Omehia’s portrait will be removed from \* government house as a former governor”

The sentence above sees the omission of article THE before GOVERNMENT HOUSE. The correct form should have read;

“...by the passage of the motion, Omehia’s portrait will be removed from THE government house as a former governor”

The above error also emanated in paragraph 48 of the above titled article. Article “THE” was omitted before GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Article “THE” is really important and should be put before GOVERNMENT HOUSE because, the government house being talked about is specific, that is, it is referring to a particular place or entity. Therefore, it should be preceded by article “THE”. The sentence goes thus;

“the statement titled “government announcement; said, “the signing will take place in \* Government house, Port Harcourt on Friday 7th, October, 2022 by 12 noon.

The sentence already pinpointed a particular government house which is located in Port Harcourt, therefore, article THE should precede it as in;

“.....the government house, Port Harcourt.....”

Also errors which occur as a result of inconsistency of the editors are cited below;

In paragraph 50, 52, 55, 56, 57, and 58, we were made aware of some inconsistency of the editors of the PUNCH newspaper in the use of the English article. The same noun that was not preceded with an article will be preceded with an article in other line. Examples of the inconsistency are cited below;

In paragraph 50 “.....his continued stay as PDP national chairman....” (PDP without article “THE”) In paragraph 52, line 1

“Ayu said that THE PDP doesn’t want to be strong on social media...” (PDP with article “THE”)

In paragraph 55, line 1

“Today, we saw that PDP is the strongest party in Nigeria.” (PDP without article “THE”)

In paragraph 55 again

“that is to tell you that THE PDP is strong on the ground....” (PDP with article “THE”)

In paragraph 56, line 1

“....candidates of THE PDP from the state....” (PDP with article “THE”)

In paragraph 57, we saw the omission of article “THE” before PDP while we saw the instance in which article “THE” was included.

Line 1 “and today, it was clear that PDP is a strong party” (PDP without article “THE”)

Line 2

“.....who are telling lies about divisions in THE PDP.....” (PDP with article “THE”)

Those are the special cases but the editor of the Punch news script misused article “THE”. The example is taking from paragraph 3 of the article published on 7th October, 2022 by the PUNCH Newspaper titled; CCL: Plateau United Confirm Esperance Clash date.

“The statement equally disregards the Saturday October 8th circulating on social media....”

In that expression, article “THE” was used with a proper noun without a specific reason and it makes the usage of that particular article (the) wrong and unnecessary thereby making the statement ungrammatical.

The editor later corrected the expression in the same paragraph as in;

“.....CAF has confirmed Sunday October 9 as the official.....”

Paper published by the PUNCH, there are instances of ambiguous statements. The ambiguity in these statements can be deleted with the insertion of any appropriate article.

In the article titled; Experts Urge Government to Improve teachers' skills, paragraph 8, line 4, we saw some ambiguous statements. They are treated below:

"...these discussions will help in providing African solutions to African challenges"

The statement above is ambiguous and the interpretation can be very difficult.

#### ENGLISH ARTICLE ERRORS IN "THE NATION NEWSPAPER" 14TH NOV TO 20<sup>TH</sup> NOV, 2022.

While scanning through the lead articles published by The Nation on Monday 14 November, 2022, we discover that The Nation was virtually error free in their use of article "THE" as there are less cases of omission of article "THE" and its unnecessary insertion.

However, it exhibits some errors in term of using article "A" where article "TH" is required. Examples are taken from the Nation published articles on 14thNovember, 2022.

"A former minister said, 'Mohammed was non-communal.....'" (Page 14)

The example above shows that article "A" was used correctly as it referred to a non-specified person.

"Tinubu stated this at the Third National Convention of the APC, USA chapter held at the weekend in Newark, New Jersey, according to A statement by the chapter"

Also the example above exhibits the correct use of article "A" as the statement in question was not identified thereby paving way for the use of an unspecific article which is "A". But in the Examples cited below, using article "A" before STATEMENT is wrong as the statement had been identified and cited in the next line. We can refer to that as forward looking reference in linguistic context. Check below;

"The forum made the call in A statement by its secretary General, Murtala Aliyu."The next line continued thus; ".....it (statement) said, 'INEC has a responsibility.....'"

Using article "THE" would make the above expression a meaningfully correct one.

"The agency approached A federal High Court in Lagos with three prayers..."

The above line is wrong. The substitution of article "A" for article "THE" makes the line a wrong one. The Federal High Court being talked about does not need to be identified to make it specific but the situation makes it a specific one. The Federal High Court being talked about is the one of Lagos not the one of Abuja. A reader who is not familiar with Nigerian environment will misinterpret the line to mean that there are various Federal High Court in Lagos where as we have just only one.

So, using article THE to precede FEDERAL HIGH COURT will make the expression grammatical as in: "The agency approached THE Federal High Court in Lagos....."

Also in relation to that. A line taken from the article published by the Nation on the same date as the one published above, the editor(s) corrected the statement as article THE preceded FEDERAL HIGH COURT. The line read;

"Eyitayo Jonhson, who confirmed the arrest in a statement said, 'THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT granted the prayers of the.....'"

Also in the line below in the same article;

"On November 2, THE Federal High Court, Lagos; granted the prayers of ASP Daniel Apochi....."

In page 6 of the article published by THE NATION on 14thNovember, 2022, we saw another instance of the substitution of "A" for "THE". The Editor(s) used article "A" where article "THE" is required; consider this line in the article titled; BANDITS DEMAND N10M TO RELEASE HOSTAGE'S BODY, Paragraph 4: "The later came down to N5million and three motor-bikes and later collected one bike. After collecting A bike, we did not hear from them again"

The line "After collecting A bike" is ungrammatical as a result of using the wrong article. The bike in question has been mentioned in the previous line that precedes the expression. So it is specific as it is referring to the bike the bandits settled for. The insertion of article "A" rendered the line useless as it does not correlate with the previous line thereby ignoring the act of grammatical cohesion. The bike in question has been mentioned in the previous line making the reference an ANAPHORIC REFERENCE (which refers back to a particular noun in a context of grammar), it should be preceded with article THE to realize its reference. The correct form of that expression should read;

"The later came down to N5million and three motor-bikes and later collected one bike....."

In that line, the "one bike" has been collected already, so the line to follow must use article THE to refer back to the "one bike" collected as in;

"After collecting THE bike, we did not hear from them again"

"After collecting that/the bike, we did not hear from them again"

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: How could the wrongly used of the English articles be corrected and averted in the Nigerian newspapers?

The wrong use of English articles can be corrected through;

- A careful study and understanding of the uses and roles of the English articles
- A proper cross examination of the news script before publication.
- A careful study of the grammatical roles of the English articles.
- A proper monitoring of the editing of the news script among others

## COMMENTS

The misuse of "THE" in the sentence structures of newspaper writing, must be seen partly in the context of language transfer or mother tongue interference, and partly in that of inadequate linguistic exposure, and of previous defective methodology (Olumuyiwa Ayodele, 1988).

English language is not acquired in Nigeria but rather it is learnt. Nigerian speakers of the English language are merely imitators as English language is not their mother tongue. It is the language of the Ex-Colonial Master which has been mandated by the government as the official and national language to foster unity among the wide range of ethnic differences in Nigeria. For a Nigerian man to learn the English language, he first acquires his mother tongue which is the language of the immediate

environment to which he was born. A typical Nigerian man is a product of his environment. In this regard, there are bound to be lapses in his use of English language especially the use of some grammatical elements such as English articles (“A,” “AN” and “THE”).

Some of these wide range of ethnic groups are lacking the English articles in their various dialects or languages thereby making it difficult for their speakers to master the use of the English articles effectively as there are bound to be positive and negative transfer of their first language in question. It will then influence the speakers’ fluency in the use of the second learnt language. English remains, for Nigerian, a foreign language (in so far as it is neither Nigerian nor African); it never was freely adopted by the people as official language. The circumstances of its imposition are generally well known to merit further discussion here.

## CONCLUSION

In concluding this study, it is pertinent to state that the presence of errors in the use of grammatical elements such as article “A”, “AN” and “THE” in Nigerian newspapers has negative effects on the newspapers and the society at large in very many ways. It sends wrong signals, creating a bad and poor image for the society and making the development of journalism in Nigeria substandard while also having negative effects on the literacy, education, national development and enlightenment of the public.

## APPENDIXES

THE NIGERIAN TRIBUNE FRONT COVERS FROM 14TH NOVEMBER 2022 TO 20TH NOVEMBER 2022 (ONE WEEK OF PUBLICATION)

**Dickson, Abati, Omotoso, Bello, others become Fellow, Nigerian Guild of Editors** -Pg2

**Afenifere, ACF, Ohanaeze Ndigbo raise alarm over rising tension, violence, hate speech** -Pg2

**NIGERIAN TRIBUNE** SINCE 1949

18,183 MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 2022 NIGERIA'S MOST INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER N200

www.tribunenigeria.com Nigerian Tribune @tribunenigeria Nigerian Tribune tribunenigeria

**Money can't guarantee victory, Ex-INEC boss, Jega, tells politicians** -Pg23

**Nigeria must work for all Nigerians — Obi** -Pg25

**Olanipekun backs govs over clamour for state police** -Pg3

**\$460,000 FORFEITURE**

**Tinubu not eligible to contest — PDP** -Pg24

**-Section 137 (1) (d) of 1999 constitution renders him ineligible, party says -May go to court -You must respond to allegation, Atika/Okowa campaign challenges APC presidential candidate -PDP should stop dreaming, Tinubu won't withdraw from race, APC campaign office replies**

**Fake INEC statement on Tinubu: APC seeks police investigation** -Pg24

**NDLEA arrests alleged drug baron, woman linked to Pakistani cocaine syndicate** -Pg27

**No definite resumption date on Abuja - Kaduna rail service —NRC** -Pg5

**ASUU set for nationwide protest over 'no work, no pay' policy** -Pg4

From left: Mr Sam Ayem, CEO, FBNBank UK; Mr Fidiyeh, Abaji Muhammad Sumari E, Former Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria; Mr Gwede Gwede, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria; Dr Adenola Adeniran, CEO, FirstBank Group and Mr Oye Hassan Odehokun, Chairman, FBNBank UK, at the 40th anniversary celebration of FBNBank UK, held on Friday at Planktoners Hall, One London Wall, London, United Kingdom.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

Consequent upon the research findings, the researcher is recommending that:

- those who work in the media houses should be more committed to their jobs, correctness and be careful in the discharge of their duties. The rules of division of labour has to be properly observed in media houses so that one person will not be left to do the jobs of other professionals
- The media houses should become more sensitive to public opinion about their use of English articles and improve their standard by regular training of personnel. Equally, during employment, preference should be given to those who have knowledge of journalism and are competence in their use of English language.
- In addition, seminars, refresher courses and workshops, particularly on language use and errors have to be arranged regularly for journalists by their employers. Also, monitoring bodies like the Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Union of Journalist should be more proactive and functional to ensure that journalists are abreast with the rules and new development in their field and for international intelligibility.

DHQ declares 19 terrorists wanted, places N5m bounty on each



23.7 million Nigerians in 26 states to be in food crisis between June and August 2023



Peace Accord under threat, Abdusalam, Kukah raise alarm

Obi, Labour Party reply Soludo



My restructuring agenda is to make government more efficient - Atiku

# NIGERIAN TRIBUNE

18,188 TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER, 2022 NIGERIA'S MOST INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER N200

## Peter Obi knows he can't and won't win —Soludo

"The game he is playing is the main reason he didn't return to APGA. The brutal truth is that there are two persons/parties seriously contesting for president; the rest is exciting drama... The current fleeting frenzy, if not checked, will cost Ndigbo dearly for years."

Jos agog as APC flags off Tinubu presidential campaign today

Nigerian students in US increased by 12.3 percent

Ademifere expresses concern over incessant kidnapping on Lagos - Ibadan Expressway

96 died in Bayelsa flood, 1.2 million people displaced —Govt



APC flag-off ceremony in Jos, led by Governor Abba Kyari. From top: Governor Abba Kyari, APC National Chairman Peter Obi, and other APC leaders. Photo: Suleman Gbadejare



US e-ambassadors in Lagos. From left: US Ambassador to Nigeria, Jeffrey H. Smith, US Consul General, Robert M. G. B. Smith, and US E-ambassadors. Photo: Suleman Gbadejare

Africa tops world's undiagnosed diabetes —WHO

Students, civil society groups join ASUU protest over 'no work, no pay' policy

World's population hits 8 billion —UN

Lagos lawmaker slumps, dies after attending APC Jos rally

Ahead of 2023, Editors resolve to put political actors on their toes

Kogi wins World Bank's Fiscal Transparency, Revenue Mobilisation awards

## Soaring food prices push inflation rate to 21.09%

Hits 17-year high - Prices of gas, liquid fuel, air transport record highest increases - NBS blames disruption in food supply, currency depreciation



Students of Oshodi Staff Union of Universities (OSUU), students and civil society groups at the University of Lagos, making protesting as work, no pay policy for university lecturers. Photo: Suleman Gbadejare

## IGP orders tight security on Lagos-Ibadan expressway

Buhari, Adamu, govts lead Tinubu/Shettima campaign flag-off in Jos

2023 elections to define soul of Nigeria —Tinubu

Ohanaeze Ndigbo insists on Obi

Rowdy session as Senate gives CBN nod to redesign naira

Wike apologises to Oshiomhole for supporting Obaseki's re-election

Tinubu to CAN: My administration will be blind to religious affiliations

# NIGERIAN TRIBUNE

18,186 THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 2022 NIGERIA'S MOST INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER N200

## No going back on 'no work no pay' for lecturers —FG

Says govt paid what is due to them - Some presidential candidates planning to privatise federal universities —ASUU president - Dialogue key to conflict resolution —Sultan

'Drunk' soldier kills General while driving in Lagos Barracks

Lagos - Ibadan Expressway: Oyo govt engages hunters, vigilante groups, business owners, baales

Gunmen kill nine family members, two others in Plateau community

UK channels \$100m to women-owned business in Nigeria



Winner of a house prize - Oshodi's Festival of Joy process, Ibrahim Akande, flanked by his father, Mr Yusuf Akande, and mother, Femi Akande, at the presentation of the house prize to him by Gobacan on Wednesday

Atiku says 'my restructuring agenda starts from first day in office, blueprint ready'

Govs behind political violence —IGP

**NBS: 133 million Nigerians multidimensionally poor**  
*Atiku blames APC for enthroning legacy of poverty*

How LASTMA officials extort Lagos drivers

**SPEAKERSHIP CRISIS**  
**Police foil plot to burn down Ekiti House of Assembly building**

Atiku, Okowa meet Jonathan in Abuja

NIGERIAN  SINCE 1949  
**TRIBUNE**

SATURDAY  SINCE 1949  
**TRIBUNE**

FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER, 2022 NIGERIA'S MOST INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER ₦200

SATURDAY, 19 NOVEMBER, 2022 NIGERIA'S MOST INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER ₦200

**NAIRA REDESIGN:**

**Number of govs under watch rising —EFCC**

Police arraign Auxiliary over destruction of APC billboards in Oyo



US issues fresh visa sanction threat on instigators of violence

Two suspected invaders of Justice Odili's home escaped from Kofe Prison —Police



We are committed to tidying voter register —INEC

Using cannabis to cook dangerous, condemnable —NDLEA boss

We are happy G-5 govs still with us —PDP Presidential Campaign Council

**2023 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**First ballot may produce no winner, INEC declares**



*Various news snippets and small images related to the election and other events.*

**"My husband told me 'I will set you ablaze,' and he did it"**

**Mummy fights naked, no longer wife material, pastor-husband tells court**  
**₦544m grass-cutting scandal: Court frees ex-SGF Babachir Lawal, others**

**How we will turn around Nigeria's fortunes —Atiku**

- Recalls how he, Obasanjo restored life to country after years of military assault
- Campaign team says ex-VP will win at first ballot



**Buhari eulogises Jonathan at 65, says ex-president sacrificed personal ambition for his country**

SUNDAY  SINCE 1949  
**TRIBUNE**

SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER, 2022 NIGERIA'S MOST INFORMATIVE NEWSPAPER ₦250

**We are ready to clean errors in voters register —INEC**

- Explains why register contains irregularities
- UK supporting Nigeria to deliver credible elections —High Commissioner



**Again, Wike descends on Ayu**  
 • Says he can't allow PDP chair to lead Rivers campaign



**Gunmen kill 3 policemen in Enugu, 2 Ebubeagu operatives in Ebonyi**

**Tinubu, PDP in war of words over Delta State**

- PDP has pauperised state —Tinubu
- He is talking about Lagos where he is the government —PDP



**Cabal controlling leadership out to destroy Nigeria, Dogara declares**

THE PUNCH FRONT COVERS FROM 3RD OCTOBER, 2022 TO 9TH OCTOBER, 2022 (ONE WEEK OF PUBLICATION)

Consumers get N1.12tn bill, pay N775bn amid blackouts – Page 21



Debt servicing on Nigeria's Eurobonds rises by 86%

Page 21

Over 400 fleeing Kuje inmates still at large

Page 25

Scientist who extracted DNA from 40,000-yr-old bones wins Nobel Prize

Page 27



# The PUNCH

THE MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER

Campaign: Buhari, Tinubu, Shettima's wives receive appointment letters

Page 27



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022 VOL. 46 NO. 22,817 WWW.PUNCHNG.COM The Punch Newspapers @mobilepunch @punchnewspapers N200

## PDP crisis: BoT convenes emergency meeting to rescue Atiku's campaign

Page 2

- Party board meets this week as pressure mounts on PDP chairman to throw in the towel
- We can't go into polls divided, we'll make needed sacrifices to move forward – BoT member
- Wabara-led reconciliation panel meets Atiku ahead of Tuesday PH meeting with Wike

ABUJA



ABUJA



LAGOS



Fun seekers at the Magicland, Abuja and Johnson Johnson's Park, Lagos, Lagos during the Independence Day holidays, on Monday. Photos: Olatogbolu Ajayinde and Elliot Odetayo

Syndicate denies injecting child beggars, police hunt doctor

Pages 4 & 5

NDLEA busts billionaire drug baron, recovers mansions, seizes N8bn tramadol

Page 6



US flew Oyo hotelier killed by herdsmen home for burial – Family

Page 4

FG sues Meta over illegal ads, demands N30bn Page 21



NNPC grows profit to N67.4bn, assets hit N16tn Page 18

Three scientists win Nobel Prize for breakthrough in quantum physics Page 17

ASUU knocks Ngige over factional groups' registration Page 16

Senate approves 2023 expenditure, okays \$73/barrel oil price Page 20



Adams, govts meet to adjust Tinubu's campaign list Page 19

American, Danish scientists share 2022 Nobel Chemistry Prize Page 15

Teachers Day: NUT seeks better deal, knocks govts Page 14

The MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER

# The PUNCH

Abiodun welcomes Amusan with multi-million naira property, Ngige Page 13

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022 VOL. 45 NO. 22,820 WWW.PUNCHNG.COM

The MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER

# The PUNCH

Dangote, Kogi fight over validity of land acquisition Page 20

NGX lists Gergo Power, investors make 10% gain Page 18

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022 VOL. 45 NO. 22,820 WWW.PUNCHNG.COM

### N10bn nomination fee scandal

## Ayu chairs stormy meeting, orders NWC members' probe

- National deputy chair, five others may face disciplinary panel over N122m refund
- PDP chair should also be investigated over controversial housing allowance – NEC members
- Drama as BoT, Rivers gov meeting ends in deadlock, Ayu's aide tacks candidates' forum



NDA convocation: Osinbajo advocates local manufacture of arms, ammunition

### INEC governorship list

## Litigation kicks 14 APC, PDP, LP candidates out

- Parties face court cases in Ebonyi, Akwa-Ibom, Enugu, six others
- Commission okays Sunwo-Olu, Abiodun, Malinde, 834 others
- Senate confirms 19 RECs • Atiku, Okowa in Bauchi, receive defectors



Bandits release remaining 23 train hostages, families rejoice

Kanu mustn't die in detention, Ozoekwu writes Buhari Page 16

150 persons killed during Ikoyi prison attack – Witness Page 14

Hoodlums attack APC rally in Ibadan, injure supporters Page 17

Ebola deadlier than COVID-19, heighten surveillance, warn virologists Page 15

Lagos church dogs stray, bite passerby to death Page 18

Customs intercept ammunition, others worth over N600m Page 19

Budget: Reps justify N8.4tn borrowing, N6.3tn debt servicing Page 20



FG reviews rail security, Buhari meets freed hostages Page 16

Court rules on ASUU's appeal, out-of-court settlement fails Page 14

82-year-old French writer wins Nobel Prize in Literature Page 8



The MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER

# The PUNCH

CBN disburses over N2tn to 426 industries Page 19

Kogi claims Obajana plant ownership, Dangote, MAN kick Page 20

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022 VOL. 45 NO. 22,820 WWW.PUNCHNG.COM

The Punch Newspapers @mobilepunch @punchnewspapers N200

### PDP crisis

## Aggrieved govts report Atiku to BoT, list peace conditions

- Ex-VP reneged on post-primary promise to Wike, London deal – Source
- Wike moves against Atiku's ally, delists Omehia as ex-governor
- Atiku will shock Nigerians, win with seven million votes margin, Ayu boasts



Excitement as Tinubu returns from UK, prepares for campaigns

Ogun monarch allegedly blinds trader for dancing with queen Page 4, 5, 6

Ogun tanker chased by miscreants explodes, three killed, 12 vehicles burnt Page 4, 5, 6

Abuja petrol scarcity persists, FG blames Kogi flood Page 19



**N20.5TN BUDGET. NACCIMA, LCCI EXPERTS FAULT BUHARI'S BORROWING PLAN, SUBSIDY**

- Budget unhealthy for productive sector, targeted at upcoming polls - NACCIMA
- Executive adjusts 2023 MTEF/FSP passed by NASS, lawmakers kick
- NASS committees approving budgets for govt enterprises without my approval - Buhari

**Ogunsola emerges UNILAG first female VC** Page 8

**Atiku, Tinubu, Obi divide celebs** Page 10

**More randy fathers pounce on helpless daughters for sexual pleasure** Page 14 (P.14)

**Masqueraders carted away N550,000 after attack on Plateau church - Pastor** Page 9

**Kogi, Dangote fight dirty over Obajana cement plant** Page 7

**PDP BoT submits reconciliation panel report this week** Page 385  
 ...rules out Ayu's removal, wants Wike pacified

**Tragedy: 76 die as boat capsizes in Anambra** Page 7

**CONUA will ensure uninterrupted academic calendar in varsities - Coordinator** Page 4535  
 ...Withdraw CONUA, INADP's licenses, NLC writes Nige

**BUHARI, OSINBAJO TO SPEND N11.92BN ON FOOD, FOREIGN TRIPS** PAGE 3

- NASS members get N100bn for constituency projects, national carrier N1.3bn
- Varsity lecturers, others' salaries to gulp N299.8bn
- Experts want alternate funding plans, autonomy for varsities

**Multiple voting, rigging no longer possible, says INEC** Page 7

**PDP says Tinubu's candidacy illegal, APC faults claim** Page 10

**Why I resigned as Okowa's SSA to support Obi - Oshekwu** Page 37

**FG should persuade ASUU to call off strike** - Edoumiakumo Page 12613

**Buhari, PDP, Atiku, Secondus, mourn ex-party chair, Ogbulafor** Page 6

**Stigma, lack, other challenges worsen our predicament** - Spinal cord injury survivors Page 34

\*P.10 2023: Question candidates, US ambassador tells Nigerians \*P.14 Kogi, Dangote's row over Obajana cement plant deepens

THE NATIONFRONT COVERS FROM 14TH NOVEMBER 2022 TO 20TH NOVEMBER 2022 (ONE WEEK OF PUBLICATION)



**Row in Labour Party over Obi's alleged trade-off in Rivers, Benue**

● He didn't buy farm for me, Rivers guber candidate declares



**IMF asks CBN to allow banks control dollar rates**

● Seeks fuel subsidy removal, address of oil theft  
● Advocates 15% VAT by 2027, NNPC audit



# THE NATION

www.thenationonline.ng

Vol. 814, No. 5954

TRUTH IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM

**SATURDAY**

NOVEMBER 19, 2022

N250.00

# 2023: INEC UNVEILS PLAN FOR PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF

- Says 187 million ballot papers printed; poll won't be shifted
- BVAS, IReV retained; eligible voters to collect PVCs soon
- Forensic Institute to support commission in electoral fraud deterrence

Page 4



**AKEREDOLU INAUGURATES ICONIC OLAIYA FLYOVER IN OSOGBO**  
child of necessity to forestall needless road mishaps, raise bar of infrastructure - Oyetola

● Olaiya Flyover, (front) third from left: Osun State Governor, Gboyega Oyetola; Ondo State Governor, Anasirin Oluwarandiri Akereolu, while inaugurating the Olaiya Flyover, in Osogbo, on Thursday



**Army paid N150,000 for killing my child, claims mother of lady shot by soldier in PH**

Page 2

**Man sets wife ablaze for delaying breakfast**

Page 2



**BUHARI LAUDS WIKE, COMMISSIONS PORT HARCOURT LAW SCHOOL COMPLEX**

● Orders RMFAC to enforce increased salaries for judicial officers

Representatives of President Muhammadu Buhari, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN (3rd right), Osun State Governor, Gboyega Oyetola (2nd left), Vice, Justice (Special) Babatola Fajana-Wilife (1st right), Chairman, Council of Legal Education, Chief Nwagwu Nwagwu, SAN (1st left), Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary, Justice, Rights and Legal Matters, Senator Michael Garba (2nd left), and Chairman, Body of Senators, Chief Wike Oluwalanmi, SAN, (2nd left) at the inauguration of the Dr. Nafis Graham Oluwalanmi Campus of the Nigerian Law School, Port Harcourt yesterday.

**Tinubu to PDP: Delta not ATM for migratory politicians**  
 Promises to clean up Niger Delta as campaign flag of

**UN unveils \$10.5m new funding for flood response in Nigeria**

**IG blames violence, tension on governors**  
 "Don't buy with Unadorned"

**Tinubu to make Southeast industrial hub**  
 "Don't buy with Unadorned"

**Zenith Tech Fair 2.0 attracts global brand leaders**  
 Why we dropped N20b case against gov't, by Kanu's lawyer

**THE NATION**  
 VOL. 13, NO. 5950 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 TRUTH IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023 N250.00

**Rivers, G5 govs won't work for Atiku, Wike declares**

- Corruption allegation: Sue me if I'm lying, gov dares Ayu
- Says Atiku plans to move against Oronsaye, Ligiwari, Mikeinde, others as president
- Challenges Oronsaye, Udoori, Del to account for 1.3m demotion arrears paid by Buhari
- Next president should come from South, says Oronsaye



**2023 Race to Government House (3)**

**THE NATION**  
 VOL. 13, NO. 5950 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 TRUTH IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023 N250.00

**First Lady, governors' wives rally for Tinubu, Shettima in Ilorin**



**Security chiefs: Wike attacks Atiku for criticising Buhari**

- Rivers governor vows to remain in PDP, fight vultures, scavengers
- Obi outlines plans



Nigeria faces debt servicing challenges, DMG warns

**D**ebt servicing challenges are a major concern for the government, the Director of the Ministry of Finance, Dr. Martins Oshinubi, has warned. He said the government is currently struggling to service its external debt, and this could have a negative impact on the country's economic growth. He called for a review of the government's debt strategy to ensure it is sustainable and does not burden future generations.

Abiodun takes N17.25b Budget 2023 to Ogun Assembly

**World Bank okays \$13.5m financing plan for Nigeria** Page 2

**Buhari approves N134.7 billion for military veterans** Page 6

• Tribunal compels INEC to release Adeleke's certificates Page 7

• UK gov't launches \$100m scheme to lift women Page 9

**THE NATION**  
 VOL. 13, NO. 5950 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023 TRUTH IN DEFENCE OF FREEDOM N200.00

• DRUNK SOLDIER KILLS GENERAL IN LAGOS • UK URGED TO INTERVENE IN KANU'S TRIAL

**Tinubu: I'm not seeking office on religious grounds**

- APC presidential candidate meets CAN
- Christian body presents charter of demands

**A**LL Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate Tinubu, yesterday announced the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) that he will not run his administration on the basis of religious or ethnic lines.

Tinubu, who met with

From Oluwalana Oluwalana, APC

the CAN leadership in Abuja, Tinubu said his administration did not discriminate against anyone, neither based on religion or gender when he was Lagos state governor.

He said as president, he would not depart from his previous position.

He was accompanied to the session by his wife and the National Chairman of the God (GOC) pastor, Senator Oluwalana Oluwalana, including other members of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) leadership.

Other members of the CAN leadership who accompanied Tinubu to the session include the National Secretary, Mrs. Tinsuke Williams; Senator Kulu; Mrs. Tinsuke; Ashaga Tinsuke; Sen. Oluwalana; and Oluwalana Oluwalana.

They include state police or a decentralised police system, decentralisation of general services, equal rights for all religious and ethnic groups, right to self-determination by ethnic groups, right to control natural resources by communities that bear them, anti-corruption, and equitable electoral system that guarantees the right to vote and be

voiced for by all.

Tinubu said: "My belief is that we need to see the government and faith-based organisations to work in unison in our something adopted recently to benefit my country."

As governor of Lagos, I partnered with the Christian Church to improve lives and

Continued on Page 4



• From left: Apostle Rufus Sarunka, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Assistant General Secretary, Mrs. Tinsuke Williams; Senator Kulu; Mrs. Tinsuke; Ashaga Tinsuke; Sen. Oluwalana; and Oluwalana Oluwalana

**Fed Govt insists on no-work, no-pay for ASUU members**

**T**HE Federal Government yesterday insisted on no-work, no-pay for members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).

Minister of Education, Martins Adenuga Adenuga, yesterday after the week's Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, said the government has paid the teachers what was due to them.

"I think that is the position of the government. That is not going to pay anyone for work not done and they only do the things of days that they would do."

Continued on Page 5



**Rivers won't vote for president along party lines, says Wike**

**P**ARTY affiliations other than party or religious will not determine the February 25, 2023 presidential election in Rivers State, Governor Wike said yesterday.

He also urged equity, justice and fairness in the run-up to the election between the leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the

• SECURITY OPERATIVES TAKE OVER EKITI ASSEMBLY • COURT REJECTS MAINA'S BAIL APPLICATION

## REFERENCES

1. Akpobo, O. (2012) Impact of advertising on sales performance. AP Akpobo journal of African studies (1)1-91
2. Albert, P (2011), Consequences of misused languages in communication. Journal of newspaper researches Nebreska Vol. 3 (6) pp 34-56
3. Cottle, B. (1995) The plight of English ,new Rochelle, New York Arlington house
4. Dixon R. MR M.W (2001) Demonstratives, a cross-linguistic typology int studies in language 27: 61-112
5. Eyisi, J. (2003) A compendium of common errors in the use of English: An Encyclopedia of grammaticality and acceptability of English language expression. Nino:Rex Charles and Patrik K.
6. Jacobs R.A (1995) English Syntax: A grammar for English languageprofessionals: Oxford: Oxford University press
7. Ifecheobi, J. (2007) Language use and mass media: A focus on selected Nigerian newspaper in Ogbazilfeyinwa & Ezenwa Ngozi Ike, Ndubisi, Applied linguistics Dwagwalada, Abuja: Wilbest educational publishers
8. Longman P. & Omoniyi, T. (2004). 'The acquisition and the use of English as a second language in Nigeria Master, P. (1990). Teaching the English articles as a binary system. TESOL Quarterly,24(3), 461-478. Master, P. (1997). The English article system: Acquisition, function, and pedagogy system, 25,215-223
9. Nelson, E, (2004) Writings of Newspapers in Nigeria. Journal of English language and applications. Vol 3 (4) pp 23 - .
10. Njoku, K. (2001) Misuse of English article in selected Nigerian Newspaper. An unpublished M.A Dissertation. Department of English and Literature, UNIZIK. Awka.
11. Olumuyiwa A. (1988) African print media and misuse of the English definite article "The" A content analysis of seven Nigerian newspapers. Wikioedia <https://yo m, wikipedia>
12. Philips, S. D. (2009) Understanding the problems of newspapering in Nigeria. Katsina: Murtala Murtala Printing press
13. Shanklin, S Wilkinson (2010) The Misuse of English Language by journalists. Lagos: Brothers and Sisters Printing Press.