

CONFERENCE REPORTS

7th Annual Conference of the Linguistics Association of Ghana

The seventh annual conference of the Linguistics Association of Ghana was held from the 28th through the 30th of July, 2014, at the University of Professional Studies, Accra. The theme for the conference was **Harnessing Linguistic Resources for Effective Academic and Professional Practice**. The Conference was opened by Mr. Godwin Adagawine representing the Vice-Chancellor of UPSA, Prof. Joshua Alabi, and the Keynote Address was delivered by Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Fifty-two papers were presented. Over 70 participants came from Togo, the Netherlands and Nigeria and the United Kingdom as well as eight Ghanaian universities.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 28th July, and a new executive was elected for a two-year term, as follows:

President: Dr. Charles Marfo (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology)

Vice-President: Dr. Jemima Anderson (University of Ghana)

Secretary: Dr. Gladys Ansah (University of Ghana)

Organizing Secretary: Regina O. Caesar (University of Education Winneba)

Treasurer: Juliet Oppong (University of Cape Coast)

The next conference will be held in 2015 at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.

A. S. Issah and M. E. Kropp Dakubu.

45th Annual Conference on African Linguistics

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, hosted the 45th Annual Conference on African Linguistics. The conference, under the theme: **Africa's Endangered Languages: Documentary and Theoretical Approaches** took place from April 17 to 19, 2014.

The conference brought together delegates from Algeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom, Brazil, Canada and United States of America. There were Ghanaian participants from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Education at Winneba and the University of Ghana. There were a total of 165 participants, from 67 institutions. Twenty-four African universities were represented.

Up to 131 papers were presented during the conference. The presentations covered Phonetics and Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Language Loss, Language Shift and Maintenance, Endangered Languages in Africa, as well as Language Documentation, Language Revitalization, Language Policy, Corpus Linguistics, Language Acquisition, Educational Linguistics, Language and Culture, Information Structure, Typology, Language Classification, and Purgative Urban Youth Language. There were also workshops and poster presentations.

The opening remarks were delivered by Sara Thomas Rosen, Senior Vice Provost. There were seven plenary talk sessions. Kofi Agyekum, of the department of Linguistics, University of Ghana, participated as one of the keynote speakers.

The First Plenary talk was delivered by Malte Zimmerman of Potsdam University on the topic “Universal and Existential Quantifiers in Chadic and Beyond”. The Second Plenary talk was presented by Prof. Kofi Agyekum, of University of Ghana on the topic “Decolonising Linguistic Imperialism in Africa through Documentation and Preservation”. The third was by Chris Collins of the New York University on “The Linker in the Khoisan Languages”, and the fourth was delivered by Bonny Sands of Northern Arizona University on the topic “The Challenge (s) of Documenting Africa’s Least Known Languages”.

The fifth plenary talk was delivered by Ruth Kramer of Georgetown University on the topic: “The Morphology and Syntax of Gender”, and the sixth was delivered by Michael R. Marlo of University of Missouri on “The Exceptional Properties of the 1st SG and Reflexive Object Markers in Bantu: Syntax, Phonology, or Both?”. The final plenary talk was presented by Carlos M. Nash of University of Kansas, on the topic “Working with the Abagusil of Kenya: Applying and ‘Empowering’ Research Model in Linguistic Fieldwork”.

Kofi Agyekum.

