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Editorial Policy

Lagos Notes and Records is an annual, interdisciplinary journal of the humanities. It is devoted to the publication of well-researched articles in all the subjects in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Law. In addition to original articles, the journal publishes reviewed articles/books, brief accounts of work in progress, notes and comments on issues arising out of recent publications.

EDITORIAL

This current Volume 23 Issue of *Lagos Notes and Records* contains contributions that may be described as cross-disciplinary within the larger field of the humanities. It presents theoretical and research-driven contributions from established and upcoming scholars and researchers including doctoral students whose manuscripts were adjudged publishable after a peer review process. Significantly, the inclusion of a contribution from National Space University, Ukraine further lends credence to the international reputation that the Journal has earned for itself over the years.

In Nwagbo's paper titled "First language lexical attrition: the case of the Igbo in Lagos", the author observes that the non-use of a language or parts of it, over time results in attrition that is, deficient performance in that language. The study focuses on attrition in Igbo with a view to delineating the degree, nature and factors responsible for attrition in Igbo in the context of experts in the language. Paradis' Activation Threshold Hypothesis was adopted as guide and 30 participants comprising undergraduates, post-graduate students and lecturers in the Igbo language unit of the Department of Linguistics in the University of Lagos were purposively sampled. The sample population was within the ages of 25-45 and were interviewed with the aid of a 30-word list comprising foodstuffs, household, greeting, nominal labels and grammatical items. The result reveals that the 30 words were at different stages of attrition, onset, medial and critical stages. The participants used mainly English equivalents of the words, and in few cases Yoruba. The Igbo words that were easily recalled (EWR) represent 46.67%, the words that were difficult to recall (OWR) represent 23.33%, while the words that were

impossible to recall (BWR) represent 30.00% of the total. The attrition affected the performance of the participants and not their competence, as they attested to knowing the traditional Igbo words upon the revelation of the researcher. The factor responsible for attrition was mainly the infrequent use of Igbo and the more frequent use of English. It is deemed paramount for Igbo to use their traditional words irrespective of locale for the purpose of preventing language loss and projecting the Igbo identity.

Abdul Sunokpera in his work explores the application of Discourse Space Theory and Conceptual Metaphor to the Inaugural speech of Muhammadu Buhari. Using these two theoretical models, he describes how political actors use language in both its literal and literary senses to shape discourse and by extension reconstitute certain values among the citizenry. The paper focuses on how political actors draw on certain rhetorical devices to manipulate and convince the citizenry about their dedication and commitment to serve them.

Anowu's paper on legal discourse focuses on the use of interrogative acts in election petition tribunals in Nigeria. He asserts that interrogatives are critical means of communication in the question and answer adjacency pair that generally characterizes discourse in courtroom interactions. Essentially, counsel deploys questions in order to probe into the facts of a case. Speech Act Theory as an effective means of communicating speaker's intention provides a clear basis for analyzing the import of questions in law courts. Using the proceedings of the election petition tribunals on the 2007 gubernatorial election in Osun State, south-western Nigeria, as data base, it was discovered that interrogative acts communicate six different intentional meanings. The enactment of these acts in the tribunals not only goes a long way in engendering the negotiation of meaning but also facilitates the accomplishment of the institutional goals of the legal system in Nigeria.

Ademola-Adeoye and Ayodeji Adedara examine the various rhetorical devices and sentence structures used in the inaugural species of the first and current governors of Lagos State, Nigeria,

with a view to comparing and contrasting the rhetorical styles of a military regime and that of a civilian. The findings of these Scholars indicate that more pronounced and deliberate usage of solidarity pronominalisation in the civilian governor's speech, in addition to more extensive use of a broad range of rhetorical devices therein. Moreover, the military inaugural is much shorter than the civilian one. This is perhaps in keeping with the more discursive character of democratic governments, where much of the politicking is achieved via apparently monologic and dialogic talk. It is therefore suggested that more scholarship needs to be undertaken on the discursive character of the world's new democracies.

Olusegun-Joseph writes on the responses of postcolonial travel narratives to the marginalising tendency of colonialist travel writing, which among other things, depicts colonial outposts as exotic sites of European discovery, cultivation and re-orientation. He examines how North African travel writing has interrogated this colonialist practice as an Afro-Arab/Afro-Oriental reaction. Engaging Tayeb Salih's *Season of Migration to the North* with an insight from Edward Said's *Orientalism*, this paper argues that the North African travel text has benefited immensely from the Oriental body of folklore, the *Arabian Nights*, to reflect the Afrabian (Afro-Arab) difference of the North African travel narrative in African literature. Thus, among other imaginative traditions that might have informed what could be identified as the North African post-Orientalist stance in travel writing, the *Arabian Nights* has been an invaluable resource. Along this line, the paper advances that 'The Story of Sindbad the Sailor' has helped to project the post-Orientalist strategies and challenges of the North African travel text as highlighted in Salih's *Season of Migration to the North*, and has also aided in crystallising the depiction of North African experiences in the global politics of migration, exile and multicultural belonging.

Ogunbayo identifies mythical patterns which foreground humanistic issues in the works of new generation of Nigerian poets other than that of the older generation such as Christopher Okigbo, Wole Soyinka and Tanure Ojaide. Specifically, in Isidore Diala's *The Lure of Ash*, the paper observes a resurgence of sublime verses which

handle serious matters, using the archetype of "Ash". The study sees "ash" as Diala's mythic tool of deciphering the stages of growth of individual and institution. Using post-Jungian idea of Lawrence Alschuler which perceives the human society as going through individuation process, this paper examines how Diala perpetually interrogates existential experiences like dictatorship, power mongering, social restiveness, love, political violence, civil unrest, religious alienation, illusion, death and rebirth. Diala balances his poetic vision by using "ash" to mythically capture causes and effects, actions and inactions and varying national concerns. He submits that from a Post-Jungian reading of Diala that the poet envisions the growth of his society as passing through tripartite phases of self-immolation, self-assertion and self-assessment. These stages are pivotal in understanding the protean nature of humanity from the mythical viewpoint.

Rhizhkova examines and discusses the concept of intertextuality in Russian discursive texts. He argues that the concept of intertextuality is relevant to virtually all types of text even as intertextuality of an artistic text can be considered as the basic procedure for the process of integration of classical, non-classical and postmodern scientific paradigms. The article examines approaches to the study of intertextuality, the interpretation and realization of this concept, its linguistic nature and the tendencies for its self-organization.

Falaju and Ajikobi discuss personal pronouns class in Russian and Yorùbá languages. They argue that these pronouns are characteristically heterogeneous in nature, particularly when compared with other grammatical categories. Since pronouns are words used to refer to nouns, most pronouns are pro-forms for noun phrases. This paper analyses the class, usage, structure and meaning of the personal pronouns in the Russian and Yorùbá languages. It employs a descriptive approach in bringing to light the similarities and differences present in the personal pronouns of the two languages. It argues that a proper understanding of the personal pronouns of each language is key to understanding the language and the culture of the two people since elements of culture are embedded in the personal pronouns. They conclude that denotative meaning is

the primary role of personal pronouns in a given proposition, while connotative meaning is seen as the secondary role.

Ajiola and Olusola in their paper observe that one major problem facing contemporary African humanity is closely associated with careless exploitation of nature for modernity. The paper historically examines the changing trends of urbanity in relation to environmental sustainability. It posits that rapid de-agrarianization, frequent drought and other related environmental problems facing people in African cities has generated enormous vulnerabilities for the African environment.

Ogunjewe submits that though the colonial heritage of the nation Nigeria has had tremendous impact on the struggles for nationhood, some of these challenges should have been adequately addressed in the more than fifty-seven years of its independence. These struggles which range from sovereignty, to geography, to identity and the struggle for power and resources among others should have been reduced drastically by successive administrations since independence. This paper presents unity and cohesion as a fundamental requirement as well as an integral part of nation building and nationhood. Indeed, the unity of a (any) nation despite her heterogeneity and diversity is a critical underlying principle and foundation for a lasting and progressive journey into nationhood. It undertakes a historical examination and analysis of the colonial legacies in the various aspects of Nigerians lives and as well as the efforts and strategies engaged or adopted by the various governments and leaders to extricate the colonial legacy challenge from the nation's desperate march into nationhood. It analyses the Legacies of Identity and Geography, Political, Domestic, Military, Socio-Cultural, Economic and Commonwealth Legacy while analysing the limitations and hurdles in the process of the transforming the different components of the nation into a formidable, cohesive and progressive entity where every citizen will be proud of the corporate identity.

Nweke examines the role of music in worship. The study finds out what goes on in people's minds when they are engaging in worship using music. It highlights different things that goes on in the mind of

worshippers while engaging in worship using music. The study also reveals that when music is properly used in worship, one is inspired; such inspiration is displayed through one's emotions (positive) such as joy, happiness and excitement, this thereby creates a better individual resulting in a better society.

Asodun in his paper submits that there is ample evidence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) research indicating that appropriately programmed machines are capable of performing functions that require intelligence when performed by humans. However, there is no correlative record that any such machine has been able to pass the Turing Test (TT); an intelligence test purposely designed by Alan Turing to actualise his objective of justifying machine intelligence. On the ground of this paradox, critics of the TT consider it as an exercise in waste. This paper interrogates this conclusion, and avers that it is the same condemned TT that lays the foundation for the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Such a dignified feat questions the labelling of the TT as being wasteful. To put this discourse in its proper perspective, the paper presents the TT as an attempt to showcase how machine can be designed to engage in communication and information processing in such manner not distinguishable from how humans perform similar functions. History, as reflected in the paper, pinpoints to the fact that the desire to actualise the TT's objectives ignited AI researchers to successfully design what are known today as Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Indeed, the role of these technologies, as catalytic to human development, is quite revolutionary. The paper therefore argues that we should look beyond the TT controversy and navigate our attention towards the Test's magnanimous contribution to ICT-based modern world digital transformation.

This collection of essays on a wide range of subjects such as language attrition, legal discourse, poetry, intertextuality in Russian texts, economic history, philosophy among others demonstrate the growing body of research and literature interrogating contemporary issues in modern society. It is also very interesting to note the growing inter-institutional and inter-(intra) disciplinary

collaborations in some of the essays. It is anticipated that this volume will push the frontiers of research and open a new vista of intellectually and socially-relevant research works in these and other areas of humanistic disciplines.

Muyiwa Falaiye, PhD
 Professor of Philosophy
 Editor-in-Chief

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A Comparative Study of Personal Pronouns in Russian And Yorùbá Languages

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Abstract

Personal Pronouns class in Russian and Yorùbá languages are characteristically heterogeneous in nature, particularly when compared with other grammatical categories. Since pronouns are words used to refer to nouns, most pronouns are pro-forms for noun phrases. This paper aims to analyse the class, usage, structure and meaning of the personal pronouns in the Russian and Yorùbá languages. The paper employs descriptive approach in bringing to light the similarities and differences present in the personal pronouns of the two languages. It argues that a proper understanding of the personal pronouns of each language is key to understanding the language and the culture of the two people since elements of culture are embedded in the personal pronouns. We conclude that denotative meaning is the primary role of personal pronouns in a given proposition, while connotative meaning is seen as the secondary role.

Keywords: *Russian, Yorùbá, Personal Pronoun, Similarities, Differences, Culture.*

Анотация

Группа Личных местоимении в русском, китайском и на языке йоруби характерно разнородна по свойстве особенно, когда мы их сравниваем с другими грамматическими категориями. Поскольку местоименя слова использовавшие относиться к

существительным и большинство местоимений заменители для именной группы. В статье пытаемся анализировать группу, употребление, структуру и значение личных местоимений в русском и на языке йоруба. В данной статье употребляется описательный подход выявить сходства, различия и возможные причины разногласий существующие в личных местоимениях трех языков. В статье мы развивали мысль о том, что совершенное осмысление каждого языка ключ к разгадке понимания языка и культуры русских, китайцев и народа йоруба поскольку признаки культуры вставили в личные местоимения. Мы пришли к выводу о том, что денотативное значение является основной ролью личных местоимений в данном предложении, тогда как коннотативное значение является ролью второго плана.

Ключевые слова: Русский язык, язык народа йоруба, китайский язык, личные местоимения, сходства, различия, культура.

1.0 Introduction

Language is an exclusive human property that has been described as an effective and veritable means of communication based on words or a combination of words to form sentences. In classical view, the term pronouns, Latin *pronomina* means 'in place of nouns'. However, in a contemporary sense, it has been described as a term used in the grammatical classification of words, referring to the closed set of items that can be used to refer to noun phrases or single nouns, typically referring to people and things already known (Yule 2006, Crystal 2008, Nordquist 2010, Schmidhauser, 2010). The pronoun class is one of the peculiar functional categories that exist in all natural languages. As a functional category, it is particularly used in the Russian and Yorùbá languages to enhance effective communications among speakers.

In spite of the ubiquitousness of pronouns in each language of the world, the pronouns class, usage and form possess their own peculiarity and uniqueness thus; the importance of pronouns cannot be over-emphasised. The linguistic problem of description of the meaning (denotative and connotative) of personal pronouns is one of

the intractable problems of linguistics because of its complexity and contradictory nature of the object of description. This paper is structured as follows: Section 1 introduces the paper, Section 2 discusses the Russian and Yorùbá languages with their speakers, Section 3 contains the personal pronouns in languages of study, Section 4 examines personal pronouns usage in the understudied languages, Section 5 addresses the findings and 6 is the conclusion.

2.0 Languages Under Study

2.1 The Russian Language and its Speakers

The Russian language belongs to the Indo-European group of languages. It is an East Slavic language and the official language in Russia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan. Russian is the largest native language in Europe with a population of 144 million native speakers in Russia, Belarus, parts of Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan (Арефьев 2006). Apart from this, Russian is one of the working languages of the United Nations' Organization (UN), alongside Chinese, French, English, Arabic and Spanish. It is the unofficial but widely spoken language in Ukraine, Moldova, Estonia, Latvia and other 15 countries that constituted the former Soviet Union. The Russian language consists of various dialects. However, the Russian literary language evolved from the Moscow dialect after Moscow became the official capital of the Russian State in the 14th century (Pulkina 1984).

2.2 Yorùbá Language and its Speakers

Yorùbá is one of the Kwa languages, and is, a subgroup of the Niger-Congo family. It is one of the three major languages in Nigeria, the others being Hausa and Igbo. The Yorùbá dialect continuum consists of several dialects that are mostly mutually intelligible. The standard variety of the language, cuts across all the dialects and knits the Yorùbá people together. It is taught in schools, and used in the media and other administrative domains. It is also avidly studied in Europe and America not only for intrinsic linguistic purposes but also for social reasons among people of African-American heritage in the United States (Yusuf 2011). Traces of the Yorùbá language also remain in the oral literature of Yorùbá descendants now domiciled in Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago as well as parts of the West Indies

(Yusuff 2014). The Yorùbá language is spoken by around thirty million (30,000,000) people in Nigeria as a first language. The number rises to thirty two million (32,000,000) if second language speakers are included (Oyebade 2011:1-2).

3.0 Personal Pronouns In The Two Languages

3.1 Russian Personal Pronouns

Russian personal pronouns are presented on the table below:

Russian Personal Pronouns		
	Singular	Plural
First person	Я - I	Мы - We
Second Person	Ты - You Вы - You (polite)	Вы - You
Third Person	Он - He (masculine) Она -She (feminine)	Они - They

Table 1: Russian Personal Pronouns

In Russian personal pronouns, gender is reflected and their form change according to cases. Six (6) different cases are marked in Russian grammar, these are; nominative, genitive, accusative, dative, instrumental and prepositional. Below is a table indicating the changes the personal pronouns undergo when they appear in different cases.

Nominative Case	Genitive Case	Accusative Case	Dative Case	Instrumental Case	Prepositional Case
Я (I)	(У) Меня - I have	Меня - ту /me	Мне - I /me	(Со) мной- (with) me	(Обо) мне- About me
Ты (you)	(У) Тебя - You have	Тебя- you	Тебе- you	(С) тобой- (with) you	(О)Тебе - about you

Он (He)	(У) него -He has	Его - (на него) - He/him	Ему (к нему) - He/him	(С) ним - with him	(о)нем- about him
Она (she)	(У) Ее - She has	Её - She /her	Ей- She/h er	(С)Ней- with her	(о)Ней- about her
Мы (We)	(У) нас - We have	нас - we/us	нам- we/u s	(С) Наму - with us	(о)нас- about us
Вы (You)- Polite /official usage	(У) Вас - You have	Вас - polite/of ficial - you	Вам polite /official	(С)Вами- with you	(о)Вас- about you
Они (They)	(У) Их - They have	Их - they /them	Им	(С)Ими -with them	(о)Их- about them

Table 2: Russian Personal Pronouns in Cases

3.2 Yorùbá Personal Pronouns

Pronouns have been widely analysed in Yorùbá studies (Bamgbose 1967; 1990, Jeje 1979, Adesuyan 2003, Yusuff 2006, Awobuluyi 2008; 2013). In the Yorùbá pedagogical literature, there are two views which are adopted by most scholars on the classification of Yorùbá pronouns. The first classifies Yorùbá pronouns into two broad groups: long (emphatic) and short (unemphatic) categories (Awobuluyi, 1978). The second view is evident in the works of Bamgbose (1967, 1980 & 1990), where the short pronoun is seen as the *true* pronoun and the long pronouns, are classified as *pronominals*. In Bamgbose's view, the *pronominals* are not pronouns at all but grammatical nouns. Furthermore Awobuluyi insist that pronouns are types of nouns (Awobuluyi 1978, 2013).

The focus of this paper is on the form classified as short/true pronouns. Table 4 shows the grammatical distribution of personal pronouns in the Yorùbá language:

PERSON	NOMINATIVE		GENITIVE		ACCUSSATIVE	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 st	mo	a	mi	wa	mi/(mi)	wa(wá)
2 nd	o	ẹ	È/rẹ	yín	È/ọ (ẹ/ọ)	yín
3 rd	ó	wọ̀n	ẹ̀	wọ̀n		

Takes the form of wọ̀n
the last segment of the preceding verb (wọ̀n)

Table 3: Yorùbá Personal Pronouns

Yorùbá shows distinctions in grammatical persons (1st, 2nd 3rd), number (singular and plural), as well as subject and object distinctions in the use of personal pronouns. Awobuluyi (2001) argues that the third person singular pronoun *ó* (which is usually glossed as *he, she, or it*) is not the actual form of the pronoun but, it is *un*. According to Akintoye (2012), the same element (*ó*) has been differently named in the literature and some of such descriptions include as, *preverb, subject concord marker (SCM), inflection tone, inflection, and agree*. Never-the-less, *ó* is still widely referred to in the standard Yorùbá literature as the third person singular pronoun till date.

4.0 Usage of Personal Pronouns in the Languages

Pronouns are used when it is clear who or what is being talked about (Leech, Cruickshant and Ivanic 2001: 387). Personal pronouns can refer to person: 1st person, 2nd person and 3rd person in the two languages under study. In any communicative situation, the first person is simply the speaker whereas the listener is the second person. Any other person or thing mentioned is the third person in such linguistic interaction. For instance, in the given construction in example 1, construction (a-b) is referring to the speaker, (c-d) to the listener and (e-f) to another entity different from the speaker and the listener.

(Nominative case)

1. Russian	Yorùbá
a. Я студент	Mo jẹ akẹkọ́.
I student be 1sg	1sg be student
I am a student	I am a student (First person)
b. Я купил книгу	Mo ra iwé.
be 1sg	1sg buy-PST book
I bought a book.	I bought a book.(First person)
c. Ты студент	O jẹ akẹkọ́
student be 2sg	2sg be student
You are a student	You are a student (Second person)
d. Ты купил книгу	O ra iwé.
2sg buy -PST book	2sg buy-PST book
You bought a book.	You bought a book(Second person)
e. Он студент	Ó jẹ akẹkọ́.
Она студентка	3sg be student
student be 3sg	3sg be student
He is a student	/She is a student
	He /She is a student (Third person)
f. Он купил книгу	Ó ra iwé.
Она купила книгу	Ó ra iwé
3sg buy- PST book	3sg buy-PST book
He bought a book	S/He bought a book. (Third person)
She bought a book	

In the two languages, pronouns have both singular and plural forms which are basic in both Russian and Yorùbá for the three syntactic persons i.e., first, second and third persons. Examples are given in 2-3 below:

2.	Singular	Plural
	Russian	
a.	Я студент 1sg. be student I am a student.	Мы студенты 1pl. be student We are students.
b.	Мы студенты 2sg. be student We are students	А же akẹkọ́. 2pl. be student We are students.
c.	Он студент 3sg. be student He is a student	Они студенты 3pl. be student They are students.

3.	Singular	Plural
	Yorùbá	
a.	Mo jẹ akẹkọ́ 1sg. be student I am a student.	A jẹ akẹkọ́. 1pl. be student We are students.
b.	O jẹ akẹkọ́. 2sg. be student You are a student	E jẹ akẹkọ́. 2pl. be student You are students.
c.	Ó jẹ akẹkọ́. 3sg. be student S/He is a student.	Wọ́n jẹ akẹkọ́. 3pl. be student They are students.

In both Russian and Yorùbá, the first person plural pronoun *мы* and *a* have a single form that can either refer to the speaker, other people associated with the speaker, and to the addressee or excluding the addressee.

The studied languages have honorific/polite personal form for second person singular and plural pronoun. Same forms are used for both written and oral conversations in the two languages unlike some other languages (such as Chinese) where written form differs from oral form. In Russian, the honorific is also the 1st person singular as

well as the 2nd person plural form *вы* 'you', while Yorùbá uses *ẹ* and *wọ́n*¹ 'you' as the case may be. For instance, in example 4a, a younger fellow is inquiring from an elder in Yorùbá setting if he has seen someone (older than the speaker) while 4b is a negative construction informing us that an act of going was not done by an elder/senior fellow to the speaker.

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 4. | Yorùbá |
| (a) | Şé ẹ ti ri wọ́n?
QM 2sg(hon) PERF see 3sg(hon)
Have you seen him/her? |
| (b) | Wọ́n kò lọ.
3sg (hon) NEG go
S/he did not go. |

If the interactions were to be devoid of honour/respect, it would have been rendered as in examples 5.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5. | Yorùbá |
| (a) | Şé o ti ri i?
QM 2sg PERF see 3sg
Have you seen him/her? |
| (b) | Kò lọ.
2sg-NEG go
S/he did not go. |

Zero morpheme (null entity) is used for 3sg pronoun that is not honorific in a negative construction. That accounts for its covert representation in example 5b.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 6. | Russian |
| a | Вы уже его/её видели ?
QM 2sg(hon) PERF see 3sg(hon)
Have you seen him/her? |

In the same manner just like the examples cited above in Yoruba, if the interactions were to have taken place in an unofficial settings and devoid of honour/respect, it would have been rendered in Russian as in example 6 (b)

- | | |
|-----|---|
| (b) | Ты уже его/её (informal)
QM 2sg PERF see 3sg. |
|-----|---|

¹ It must be noted that *ẹ* and *wọ́n* (*wọ́n* + *ó* = *wọ́n*) have dual purposes. They serve as both honorific and 2pl and 3pl markers respectively in Yorùbá. This contrast is mostly cleared through context.

One of the peculiarities of the Russian personal pronoun Я 'I' is its usage in some clauses like request construction. The personal pronoun Я 'I' is never used in sentences indicating appreciation, request or apology by the speaker in Russian although when translated into English the personal pronoun is present. For example:-

7. (a) *Благодарю вас.*
'I thank you.'
- (b) *Прошу вас понять меня правильно.*
'I appeal to you to understand me correctly.'

Personal Pronoun Forms in Object Position (Accusative Case)

Pronouns are distinguished in terms of grammatical roles in the two languages. The form of pronoun in an accusative case is different from its form in the nominative or any other case as evident in 8.

8. Yorùbá	Russian	Gloss
(i) Òbé nà mí.	Обей меня побил	Obe beat me.
(ii) Adé fún wa.	Аде нам дал	Adé gave us.'
(iii) Olú n wá ẹ.	Олу тебя ищет	Olu is looking for you.
(iv) Bólá n pè yín.	Бола вас вызовет	Bola is calling you.
(v) Àdísá rà á.	Адиса её купил	Adisa bought it.'
(vi) Olùkó pè wón.	Учитель их позвал	The teacher called them.

It is observed that there is a contrast in the forms of these pronouns in Yorùbá such that the pronoun takes the form of a mid-tone if preceded by a high tone syllable verb and takes the high tone form when it follows a low or mid tone syllable verb.

Personal Pronoun Forms in Qualifier Position

Since gender is reflected in the usage of personal pronouns in Russian and the form of personal pronouns changes according to cases. Below are the different forms personal pronouns take according to cases.

In both Russian and Yorùbá languages, pronouns are also distinguished for nominative case (to qualify nouns in subject positions in constructions) as evident in example 9 below.

9. Yorùbá	Russian	Gloss
(i) Aṣọ mí rẹwà.	Моё платье красиво	My clothe is beautiful.
(ii) Aṣọ wa rẹwà.	Наше платье красиво	Our clothe is beautiful.
(iii) Ilé rẹ/ẹ tóbi.	Твой дом большой	Your house is big.
(iv) Ilé yín tóbi.	Ваш дом большой	Your house is big.
(v) Ife rẹ/ẹ fọ.	Твоя чашка сломалась	His cup is broken.
(vi) Ife wón fọ.	Их чашки сломались	Their cup is broken.

Personal Pronoun Forms in Genitive Case in Russia

The genitive case in Russian is used in answer to the question *кого/чего, какого, какой* which is translated into English to- mean whom/what, of whom/what. The genitive case in Russian also used in negative constructions. The usage of Russian personal pronouns in the genitive case is portrayed in example 10

10.	Russian	Gloss
(i)	Я жду тебя	I am waiting for you
(ii)	Аде ищет его	Ade is looking for him
(iii)	Мама искала их.	Mum was looking for them
(iv)	Её нет дома.	She is not at home.
(v)	У нас не будет урока	We will not have lesson .
(vi)	Вас не было на работе.	You were not at work.

Personal Pronoun Forms in Dative Case

The Dative case in Russian indicates the recipient of an action and it takes an indirect object. This case answers the question *кому или чему* -to whom / what. Examples of personal pronoun usage in the Dative case in Russian are cited in example 11.

11. Russian	Gloss
(i) Мне двадцать лет	My brother is twenty years old
(ii) Я тебе позвонил вчера	I called you yesterday.
(iii) Что вам нравится тут?	What do you like here?
(iv) Сколько ему лет?	How old is he?
(v) Я купил ей книгу.	I bought her a book
(vi) Мама нам подарила диск	Mum gave us a disk as a present.

12 Personal Pronoun Forms in the accusative case in Russian

The accusative case in Russian answers the question *куда, что, кого*. It is used with a transitive verb. Example 12 illustrates the usage of personal pronouns in the accusative case in Russian Language.

Personal Pronoun Forms in the accusative Case

12. Russian	Gloss
(i) <i>Меня зовут Иван</i>	<i>My name is Ivan for you</i>
(ii) <i>Я её люблю.</i>	<i>I love her</i>
(iii) <i>Олу тебя ищет</i>	<i>Olu is looking.</i>
(iv) <i>Бола вас вызвёт</i>	<i>Bola is calling you.</i>
(v) <i>Адиса нас видел в кино.</i>	<i>Adisa saw us at the cinema.</i>
(vi) <i>Учитель их позвал.</i>	<i>The teacher called them.</i>

The instrumental case in Russian expresses the instrument or agent with or by which an action is done or carried out. It answers the questions *кем/чем?* – by whom, with whom, by what or with what. Below are examples of personal pronoun forms in the instrumental case in Russian

Personal Pronoun Forms in Instrumental Case.

13. Russian	Gloss
(i) <i>Мы с вами пойдем вместе.</i>	<i>You and I are going together</i>
(ii) <i>Вы сидите передо мной.</i>	<i>You are sitting in the front of me</i>
(iii) <i>Я знаком с ним</i>	<i>I am his acquaintance.</i>
(iv) <i>Что с тобой?</i>	<i>What is the wrong with you?</i>
(v) <i>Я разговаривал с ними вечера вечером.</i>	<i>I spoke with them yesterday evening</i>
(vi) <i>Я часто с ней разговариваю.</i>	<i>I often talk with her.</i>

Personal Pronoun Forms in Prepositional Case

The prepositional is known as the locative case in Russian. It shows the location of an object or a subject and it answers the question *где, о ком или о чём*- where, about whom or about what.

Examples of Personal pronouns in the prepositional case are stated below:

14. Russian	Gloss
(i) <i>Я думаю о тебе</i>	<i>I am thinking about you.</i>
(ii) <i>Она вспоминает обо мне</i>	<i>She remembers me.</i>
(iii) <i>Он думает о вас</i>	<i>He thinks about her.</i>
(iv) <i>Мы заботимся о нём /нём</i>	<i>We are taking care of him/her.</i>
(v) <i>Родители заботимся о нас</i>	<i>Our parents are taking care of us.</i>
(vi) <i>Мать беспокоится о них</i>	<i>The mother is worried about them.</i>

Personal Pronouns in Negative Constructions

The polymorphic nature of pronouns is evident in Yorùbá negative constructions while in Russian the pronouns maintain their nominative forms. For example:

15. Yorùbá	Russian	Gloss
(i) <i>N kò lọ.</i>	<i>Я не пошёл/поехал I</i>	<i>did not go.</i>
(ii) <i>A kò lọ.</i>	<i>Мы не пошли /поехали</i>	<i>We did not go.</i>
(iii) <i>O kò lọ.</i>	<i>Ты не пошёл / поехал</i>	<i>You did not go.</i>
(iv) <i>E kò lọ.</i>	<i>Вы не пошли / поехали</i>	<i>You did not go.</i>
(v) <i>Kò lọ.</i>	<i>Он не пошёл /поехал</i>	<i>S/He did not go.</i>
(vi) <i>Wọn kò lọ.</i>	<i>Они не пошли/поехали</i>	<i>They did not go.</i>

As earlier stated on example (5b), it is observed that when referring to the third person singular subject pronoun in negative construction, the pronoun is usually covert. Its absence makes the construction converge in standard Yorùbá, as also seen in example (13v).

Personal Pronouns in Progressive Situations

It is observed that in a progressive act situation, the tone on first and second person singular and plural change from mid to high in Yorùbá, while it maintains the nominative form in Russian. Illustrations of Yorùbá personal pronouns usage in progressive constructions are stated below:

- 16 (i) *Mò n bọ.* (ii) *Á n bọ.*
1sg PROG come 1pl PROG come
'I am coming.' 'We are coming.'
- (iii) *Я иду* (iv) *Мы идём*
1sg PROG come 1pl PROG come
'I am coming.' 'We are coming.'
- (v) *Ò n jó.* (vi) *È n jó.*
2sg PROG dance 2pl PROG dance
'You are dancing.' 'You are dancing.'
- (vii) *Он танцует* (viii) *Вы танцуете*
2sg PROG dance 2pl PROG dance
'You are dancing.' 'You are dancing.'
- (ix) *Ó n kọrin.* (x) *Wọn n kọrin.*
- (xi) *Она поёт* (xii) *Они поют*
2sg PROG dance 2pl PROG dance
'You are dancing.' 'You are dancing.'

Personal Pronouns in Futuristic Expression

It is observed that in Russian futuristic expressions are formed with personal pronouns and a verb in the perfective form (perfective verb) or with the aid of an auxiliary verb and a main verb. The pronouns do not take different forms. However in Yorùbá, two elements (*á* and *yòò/òò*) can be used to form a futuristic expression. In each of its constructions, personal pronouns take different shapes. The forms they take before the particle *á* are shown below:

17. (i) *Mà á jẹ iṣu.* (ii) *Á á jẹ iṣu.*
1sg FUT eat yam 1pl FUT eat yam
'I will eat yam.' 'We will eat yam.'
- (iii) *Я покушаю* (iv) *Мы покушаем*
1sg FUT eat yam 1pl FUT eat yam
'I will eat yam.' 'We will eat yam.'

- (v) *Wà á sùn.* (vi) *È é sùn.*
2sg FUT sleep 2pl FUT sleep
'You will sleep.' 'You will sleep.'
- (vii) *Ты будешь спать* (viii) *Вы будете спать*
- (ix) *Á á dé lóníí.* (x) *Wọn á dé lóníí.*
3sg FUT arrive be-today 3pl FUT arrive be-today
'S/he will arrive today.' 'They will arrive today.'
- (xi) *Он/она придет сегодня* (xii) *Они придут сегодня*
3sg FUT arrive be-today 'They will arrive today.'

In futuristic expression with the marker *yòò/òò*, the pronouns will have the following forms:

- 18 (i) *N yòò/òò ra aṣọ.* (ii) *A yòò/òò ra aṣọ.*
1sg Fut buy cloth 1sg Fut buy cloth
'I will eat.' 'We will eat.'
- (iii) *O óò mu omi.* (iv) *E yòò/òò mu omi.*
2sg Fut. drink water 2pl Fut drink water
'You will drink water.' 'You will drink water.'
- (v) *Yóò yan ẹja.* (vi) *Wọn yòò/òò yan ẹja.*
3sg-Fut roast fish 3pl Fut roast fish
'S/he will roast fish.' 'They will roast fish.'

Null entity is also used for 3sg pronoun in futuristic expression with the marker *yòò/òò* in Yorùbá. However, the full form of the pre-verb (future marker) i.e. *yòò* must be used for the construction to be grammatical as seen in example 16v.

The Connotative Meaning of Personal Pronouns

The connotative meaning of any given element or construction is referred to as the secondary meaning (related to the external-world status and truth value) attached to the primary meaning of a given

proposition. Its main application is with reference to the emotional associations (personal or communal) that are suggested by or part of the meaning of a linguistic unit, especially a lexical item. Personal pronouns can also have a connotative meaning in addition to their more common denotative meaning. The following examples in Russian and Yorùbá make this clear.

The Russian personal pronoun *Я* (I) and *мы* (we) usage in sentences have a general meaning:

19 Я человек и ничто человеческое мне не чуждо
(Idiomatic expression)

'I am a man; anything that is not manly is not needed by me'

The plural form of the personal pronoun *мы* can function as a synonym of the personal pronoun *я* in the plural sense. This type of usage is conditioned on the wish of speaker to lay emphasis on him/herself.

20 Мы думаем что глобальное отопление это мировой кризис

'We think that global warming is a global problem'

Another example of the usage of the personal pronoun *мы* in Russian is the so-called 'modest we' or 'authors' that is often encountered in books, manuscripts, texts, research articles (Бельчиков 2012). For example;

21 Мы пришли таким выводам в статье ...

'We came into such conclusion in the article...'

This is an inclusive construction that refers to the speaker (author) alone but uses inclusive pronoun. In addition to this, the personal pronoun *мы* is used often in speech with collective meaning (our nation)

22 соратники 'comrade in arms'

единомышленники 'like-minded person'.

The following examples from Yorùbá, further elaborate the connotative meaning that personal pronouns can give in constructions:

23 Ọmọ ilú *mi* ni Àdió.

Child town 1sg be Adio

'Adio is from my town.'

In the given example, just as the English pronoun *my*, *mi* is evidently possessive in Yorùbá. The speaker does not mean that the town belongs to him solely. It only implies that Adio is also from his town knowing fully well that there will be some other people from the town but using *wa* (collective form) will crash the derivation since he was referring to himself at the point of the utterance.

24 Haà! *Wón* mà wá sí ilé-ẹ̀kọ̀ lóní.

Exclamation! 3pl even come to school be-today

'Oh! *S/he* came to school today.'

The speaker could actually use the sentence above to refer to a fellow that does not come to school regularly on sighting him/her unexpectedly. The *wón* might not be for respect or plurality but rather for mockery, which only connotation can express.

25 CLASS: *Ẹ* káàárọ̀ olùkọ̀.

2pl good morning teacher

'Good morning teacher.'

TEACHER: *Ẹ* káàárọ̀. Ní ọ̀sẹ̀ tó kojá, *a* kọ̀ nípa gírámà èdè Yorùbá.

2pl. Good morning. In week that pass,

1pl. teach about grammar Yoruba

'Good morning. Last week, we learnt Yoruba grammar.'

The *Ẹ* used at the sentence initials by the class and the teacher differs, while the former is a respective form of the second person singular pronoun, the latter is a plural form of second person pronoun. The teacher used the collective personal pronoun to include herself not because she just learnt the topic but rather, to show modesty. She could have just said;

26 Ní ọ̀sẹ̀ tó kojá, *mo* kọ̀ *yín* nípa gírámà èdè Yorùbá.

in week that pass 1sg. teach 2pl. about grammar language Yoruba

'Last week, I taught you Yorùbá grammar.'

Let us examine the following conversation too;

27 SPEAKER A: *Ẹ káàárò.*

‘Good morning, ma.’

SPEAKER B: *Káàárò iyá Òjó. Àwọn ọmọ mi níkó?*

Good morning mother Ojo. Pl. child 1sg. QM

‘Good morning Òjó’s mother. How are my children?’

From the conversation, it is obvious that speaker B is older than A. Speaker B refers to speaker A’s children as hers because Yorùbá is a communal society and they believe they are one big family. Example (21) further buttress this;

28 SPEAKER A: *Ẹ káààsán.*

2pl good afternoon

‘Good afternoon, ma.’

SPEAKER B: *Ó tó ọjó mэта. Báálé wa níkó?*

It reach day three. Husband 1pl. QM

‘Quite an age. How is our husband?’

‘How is our husband?’ from speaker B does not mean they are both married to the same man. Only connotation can give the accurate meaning of the pronoun used in the sentence, for the speaker was actually inquiring about speaker A’s hubby. The speaker uses the collective pronoun to show modesty, respect and care that is imbedded in the Yorùbá culture and world view.

5. Findings

The languages examined in this paper have both singular and plural forms of personal pronouns that can refer to person: - 1st, 2nd and 3rd in any given proposition. It is also observed that the studied languages have honorific / polite personal forms for the second person. Pronouns are distinguished in terms of grammatical roles in Russian and Yorùbá. However, this feature is more prominent in Russian compare to Yorùbá, as Russian distinguishes six different case classes where Yorùbá has three.

Another observation is that the two languages treat gender differently. Yorùbá resolves the issue of gender through the context as the language uses the form *ó* (she/he/it) for any category of the third person singular pronoun. However, gender is reflected in both the written and spoken forms of the third person singular in Russian like many European languages where masculine-he, feminine-she and neuter- it.

It has also been shown that the polymorphic nature of pronouns is evident in negative constructions, progressive situations and futuristic expressions in Yorùbá. Apart from these, it is also largely the case that personal pronouns in Yorùbá, can also have a connotative meaning in addition to primary denotative meaning they are known for as seen in sub-section 4 of the paper.

6. Conclusion

In this paper, we examined the peculiarities and usage of personal pronouns in Russian and Yorùbá both languages belonging to different family groups. We find that the world’s languages have some similarities and differences as observed in the pronoun system of the studied languages; arguing that pronouns in different languages differ in forms and usage. The peculiarities of Russian and Yorùbá personal pronouns re-establish the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each language. Affirming that pronouns are pro-forms of nouns in human languages and change according to cases in some languages like Russian, we note that denotative meaning is the primary role of personal pronouns in a given proposition, while connotative meaning is seen as the secondary role.

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