



Concrescence: Journal of Multi- Disciplinary Research

Volume 2, Number 2, 2025, ISSN: 1595-9287

Available:

<https://journals.casjournals.com/index.php/CJMR/index>

Broadcasting Blunders: A Study Of Errors in News Bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri

Richard Okiemute Ikolo, PhD

*Department of Languages and Linguistics,
Delta State University, Abraka
Delta State, Nigeria
richard-ikolo@delsu.edu.ng*

Abstract

Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6) at Ejeba, Warri, is a popular and trusted state-owned radio station with a large audience. However, despite the training provided by journalism schools, many graduates lack essential editing skills, particularly in grammar, which can hinder their performance in the field. This study examines the linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Ejeba, Warri. Mistakes in news bulletins can have serious consequences, including spreading misinformation, causing confusion, and hindering effective communication. Through a sociolinguistic analysis of news broadcasts at 7 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. daily over three months, this research identifies and categorizes various types of error, including grammatical, lexical and pragmatic infelicities. The findings highlight the need for improved language proficiency and broadcasting standards in Nigerian radio broadcasting. The study's focus on news bulletins that cover news around Delta State and across Nigeria provides insight into the language use and error patterns in a specific regional and national context. The results of this study have implications for language training programmes for radio broadcasters and for the development of guidelines for language use in news bulletins.

Keywords: Bulletins, Linguistic errors, Radio station, Delta Broadcasting Service, sociolinguistic analysis

1. Introduction

The importance of accurate and effective communication in news broadcasting cannot be overstated. As noted by Higgins and Smith (2020:12), 'the language used in news broadcasts can have a significant impact on how news is perceived and interpreted by audiences. The purpose of news in mass media is to inform, entertain and promote values, knowledge and the right attitude in society. The informative function is key in the news bulletin broadcast. Radio aims at delivering relevant information to different audiences across the divide (Mugambi, 2019). Given the diverse cognitive abilities and expectations of our audience, our communication should be clear, straightforward, free from ambiguity, and easily understandable for everyone.

Furthermore, research has shown that linguistic errors in news broadcasts can undermine the credibility of the news source and lead to confusion among listeners (O'Brien, 2019). In Nigeria, where radio broadcasting is a primary source of news and information for many people, the need for accurate and effective communication in news broadcasting is particularly acute (Adebayo, 2022).

News bulletins are a vital component of radio broadcasting, providing listeners with timely and accurate information about local and national events. In Nigeria, radio broadcasting plays a crucial role in disseminating information to the public, particularly in rural areas where access to other forms of media may be limited.

Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri, is one of the leading radio stations in Nigeria, broadcasting news and programmes to a wide audience in Delta State and beyond. Thus, this study examines the linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM), Warri, with a focus on the 7 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. news broadcasts. These time slots were chosen because they cover news around Delta State and across Nigeria, providing a comprehensive overview of the language use and error patterns in a specific regional and national context.

2. Statement of the Problem

Despite the crucial role of news bulletins in disseminating information to the public, linguistic errors (infelicities) in news broadcasts on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri, have been observed to be prevalent. These errors, which range from grammatical to pragmatic infelicities, can compromise the effectiveness of news bulletins, leading to confusion, misinterpretation, and loss of credibility. This study aims to investigate the nature and frequency of linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba Warri.

3. Brief History of Delta Broadcasting Service, Warri

Delta Broadcasting Service, Asaba, alongside its sister station, Delta Broadcasting Service, Warri, began its corporate life with the creation of Delta State on August 27, 1991, by the Ibrahim Babangida administration. After the state's creation, the Delta State government was headed first by Group Captain Luke Chijiuba Ochulor, who established a formal broadcast facility known as the Delta Broadcasting Service, presumably with its corporate headquarters in Asaba, the state capital, and an operational base in Warri.

DBS, Asaba, and by extension DBS, Warri, are bound by a common mission statement, the provision of quality, objective, factual and balanced reportage as well as analysis of events and development with rich informative, educative, and entertainment content, using the most sophisticated broadcast equipment for total radio and television communication experience.

The vision of Delta Broadcasting service is fundamentally to make the broadcast facility a choice brand that should appeal to the expectations and sensibilities of its listenership and viewership. Its corporate service profile includes information dissemination, entertainment and public enlightenment of government policies and programmes, and advertising of goods and services of clients. In 2001, DBS was split into DBS Asaba and DBS Warri by His Excellency, Chief James Onanefe Ibori. It is the most historical point that defines DBS, Asaba and DBS Warri as two sister stations sharing a common mission. Over the years, DBS Warri has played a vital role in disseminating information, promoting local culture, and providing entertainment to the people of Delta State and beyond (Akpoborie, 2018).

4. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

- i. to identify the types of linguistic errors that occur in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (DBS), (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri;
- ii. to determine the frequency of linguistic errors in news bulletins on DBS, Warri;
- iii. to examine the possible causes of linguistic errors in news bulletins on DBS, Warri, and
- iv. to propose strategies for improving language proficiency and broadcasting standards in Nigerian radio broadcasting.

5. Research Questions

- i. What types of linguistic errors occur in news bulletins on DBS (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri?
- ii. How frequent are linguistic errors in news bulletins on DBS (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba Warri?
- iii. What are the possible causes of linguistic errors in news bulletins on DBS (Melody, FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri?
- iv. What strategies can be proposed to improve language proficiency and broadcasting standards in Nigerian radio broadcasting?

6. Theoretical Framework

This study employs the theory of Error Analysis (EA), a framework used to identify and explain linguistic errors (Corder, 1967; James, 1998). EA involves a systematic analysis of language errors, taking into account the context in which they occur. The theory of EA is based on the idea that errors are not merely mistakes, but rather systematic deviations from the target language. By analyzing errors, researchers can gain insight into the language user's underlying competence and identify areas for improvement. In the context of this study, Error Analysis is used to examine the linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri, and to identify patterns and trends in language use.

7. Methodology

The study employed a descriptive and analytical research design, focusing on error analysis in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6) in Edjeba, Warri. The data for the study were collected through observational listening of news bulletins read on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri. The researcher listened to the news bulletins at 7 a.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. daily for three months. This involved careful observation and note-taking of linguistic errors as observed in the course of reading the news.

The collected data were analyzed using error analysis, a methodology used to identify, classify, and explain linguistic errors. The errors were categorized into grammatical, lexical and pragmatic errors.

8. Data Presentation and Discussion

This section presents the data of this study, highlighting the frequency and types of linguistic errors identified in the news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri. The discussion focuses on the implications of these errors on the credibility and effectiveness of the news broadcast.

1. Newsreader: Ezombi Odumosu
News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Friday, 5th July, 2024
News Item: '...advised to avoid a reoccurrence'
Correct Form: '... advised to avoid recurrence'
Error Analysis: The original phrase contained an error, using the non-existent word 'reoccurrence'. The correct form is 'recurrence', which refers to the act of happening or occurring again. This kind of error can be classified as malapropism or lexical deviation.

2. Newsreader: Christy Jaho-Ayenuku
News Editor: Harry Awosu
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Saturday. 6th July, 2024
News Item: He urged the decampees to work for the victory of the party.
Correct Form: He urged the defectors to work for the victory of the party.
Error Analysis: The sentence contains a lexical error, where the word 'decampees' is incorrectly used to refer to individuals who switch political parties. The correct term for this action is 'defectors'. The word 'decamp' actually means to leave a place suddenly or secretly, and has no relationship to changing political affiliations.

3. Newsreader: Olumami Omaghomi
News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Sunday, 7th July, 2024
News Item: 'The quiz competition was initiated to instil the culture of reading among students.'
Correct Form: 'The quiz was initiated to instil the culture of reading among students.'
Error Analysis: The sentence contains a lexical error, specifically a tautology. The words 'quiz' and 'competition' are redundant, as a quiz inherently implies a competitive element where the participants answer questions to test their knowledge. To correct this error, use either 'quiz' or 'competition' alone.

4. Newsreader: Njofue Edowa
News Editor: Oris Esima
Time: 4 p.m.
Date: Sunday, 7th July, 2024
News Item 1: '... they should not be used as paid troubleshooters'
News Item 2: '... to partner with other arms of government'
Correct Form 1: '... they should not be used as paid troublemakers'
Correct Form 2: '...to partner other arms of government'
Error Analysis: News item 1 contains a lexical error, specifically an error of word choice. The correct term is actually 'troublemakers', not 'troubleshooters'. Troubleshooters are individuals who identify and resolve problems, whereas troublemakers are those who cause problems or disturbances.

In news item 2, the phrase 'to partner with other arms of government' contains a grammatical error, specifically an incorrect preposition usage. The verb 'partner' does not require the preposition 'with'. Instead, it can take a direct object.

5. Newsreader: Harry Awosu

News Editor: Nelson Miller

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Saturday, 13th July, 2024

News Item: 'The Local Government Council elections on Saturday did not hold in Udu Local Government Area.'

Correct Form: The Local Government Council elections on Saturday were not held in Udu Local Government Area.

Error Analysis: This is a grammatical error, specifically a verb usage error. When using the verb 'hold' to refer to events like meetings, competitions, elections or conversations, it is generally used in the passive form in formal English. For instance, instead of saying: 'The meeting will hold in the community centre', you should say: 'The meeting will be held in the community centre'. This passive construction makes the sentence sound more formal and objective. Consider these examples: *A thanksgiving ceremony was held to mark the occasion. Lectures will be held in the afternoon. This year's conference will be held at Hilton Hotel.*

6. Newsreader: Ezonebi Odumosu

News Editor: Daniel Orji

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 19th July, 2024

News Item 1: '... their responsibility is to represent the Urhobos'

News Item 2: '... he stressed on the importance of a conducive learning environment'

News Item 3: '... that attracted a pool of upcoming artistes'

Correct Form 1: '... their responsibility is to represent the Urhobo'

Correct Form 2: '...he stressed the importance of an environment conducive to learning'

Correct Form 3: '... attracted a pool of up-and-coming artistes'

Error Analysis: In news item 1, the error is a grammatical error, specifically a noun agreement error or an error of number. 'Urhobo' refers to an ethnic group, and it shouldn't be pluralized: In news item 2, two errors are observed. First, the preposition 'on' after 'stressed' is redundant. In other words, it is unnecessary and should be dropped. The following verbs should not take prepositions: *contemplating, soliciting, discussing, advocating*, etc. The adjective 'conducive' obligatorily takes the preposition 'to'. In news item 3, the correct adjective is 'up-and-coming' (not: upcoming). The adjective 'up-and-coming' means likely to be successful and popular in the future: *He is an up-and-coming young actor.*

7. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor

News Editor: Harry Awosu

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Saturday, 20th July, 2024

News Item: 'The Delta State Urban and Regional Planning Bill has scaled through first reading'

Correct Form: 'The Delta State Urban and Regional Planning Bill has sailed through first reading.' / The Delta State Urban and Regional Planning Bill has successfully passed its first reading.'

Error Analysis: The correct phrasal verb that means to pass an exam, a test, etc. is 'sail through', and not 'scale through'.

8. Newsreader: Chukwujokem Nwajei

News Editor: Nelson Miller

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Saturday, 27th July, 2024

News Item: 'The monthly environmental sanitation exercise will hold across the state today'.

Correct Form: 'The monthly environmental sanitation exercise will be held across the state today'.

Error Analysis: See 5 for explanation.

9. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor

News Editor: Ese Omu

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Wednesday, 31st July, 2024

News Item: '... will do more harm than good to the society'

Correct Form: '... will do more harm than good to society'

Error Analysis: The phrase contains an article usage error. When referring to society in general, the noun 'society' is not preceded by the definite article 'the'. However, when 'society' refers to a specific organization or group, it can be preceded by the definite article.

10. Newsreader: Jennifer Orugbo

News Editor: Ese Omu

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 2nd August, 2024

News Item: '... with a view of moving the local council forward'

Correct Form: '... with a view to moving the local council forward'

Error Analysis: This is an error associated with wrong use of preposition. The correct idiom is 'with a view to', meaning with the intention or hope of doing something.

11. Newsreader: Ogheneganre Abokwara

News Editor: Ifeoma Nkemachor

Time: 4 p.m.

Date: Friday, 9th August, 2024

News Item: 'Nigeria is yet to win a medal in the ongoing Olympic'.

Correct Form: 'Nigeria has yet to win a medal in the ongoing Olympic Games'.

Error Analysis: This is a grammatical error, specifically a verb tense error. More precisely, it is an error in the use of the present simple tense 'is' instead of the present perfect tense 'has' to express an action that has not occurred up to the present moment. The phrase 'has yet to' means 'has not yet' or 'hasn't yet'. When we say, for instance, 'we have yet to decide what action to take', it means (= we have not decided what action to take).

12. Newsreader: Mercy Amrasawore

News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)

Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Saturday, 10th August, 2024
News Item: '... to partner with the commission (NDDC)'
Correct Form: '.... to partner the commission (NDDC)'
Error Analysis: See 4 for explanation.

13. Newsreader: Christy Jaho Ayenuku
News Editor: Linus Chima
Time: 4 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, 12th August, 2024
News Item: 'He charged the graduands to be good ambassadors'.
Correct Form: 'He charged the graduating students to be good ambassadors'.
Error Analysis: The error is a lexical error, specifically an obsolete or archaic word usage error. The term 'graduands' has largely fallen out of common usage and is no longer included in many standard modern dictionaries. It has been replaced by more modern terms like 'graduating students, graduates-to-be, prospective graduates, the graduating class, etc.

14. Newsreader: Jennifer Orugbo
News Editor: Ovoke Omonigho
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, 13th August, 2024
News Item: '... destroying other properties in the building'
Correct Form: '.... destroying other property in the building'
Error Analysis: This is a lexical error. The noun 'properties' has been misused in this phrase. In this context, the intended meaning is 'things owned or possessed', which requires the singular noun 'property'. The plural noun 'properties' actually refers to buildings, lands, or real estate (e.g. *There are many empty properties in the area*). Alternatively, 'properties' can also denote qualities or characteristics of something (e.g. *the plant has medicinal properties*).

15. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor
News Editor: Linus Chima
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Monday, 19th August, 2024
News Item 1: '... was attended by selected people'
News Item 2: '...for the benefit of the Itsekiris worldwide'
Correct Form 1: '.... was attended by select people'
Correct form 2: '... for the benefit of the Itsekiri worldwide'
Error Analysis: In news item 1, 'selected' should be 'select'. The adjective 'select' in this context means carefully chosen as the best out of a larger group of people or things: *The seminar was attended by a select secondary schools in Udu Local Government Area*. In news item 2, 'Itsekiris' should be 'itsekiri', which refers to an ethnic group, and should not be pluralized

16. Newsreader: Mercy Amrasawore
News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, 20th August, 2024
News Item: '... converged for the exercise'

Correct Form: converged on (name of place) for the exercise'

Error Analysis: The correct preposition that collocates with 'converge' is 'on' (not: for). To 'converge on' means (of people or vehicles) to move towards a place from different directions and meet: *Thousands of supporters converged on London for the rally. The protesters converged on the capital building.*

17. Newsreader: Ezonebi Odumosu

News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 23rd August, 2024

News Item 1: 'They saw the Okuama man at about 6 a.m.'

News Item 2: 'The reported missing man is an indigene of Okuama'

News Item 3: 'He commended the chairman of the PFN in Delta State for pursuing the completion of the project from the scratch.'

Correct Form 1: 'They saw the Okuama man about 6 a.m.'

Correct Form 2: 'The reported missing man is a native of Okuama'

Correct Form 3: 'He commended the chairman of PFN in Delta State for pursuing the completion of the project from scratch.'

Error Analysis: In news item 1, using 'at' and 'about' together in the same sentence is redundant and incorrect. 'At' implies a precise time while 'about' suggests an approximate time. So, the correct sentence should be: *They saw the Okuama man at 6 a.m.* Alternatively, you can say: *They saw the Okuama man about 6 a.m.* Using either 'at' for a precise time or 'about' for an approximate time is the correct way to express the idea. In news item 2, the word 'indigene' is archaic and less commonly used in Standard English. The word does not exist in Standard English dictionaries. In Standard English, 'native' is a more common and appropriate choice to describe someone who is originally from a particular place or community. In news item 3, the correct idiom is 'from scratch', meaning starting from the beginning or without existing resources.

18. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor

News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Monday, 26th August, 2024

News Item: '... has called members of the public to exercise patience'

Correct Form: '... has called on members of the public to have patience'

Error Analysis: Two errors can be identified in the news item. First, the obligatory preposition 'on', which is necessary to make the sentence grammatically correct is missing. Second, in English, we don't exercise 'patience', but rather 'have patience'. The word 'exercise' is often used with nouns like 'right', 'caution', etc., but not with 'patience'. Instead, we use 'have' or 'remain' to convey the idea of being patient.

19. Newsreader: Jennifer Orugbo

News Editor: Omonigho Edah

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, 27th August, 2024

News Item 1: '... to be on high alert'

News Item 2: '... has marked the anniversary with pomp and pageantry'

Correct Form 1: '... be on the alert'

Correct Form: '... has marked the anniversary with pomp and circumstance'

Error Analysis: In news item 1, there is no idiom like 'be on high alert' in English. What we have in English is 'be on the alert' (for something), meaning to be in a state of watchfulness, vigilance or readiness, often in anticipation of potential danger, trouble, etc. In news item two, the correct idiom is 'pomp and circumstance' (not: pomp and pageantry). The idiom means a formal and impressive ceremony.

20. Newsreader: Chukwujokem Nwajei
News Editor: Eucharia Akarue
Time: 4 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, 27th August, 2024
News Item: '... across board'
News Item 2: 'The chairman welcomed the decampees'
News Item 3: '... who is instrumental to the decampees'
Correct Form 1: '...across the board'
Correct Form 2: 'The chairman welcomed the defectors'
Correct Form 3: '... who is instrumental in the defection'
Error Analysis: In news item 1, the correct phrase is 'across the board'. This idiom means involving everyone or everything in a company, an industry, etc. *The latest budget cuts have affected every department across the board, resulting in reduced staffing and resources. The company's new policy of flexible working hours has been welcomed across the board.*

In news Item 2, the correct expression should be: The chairman welcomed the defectors (see explanation on 2).

For news item 3, the correct expression is: '... who is instrumental in the defection'. The word 'instrumental' typically collocates with the preposition 'in', not 'to'.

21. Newsreader: Chukwujokem Nwajei
News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Thursday, 29th August, 2024
News Item: '... a total number of 3092 candidates wrote the entrance examination'
Correct Form: '... a total number of 3092 candidates took/did/ sat the entrance examination'
Error Analysis: This error is a lexical error. In some countries, especially in Africa and India, the verb 'write' is often used colloquially to mean taking an exam. However, in Standard English, 'take', 'sit' or 'do' are the preferred verbs used with exams. The verb 'write' is more associated with: writing essays, stories or articles, letters, taking notes, etc.

22. Newsreader: Olumami Ogbe Omagbemi
News Editor: Peterson Itiowe
Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Thursday, 29th August, 2024
News Item: 'The Okobaro of Ughievwen Kingdom has called on all Urhobos...'
Correct Form: 'The Okobaro of Ughievwen Kingdom has called on all Urhobo...'
Error Analysis: The error is a grammatical error, specifically a noun agreement error or an error of number (singular/plural agreement) 'Urhobo' refers to an ethnic group, and it shouldn't be pluralized.

23. Newsreader: Ezonebi Odumosu

News Editor: Daniel Orji

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 30th August, 2024

News Item: '... most, especially with regards to...'

Correct Form: '.... most, especially with regard to/as regards...'

Error Analysis: In English, the correct idiomatic expressions are 'with regard to and as regards' somebody/something, meaning concerning or in connection with somebody, something: *I have little information as regards her fitness for the job. I am doing everything as regards/with regard to your application.*

24. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor

News Editor: Ifeoma Nkemachor

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Friday, 30th August, 2024

News Item 1: 'The NNPC Limited has announced plans to partner with private firms...'

News Item 2: 'The monthly environmental sanitation will hold tomorrow between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.'

Correct Form 1: The NNPC Limited has announced plans to partner private firms

Correct Form 2: The monthly environmental sanitation will be held tomorrow between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Error Analysis: For news items 1 and 2, see explanation on 4 and 5 respectively.

25. Newsreader: Ogheneganre Abokwara

News Editor: Oris Esima Eniretan

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Sunday, 1st September, 2024

News Item: '... will yield fruit, especially at the grassroot level'

Correct Form: '.... will yield fruit, especially at the grassroots level'

Error Analysis: The term 'grassroots', which means ordinary people in society, rather than the leaders or people who make decisions, is always used in the plural form: we need support at the grassroots level. *The grassroots of the party are unhappy with the leadership.*

26. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor

News Editor: Omonigho Edah

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Monday, 2nd September, 2024

News Item: '... while farmlands and other properties have been destroyed'

Correct Form: '.... while farmlands and other property have been destroyed'

Error Analysis: See 14 for explanation.

27. Newsreader: Jennifer Orugbo

News Editor: Omonigho Edah

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, 3rd September, 2024

News Item: '... has stressed the need for the women to draw more closer to God'

Correct Form: '.... has stressed the need for women to draw closer to God'

Error Analysis: The use of 'more closer' is an error because 'closer' is a comparative adjective that already indicates proximity. Adding 'more' would make it superlative, altering the intended meaning. So, 'more closer' is redundant.

28. Newsreader: Chukwujokem Nwajei

News Editor: Nil (Not mentioned)

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Thursday, 5th September, 2024

News Item: 'A bill for an act to prevent the vandalisation of public property has passed second reading'

Correct Form: 'A bill for an act to prevent the vandalism of public property has passed second reading'

Error Analysis: The term 'vandalisation' is not a recognized word in English for now. 'Vandalism' is the correct noun, referring to the act or instance of intentionally destroying property. Using 'vandalism' ensures clarity, precision and conformity to Standard English vocabulary. When describing the act, use 'vandalism' as a noun. When describing the action, use the verb 'to vandalize'

29. Newsreader: Ezonebi Odumosu

News Editor: Daniel Orji

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 6th September, 2024

News Item: '... to ensure that campaign promises to the electorates are achieved'

Correct Form: '... to ensure that campaign promises to the electorate are achieved'

Error Analysis: In the wrong expression, the word 'electorates' should be 'electorate'. The term 'electorate' refers to the collective body of voters or citizens eligible to vote. 'Electorates' typically refer to specific voting districts or constituencies. Use 'electorate' when referring to the collective voting population: *The politician appealed to the electorate during his campaign at Oghara* (collective). Use 'electorates' when referring to specific voting constituencies: *The country is divided into five electorates for parliamentary representation* (specific districts).

30. Newsreader: Ezombi Odumosu

News Editor: Daniel Orji

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 6th September, 2024

News Item 1: 'A public hearing on Human Trafficking Prohibition Bill is scheduled to hold on Monday, 9th September, 2024'

News Item 2: '... to expose any insubordination by staff towards the committee.'

News item 3: '... commended him for providing a conducive environment for the hospital to function'

Correct Form 1: 'A public hearing on the Human Trafficking Prohibition Bill is scheduled to be held on Monday, 9th September, 2024.' Alternatively, the sentence could read as: A public hearing on the Human Trafficking Prohibition Bill is scheduled for Monday, 9th September 2024.'

Correct Form 2: '...to expose any insubordination by members of staff towards the committee.'

Correct Form 3: '... commended him for providing an environment conducive to the functioning of the hospital.'

Error Analysis: For news item 1 (see 5 for explanation). For news item 2, 'staff' is a collective noun, referring to all the workers employed in an organization considered as a group. Using 'members of staff' (British English) or 'staff members' (American English) specifies individuals within the organization, making the phrase more precise and grammatically correct. For news item 3, the adjective 'conducive' obligatorily takes the

preposition 'to'. The phrase should read as: '...commended him for creating an environment conducive to the functioning of the hospital. Consider the following examples: *He commended the chairman for creating an environment conducive to the hospital's effective operation. He praised the chairman for fostering an atmosphere conducive to learning. Chairs in rows are not as conducive to discussion as chairs arranged in a circle.*

31. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor
News Editor: Ifeoma Nkemachor
Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Friday, 6th September, 2024
News Item 1: '... the vandalisation of pipelines'
News item 2: 'The grand finale of the Urhobo Language competition sponsored by Senator Ede Dafinone will hold on Saturday, 7th September, 2024 at Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun'
Correct Form 1: '... the vandalism of pipelines'
Correct Form 2: 'The grand finale of the Urhobo Language Competition... will be held on Saturday, 7th September 2024 at the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun'
Error Analysis: For news item 1, (see 28 for explanation). For news item 2, (see 4 for explanation).

32. Newsreader: Besidone Tedeye
News Editor: Harry Awosu
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Saturday, 7th September, 2024
News Item: '... for the benefit of the society'
Correct Form: '... for the benefit of society'
Error Analysis: The definite article 'the' should be deleted before 'society' because 'society' is a general abstract concept, not a specific entity. In this context, 'society' refers to the broader community or humanity, making it a collective noun. No article 'the' is needed when referring to a general, abstract concept. However, if referring to specific society (e.g., a club, organization, etc.), 'the' would be necessary: *He did it for the benefit of the historical society. He is a member of the Society of Chemical Engineers of Nigeria.*

33. Newsreader: Jennifer Orugbo
News Editor: Omonigho Edah
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, 10th September, 2024
News Item: 'They also commended the state government for providing a conducive environment for businesses.'
Correct Form: 'They also commended the state government for providing an environment conducive to doing businesses.'
Error Analysis: (See 6 for explanation)

34. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor
News Editor: Kessiena Diamond
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Monday, 9th September, 2024
News Item: '... to continue to partner with the state government'
Correct Form: '... to continue to partner the state government'

Error Analysis: (See 4 for explanation)

35. Newsreader: Chukwujokem Nwajei

News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Thursday, 12th September, 2024

News Item 1: '... to enable the PDP remain united and vibrant'

News Item 2: 'He warned potential troubleshooters to stay away on the day of election'

News Item 3: '... the court ruled that the protesters must provide sureties who are ready to deposit their international passports'

Correct Form 1: '... to enable the PDP to remain united and vibrant'

Correct Form 2: 'He warned potential troublemakers to stay away on the day of election'

Correct Form 3: '... the court ruled that the protesters must provide sureties who are ready to surrender their passports as collateral'

Error Analysis: In news item 1, the correct usage of 'to enable' requires the infinitive phrase 'to + verb forming: *A new programme has been established to enable older people to study at college. The university's scholarship programme has been designed to enable low-income students to pursue higher education without financial burdens.* In the wrong sentence in news item 2, there is a clear case of meaning mismatch. The noun 'troubleshooters' refers to problem-solvers, whereas the context implies individuals causing problems. For contextual clarity, 'troublemakers' accurately conveys the intention to address individuals who might disrupt the election. And for semantic precision, using 'troublemakers' ensures the sentence aligns with the speaker's intended message.

In the incorrect sentence in news item 3, the use of 'international passports' is redundant, as a passport, by definition, is an internationally recognized travel document. For clarity and precision, 'deposit' should be replaced with 'surrender'. 'Surrender' better conveys the act of handing over passports as security, while 'collateral' accurately reflects the legal context. So, the correct sentence should read as: '... the court ruled that the protesters must provide sureties who are willing to surrender their passports as collateral.'

36. Newsreader: Ezonebi Odumosu

News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Friday, 13th September, 2024

News Item: 'Each of the undergraduate students will receive a cheque of one hundred thousand naira'

Correct Form: 'Each of the undergraduate students will receive a cheque for one hundred thousand naira'

Error Analysis: The preposition 'of' is incorrect in this context; it implies possession or belonging. 'For' is the correct preposition to indicate the amount or purpose. Similarly, it is incorrect to say: *He gave me a bill of one hundred thousand naira.* Instead, say: *He gave me a bill for one hundred thousand naira.*

37. Newsreader: Christy Jaho-Ayenuku

News Editor: Nil (not mentioned)

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Saturday, 14th September, 2024

News Item: 'The Uvwie Local Government Area has restricted the operation of commercial tricycle operators, popularly known as 'keke'...'

Correct Form: 'The Uvwie Local Government Area has restricted the operations of commercial autorickshaw/tuk-tuk operators, popularly known as 'keke'...'

Error Analysis: An 'autorickshaw' and a 'tricycle' are both three-wheeled means of transport, but they differ in their design, purpose and functionality. An autorickshaw (also known as tuk-tuk) is a motorized vehicle, powered by a small engine, typically has a passenger seat, used for public transportation, often has a covered roof and can carry at least three passengers. However, a tricycle is a human-powered means of transport, designed for a single rider, usually has a pedal-powered mechanism (like a bicycle often used for recreation, exercise). Basically, there are key differences between an autorickshaw and a tricycle. Autorickshaws are primarily used for public transportation while tricycles are often used for personal transportation or recreation. Second, autorickshaws are usually motorized while tricycles can be human-powered or motorized. Finally, autorickshaws typically have a passenger compartment while tricycles are designed for a single rider.

38. Newsreader: Eyonju Amioku

News Editor: Nelson Miller

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Saturday, 14th September, 2024

News Item: '... The police is your friend'

Correct Form: '... The police are your friends.'

Error Analysis: This error is associated with concord (subject-verb agreement). 'Police' is a plural noun (referring to a group of officers). There must be an agreement between the subject and the verb. If the subject 'police' is plural as it is in this case, the verb should also be plural 'are' to show agreement. However, one can say, *"The policeman is my friend."*

39. Newsreader: Oris Esima Aniretan

News Editor: Azuka Chiemeka

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Sunday, 15th September, 2024

News Item: '... so that it does not reoccur in Edo election or elsewhere'

Correct Form: '... so that it does not recur in Edo election or elsewhere'

Error Analysis: There is no verb form like 'reoccur' in English. The correct verb form is 'recur', meaning to happen or occur again, typically in a regular or repeated pattern.

40. Newsreader: Jonathan Kpeji

News Editor: Kingsley Agor

Time: 7 p.m.

Date: Monday, 16th September, 2024

News Item: '... efforts were made to contact the relevant authority'

Correct Form: '... efforts were made to contact the relevant authorities'

Error Analysis: 'Authority' should be used in the plural form 'authorities.' 'Authorities' as used here refer to the people or an organization who have the power to make decisions or have a particular area of responsibility in a country or region: *The health authorities are investigating the problem.*

41. Newsreader: Harry Awosu

News Editor: Harry Awosu

Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Friday, 20th September, 2024
News Item: 'The beneficiaries were selected through a quiz competition'
News Item 2: '... selected schools in Ughelli North Local Government Area get free writing materials'
Correct Form 1: 'The beneficiaries were selected through a quiz'
Correct Form 2: '... select schools in Ughelli North Local Government Area get free writing materials'
Error Analysis: In news item 1, the phrase 'quiz competition' is redundant because 'quiz' is a competition in which people try to answer questions to test their knowledge: *I watched a television quiz show yesterday*. In news item 2, the phrase 'selected schools' should read as 'select schools' because in this context, 'select' is an adjective qualifying the noun 'schools', conveying that only distinguished or best schools were recipients. The adjective 'select' in this context means carefully chosen as the best out of a larger group of people.

42. Newsreader: Eyonju Amioku
News Editor: Nelson Miller
Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Saturday, 21st September, 2024
News Item 1: '... until the last voter on the queue'
News Item 2: '... saying all hands must be on deck'
Correct Form 1: '... until the last voter in the queue'
Correct Form 2: '... saying all hands on deck'
Error Analysis: The correct preposition in news item 1 is 'in' (not: on) the queue (= waiting in line). *How long were you in the queue?* In news item 2, the correct idiom is 'All hands on deck'. Adding 'must be' changes the idiom into a directive. The original idiom 'All hands on deck' is a command, implying that everyone's presence is required immediately. *During the holiday rush, the manager called on hands on deck to ensure every customer was assisted. To meet the tight deadline, the project director requested on hands on deck to work overtime and finalize the presentation.*

43. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor
News Editor: Linus Chima
Time: 7 a.m.
Date: Monday, 23rd September, 2024
News Item: '... The LP candidate, Olumide Akpata came a distant third'
Correct Form: '... The LP candidate, Olumide Akpata came a poor third'
Error Analysis: The correct idiom is 'be/come a poor third', meaning to finish a long way behind the winner in a race, competition, etc.

44. Newsreader: Ogheneganre Abokwara
News Editor: Felix Ekwu
Time: 7 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, 24th September, 2024
News Item: '... the ocean surge has resulted to indigenes fleeing their ancestral home'
Correct Form: '... the ocean surge has resulted in natives fleeing their ancestral home'
Error Analysis: The verb 'result' collocates with the preposition 'in' (not: 'to'): The word 'indigene' is archaic and less commonly used in Standard English (SE). This word does not exist in Standard English dictionaries. In Standard English, 'native' is a more common

and appropriate choice to describe someone who is originally from a particular place or community.

45. Newsreader: Eyonju Amioku

News Editor: Eucheria Akarue

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, 25th September, 2024

News Item 1: ‘... students of public secondary schools who failed to write the resumption test...’

News Item 2: ‘...this excludes those on special duties such as medical personnels...’

News Item 3: ‘... on Tuesday organized a send forth party for Madam Becky Obujor’

Correct Form 1: ‘... students of public secondary schools who failed to take/do/sit the resumption test’

Correct Form 2: ‘... this excludes those on special duties such as medical personnel’

Correct Form 3: ‘... on Tuesday organized a send-off party for Madam Becky Obujor’

Error Analysis: In news item 1, (see 21 for explanation). In news item 2, ‘personnels’ should be ‘personnel’, which refers to the people who work for an organization or one of the armed forces. For news item 3, ‘send-forth’ should be ‘send-off’, which refers to an occasion when people come together to say goodbye to somebody who is leaving.

46. Newsreader: Oghenekaro Aruakpor

News Editor: Esima Aniretan

Time: 7 a.m.

Date: Monday, 30th September, 2024

News Item 1: ‘He said the competition was his own way to give back to the society’

News Item 2: ‘They should show more love and unity among themselves’

News Item 3: ‘...Uvwie Indigenous Ministers’ Forum will hold its annual Praise Day at the Ovie of Uvwie Palace’

Correct Form 1: ‘He said the competition was his own way to give back to society’

Correct Form 2: ‘They should show more love and unity among one another/each other’

Correct Form 3: ‘...Uvwie Indigenous Ministers’ Forum will hold its annual Praise Day at the Ovie of Uvwie Palace.’

Error Analysis: In news item 1, (see 9/32 for explanation). In news item 2, the reflexive pronoun ‘themselves’ should be replaced with ‘each other or one another’. ‘One another’ is a reciprocal pronoun indicating mutual action or relationship between members of a group. It is commonly used in phrases emphasizing unity, love and cooperation. ‘Themselves’ implies self-reflection or individual action, not mutual relationship. For news item 3 (see 5 for explanation).

9. Answers to Research Questions

Research Question 1: What types of linguistic errors occur in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba Warri?

Types of Linguistic Errors:

1. Non-existent words: e.g. reoccurrence (= recurrence), decampees, vandalization (= vandalism), upliftment (= uplift), etc.
2. Lexical errors: e.g. ‘decampees’ instead of ‘defectors’, etc.
3. Tautology: e.g. quiz competition, etc.

4. Error of word choice: e.g. equating 'troubleshooters' to 'troublemakers', 'autorickshaw/tuk-tuk' to 'tricycle/keke', etc.
5. Errors in the use of idioms: e.g. ... Olumide Akpata came a distant third (= ... Olumide Akpata came a poor third), ...saying all hands must be on deck (= ...saying all hands must be on deck), pomp and pageantry (= pomp and circumstance), with regards to (= with regard to/ as regards), be at alert (= be on the alert), etc.
6. Use of archaic or obsolete words: e.g. indigene of Okuama (= native of Okuama), etc.
7. Grammatical errors:
 - Incorrect preposition usage: e.g. result to (= result in), converge at (= converge on), given a cheque of... (= given a cheque for...), on the queue (= in the queue), at about 6 a.m. (= at or about 6 a.m.), etc.
 - Concord errors: e.g. 'The police is your friend' (= the police are your friends), etc.
 - Wrong use of adjectives: e.g. some selected schools (= some select schools), more closer to God (= closer to God), a conducive learning environment (= an environment conducive to learning), etc.
 - Incorrect use of phrasal verbs: e.g. scale through first reading (= sail through first reading), send forth (= send off), etc.
 - Article usage error: e.g., for ...benefit of the society (= ...for benefit of society), across board (= across the board), etc.
 - Pluralization of collective nouns: e.g. medical personnels (= medical personnel), destroying other properties in the building, (= destroying other property in the building), campaign promises to the electorates (= campaign promises to the electorate), the Urhobos (= the Urhobo), etc.
 - Wrong verb usage: e.g. write exam (= take/do/sit an exam), ...will hold this Saturday (= will be held this Saturday), Nigeria is yet to win a medal... (= Nigeria has yet to win a medal...), exercise patience (= have patience)

Research Question 2: How frequent are linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba Warri?

Some errors were recurrent in the news bulletins, indicating a pattern of inconsistency in language usage. The frequency of errors suggests a need for improved editing and language proficiency.

Research Question 3: What are the possible causes of linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba Warri?

1. Inadequate Training: Newsreaders and editors may not have received sufficient training in language proficiency, grammar, and editing skills.
2. Time Pressure: The fast-paced nature of news broadcasting can lead to rushed preparation and editing, increasing the likelihood of errors.
3. Lack of Proofreading: Insufficient proofreading and quality control measures may contribute to errors going unnoticed.
4. Language Evolution: The dynamic nature of language can lead to challenges in keeping up with new words, phrases and usage.

5. Limited Resources: Inadequate resources, such as outdated style guides or limited access to language experts may hinder accurate broadcasting.
6. Human Error: Simple mistakes can occur due to human oversight or fatigue
7. Linguistic Interference: Influence from other languages spoken by newsreaders or editors may lead to errors.

Research Question 4: What strategies can be proposed to improve language proficiency and broadcasting standards in Nigerian radio broadcasting?

1. Regular Training: Provide ongoing training and workshops for newsreaders and editors on language proficiency, grammar and editing skills.
2. Style Guides: Develop and regularly update style guides to ensure consistency in language usage.
3. Proofreading: Implement rigorous proofreading and quality control measures to detect errors before broadcast.
4. Collaboration: Encourage collaboration between language experts and broadcasters to improve language accuracy
5. Feedback Mechanism: Establish a feedback system to identify and address recurring errors.
6. Language Audits: Conduct regular language audits to assess and improve language proficiency among, especially among editors and newsreaders
7. Mentorship: Pair experienced broadcasters with newly employed members of staff to provide guidance and support
8. On-Air/Live/Real-Time Correction Protocol: Develop a protocol that allows newsreaders or news anchors to seamlessly correct errors, such as grammatical mistakes or factual inaccuracies during live broadcasts. This can help ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information being presented while also showcasing the broadcaster's dedication to excellence in language usage.

9. Conclusion

This study has highlighted the prevalence of linguistic errors in news bulletins on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjebe, Warri. The findings reveal a range of errors, including lexical, semantic, and grammatical errors, which can compromise the accuracy and credibility of news broadcasts. The possible causes of these errors, such as inadequate training, time pressure, and limited resources, underscore the need for targeted interventions to improve language proficiency and broadcasting standards.

The strategies proposed in this study, including regular training style guides, proofreading, collaboration, feedback mechanisms, language audits and mentorship, offer a roadmap for enhancing language proficiency and broadcasting standards in Nigerian radio broadcasting. By implementing these strategies, broadcasters can improve the quality and accuracy of their news bulletins, thereby enhancing their credibility and trustworthiness.

Ultimately, this study contributes to the ongoing efforts to promote excellence in language usage and broadcasting standards in Nigeria, and serves as a call to action for broadcasters, policymakers and language experts to work together to improve the quality of news broadcasts in the country.

9. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Expanding the Scope of Research: Future studies should investigate linguistic errors in other radio programmes on Delta Broadcasting Service (Melody FM, 88.6), Edjeba, Warri, beyond news bulletins, to gain a more comprehensive understanding of language usage in broadcasting.
2. Curriculum Review in Journalism Schools: Journalism schools should reassess their curriculum to ensure adequate emphasis on grammatical correctness and language proficiency, addressing the challenges identified in the study.
3. Assessing the Impact of Errors on Communication: Further research is needed to explore the effects of linguistic errors on communication among listeners, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of the implications of these errors on audience comprehension and perception.
4. Stringent Recruitment Criteria: Media houses should adopt more rigorous criteria for employing newsreaders and news editors, prioritizing competence over other factors, such as voice quality, to maintain high standards of broadcasting.

References

- Adebayo, O. (2022). Radio broadcasting and political communication in Nigeria. *Journal of Communication and Media Studies*, 4(1), 1-12.
- Akpoborie, O. (2018). The role of Delta Broadcasting Service, Warri in promoting cultural heritage of the Urhobo people. *Journal of Communication and Media*, 2(1), 1-10.
- Corder, S.P. (1967). The significance of learners' errors. *International Review of Applied Linguistics*, 5(2), 161-170.
- Higgins, M & Smith, A. (2020). The language of news: A critical discourse analysis. *Journal of Language and Communication*, 7(2), 1-15.
- James, C. (1998). *Errors in language learning and use: Exploring error analysis*. Longman.
- Mugambi, A. (2019). The effects of errors from radio news bulletins on communication in selected audiences in Kenya. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Sciences*. 3(6). Retrieved from www.rsisinternational.org
- O'Briens, S. (2019). Error analysis in news translation: A case study of BBC News. *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, 27(3) 433-446.