

**USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO  
(POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL)**

**ERRORS IN NIGERIAN SPORT NEWS REPORTS: A CASE STUDY OF  
SELECTED *SPORTINGSUN* EDITIONS OF 2017**

**A Dissertation**

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my distinguished mother who stands for me during all my studies right from primary school up to this level of M.A. and my deceased father, May Allah have mercy with him and make Jannatul Firdaus his eternal abode, Amin.

## CERTIFICATION

I certify that this work was conducted by me, Ismaila Salisu (14210105003). It has not been submitted elsewhere by anyone partly or completely for another degree.

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## ABSTRACT

This research work investigated errors in the *Sportingsun* newspaper editions of 2017 purposely to identify, give explanation, find out the frequency of occurrence, and explain the potential causes of the errors. Error analysis approach of Corder (1967) was adapted as the theoretical framework of the research work which includes identification, description, and explanation of errors. Descriptive survey design was used for the study. Random selection of fifty newspapers of the months of September, August, and July were made. The study found diverse errors in the content of the newspapers that include wrong usages related to concord, definite and indefinite articles, noun phrase, tense, omitted verbs, redundancy, tautology, transposition of superlative/positive adverb, transposition of adjective/pronoun, wrong transformation of verb/adverb of manner, misuse of prepositions, appearance of irrelevant words in sentence, typographical errors, and faulty punctuations. Some of the causes of errors identified by the study are the hectic characteristic of news production, poor mastery of the English language, mother tongue interference, and poor typing and editing.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Introduction**

This chapter contains the background to the study, the problems that triggered the student conduct the research, the aim and objectives are also contained in the chapter, the questions the research sought to answer are clearly outlined, the justification of the study is elucidated, and the scope and delimitation conclude the chapter.

### **1.2. Background to the Study**

All over the world, newspapers have been tools for promoting literate societies. Some of the valuable functions they perform are educating, entertaining and informing audience on different political, economic and social happenings around the world. The reading of newspaper is common among young and old despite the seeming decline due to factors such as poverty and poor reading habit. However, newspapers are still considered among the overall tools that enhance English language usage among professionals like teachers, lawyers, medical doctors and other categories of elite.

Sports are very important recreational activities and they are sources of livelihood to many as they make huge sum of money. Similarly, sports are now umbrellas that bring people of different backgrounds together. This is why sport news is one of the latest trends that catch the attention of people especially the youth. They are more concerned to read updates about their favourite sports, players, score aggregates, transfers and other events that take place in sports circle. Sports admirers try to get information on sports from various sources such as radio and television programmes, newspapers and more. However, in

some occasions, readers are not mindful of the quality of language they read in the newspapers as long as they get required information they intend to obtain.

It is crucial to check the language usage of storywriters in newspapers as alarms are being raised by many researchers and some careful readers on the need to scrutinise newspapers and report findings, so as readers will benefit from their researches. Error in news reportage is alarming, this is why Adika and Klu (2015) lament that in Ghana for example, and evidence of the inadequacies in the language of newspapers has been well documented by various scholars. Similarly, Nigeria is not left out of such happenings. Several studies on Nigerian newspapers have been carried out to assess the level of misuse of English language in them. Kperogi (2010) published an article titled '*Nigerian Editors Killing Maceboh Twice with Bad Grammar*', which exposed series of errors made by the Organisation of Nigerian Editors in an article written in honour of desist renowned journalist, late Dr. Stanley Macebuh. Consequently, the editor of *The New Nigerian* newspaper, on Thursday, 16th May, 2013 in an interview in *The Nigerian Tribune* on page 26, said he has published a book on grammar: '*Correct Your English*' which gives comprehensive explanation on grammatical blunders specifically in the Nigerian print media.

Gwandu (2003) believes that despite the fact that many newspapers are carried away by sensationalism and morbid search for customers in the competitive market place of information dissemination, the responsibility of any newspaper in the world is to ensure that the language used in reports and dialogues should be correct and be devoid of all sorts of error so that their targeted audience would be contented with the quality of whatever comes their ways from them.

Based on this account, this research focuses on errors in sport reports of some selected *SportingSun* editions of 2017. Being that those errors may gradually diffuse into language use of some sport news readers. Hence there are needs to identify the errors and classify them and it is hoped that this research work would reach many learners of English language and serve as resource to teachers dealing with such youths during instruction and beyond.

### **1.3. Statement of the Problem**

Sport news nowadays is trendy and very attractive to Nigerians. This is because people, especially youth are very concerned to find out news on happenings in the world of sports. However, the contents of the reportages are found with series of grammatical errors which were as a result of carelessness in writing, proof reading, mechanical processes or editing. Oguntunase (1990:13) for instance, laments that:

‘Many journalists simply do not know the rules of English grammar or they choose to disobey them thereby becoming ‘arrogant bohemians.’

At the present time, sports are considered among the most vital recreational activities in the modern societies. However, when consider the view above, we can deduce that grammatical errors are found here and there in sport newspapers and the errors are perhaps consumed carelessly by some unsuspecting readers and probably manifest in their usage. Considering the student researcher is among the youth that read such newspapers, and encounters errors in them, he deems such problem worth being researched.

### **1.4. Aim and objectives of the Study**

The general aim of this research is to detect errors in sport news reports of Nigerian newspapers. The followings are the specific objectives;

1. to identify errors in the *SportingSun* newspaper,
2. to describe the nature of errors found in the newspaper,
3. to count for frequencies of error occurrences in the newspaper, and
4. to identify the potential causes of the errors in the newspaper.

### **1.5. Research Questions**

To achieve the above objectives, the research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How are errors in *SportingSun* newspaper identified?
2. Can the errors in the newspaper be described?
3. Can the errors in the newspaper be counted in terms of frequencies?
4. What are the potential causes of errors in the newspaper?

### **1.6. Justification of the Study**

This study is very significant to diverse categories of people who read sport news among who are students, teachers, journalists, and government officials at all levels and other categories of newspaper readers, especially sports fans within and outside Nigeria. The student researcher was able to draw different works on language use in newspapers, reviewed them, and was able to find errors in the *SportingSun* newspaper. A description of the errors was made in interesting style so as to ease reading, and suggestion of a correct usage was provided just beside the description of the error.

Uppuleti and Ganta (2015) believe that news story writers have immense power and authority in their language use to appeal to the interest of a large number of individuals all

over the world. Similarly, it is conceivably clear that some unsuspecting readers may adapt the language they read in newspapers. Another consideration is that accuracy is the paramount target of information dissemination, especially the theme of this study: sport news. Finding of this study will contribute to the academic circle as the work would serve as a reference material. Moreover, it is hoped that the research work would reach many readers and would contribute in fostering interlocution in both formal and informal settings and would simultaneously help to eliminate barriers that may possibly manifest in the arrays of information that is passed from the sports journalists to their audience.

The research is similarly useful to the teeming generation of researchers who have interest in conducting research of such kind on the language usages in newspapers in Nigeria and beyond. This would improve the quality of English language being used in the newspapers and readers would enjoy reading them as they are error free. Thus, people would have confidence on the news they read. Notwithstanding the fact that newspapers provide the replica of varieties of English language use in societies especially now that the world is reduced to a small village and sports connect people of different backgrounds, as according to Oguntunase (1990) errors in newspapers may downgrade the status of the journalist and pose danger to the reputation of the media. Since journalists are looked up to as model of good language use by the general public, students, teachers, civil and public servants, traders and everyone that speak English for any purpose, it is imperative that newspaper companies make sure their prints are error free.

### **1.7. Scope and Delimitation of the Study**

This research work is limited to study errors in the *SportingSun* sport news reports published in 2017. Copies of the newspaper have been randomly selected and read within specified year of

the study. The study is delimited to check grammatical errors in sport news reports; this include verbatim quotation when the news writers did not use 'sic' to precede the verbatim extracts and to indicate that it was intentionally done even if it appeared to be a mistake. But when not acknowledged, it will be assumed that he/she admits to the error.

Similarly, the following are the language indices were assessed within the scope of the research: concord, omission of articles, omission of auxiliary verb, wrong use of tense, misuse of particles, typographical errors and wrong use of punctuation marks in the newspapers



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0. Introduction**

This chapter reviewed literature related to the study. The review was divided into two: first the review on the key terms which provided basic information on the research work. Among these are: a brief history of newspapers in Nigeria, an overview of sport journalism, general characteristics of sport news reports and language of sport news. Some grammatical aspects were discussed at the end of this section. The second part was dedicated to study contributions by other researchers, so as to establish research gaps that are expected to be filled by this research work. A concise study of error analysis was reviewed and its relevance to this research work was established.

#### **2.1. Brief History of Newspapers in Nigeria**

The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, section 39 (sub-section 2) states that every person shall be entitled to own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinion.’ Based on this injunction, the newspaper media in particular, is established to disseminate information for its consumption. Talke (2010) defines newspaper as a publication containing news, information, and advertising. He adds that newspapers often feature articles on political events, crime, business, art/entertainment, society and sports. In addition, most traditional papers feature an editorial page containing columns that express the personal opinions of writers. Supplementary sections may contain advertising, comics, and coupons. The history of newspaper in Nigeria can be traced to the 1840s when European missionaries established community newspapers to spread Christianity, (Umaisa 2008). Babalola (2002) confirms

that in 1863, a newspaper was published; it was edited by Robert Campbell and was called 'The Anglo African'. It carried both local and international news, while its editorials were dedicated to the appraisal of the problems of the time.

The growth of the Nigerian newspapers according to Babalola (2002) was necessitated around 1880 during the years of socio-economic pressure. The first newspaper according to him, in that period was, *The Lagos Times*, edited by Andrew Thomas. Its first issue was produced biannually and was used to publicize public opinion on contemporary issues. *The Lagos Observer* later, in a year and three months (1881) begun to be published by Blackall Benjamin. Another one that superseded it was named *The Eagle*. It was published in March 31, 1887 and simultaneously *The Mirror* was started by Adolphus Mark.

It is instructive to note that Yoruba language was the first indigenous language in which newspaper was printed in Nigeria, named "*Iwe Iroyin fun awon Egba ati Yoruba*." which was established on 3rd December, 1859 by a Christian Missionary: Reverend Henry Townsend (Ismail 2011). Meanwhile, there were other newspaper publications in other indigenous languages among which include the '*Gaskiya Tafi Kwabo*' in Hausa language which was first published on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1932 under the auspices of the North Regional Literature Agency (NORLA). This agency published newspaper in Hausa and other indigenous languages for other Northern provinces of that time, purposely for students and other people willing to read the newspapers. The *Zaruma* was published for Sokoto province, The *Himma* for Katsina province, The *Gamzaki* for Plateau province, The *Zumunta* for Bauchi province and others (printed in Hausa language); The *Ardo* newspaper was in Fulfulde language, and The *Sodangi* newspaper in Kano province was in both

Hausa and Kanuri languages, (Yahaya 2002). However, most of these newspapers have disappeared due to many unforeseen reasons.

National consciousness sprang in the minds of Nigerians, with the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates in 1914. This led to the development of sets of newspapers. According to Babalola (2002), the following sets of newspapers were established: *The Nigerian Chronicle*, innovated by Johnson Brothers in 1908, while Kukoyi Ajasa started *The Nigerian Pioneer*, though he was accused of being propagandist of Fredrick Lugard's administration. 1926 was documented as the period of inception of Nigerian printing and publishing company. *The Nigerian Daily Times* was invented and its first editor was Earnest Okoli; Dr Nmandi Azikwe established *The West African Pilot* in 1936 which increased nationalistic awareness and their news focus was reports on anti-colonialism and national struggles. Chief Obafemi Awolowo established *The Nigerian Tribune* in 1946.

The following are some newspapers currently published in Nigeria. The *Daily Trust* is published alongside with the *Weekly Trust* newspaper by the Media Trust Nigeria Limited which is based in the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). The *Vanguard*, *The Guardian*, *The Business Day*, *This Day*, *The Sun*, *The Nation*, *The P.M. News*, *The Daily Times* are currently published by Folio Communication. *The Punch* is published in Lagos, *The Nigerian Tribune* Ibadan, and *The Leadership*, *The Sahara Reporters*, are published in Lagos and simultaneously online. *The National Mirror* is published in Abuja, Ogbese, Kano, Owerre and Maiduguri; *The Nigerian Observer* is published in Benin City; *The National Network* and *The Tide* are published by Rivers State Newspaper Corporation, Port Harcourt. *The Osun Defender* is published in Oshogbo, Osun State; *The People's Daily*

and *The Nigerian Pilot* are published in Abuja. *The Triumph* is published in Kano. *The SportingSun* which this research concentrates on is at the same time published in Lagos and Abuja, Nigeria.

The *SportingSun* newspaper was formerly known as the *SoccerStar*, it was officially launched on February 21, 2005 as a newspaper dedicated to soccer and was renamed as the *SportingSun* on September 1, 2015. The newspaper is a subsidiary of *The Sun* Publishing Limited, the publishers of the *Daily Sun*, the *Saturday Sun* and the *Sunday Sun* newspapers. The pioneer editor of the newspaper was Kunle Solaja known as ‘the King of Sports’ because of his deep knowledge of sports, especially in Nigeria. The newspaper is printed in full colour and contains sixteen pages. John Joshua-Akanji is the Editor and Emma Jemegah, his deputy.

The *SportingSun* newspaper was chosen for the study because a preselection survey test was conducted by the student researcher by making a random selection of three sport newspapers, one copy per each, without considering the dates of publication, and these include the *SportingLife* produced by the *Nation*, the *Trust Sports* produced by the *Daily Trust* and the *SportingSun* a subsidiary of the *Sun* Publishing Limited. The student researcher read the selected newspapers and it was discovered that the number of errors recorded in the preselected copies of the *SportingSun* were higher than the ones in other copies; therefore *SportingSun* was selected as the subject for the research.

## **2.2. Sport Journalism**

Rowe (2007) characterises sport journalism as the ‘toy department’ of the newsroom: where people while away their time with conflicting controversy of playfulness. He

comments that it can be commended, being that it has the capacity to deal with social and political issues and has a degree of professionalism. Similarly, Mesz (2014) opines that People are more interested in the lives of athletes, their income or affairs. Based on this assertion, journalist provide themselves an avenue that they report to the public the happening in the world of sports; therefore, they are referred to as sports journalist and the profession is called sports journalism. Consequently, Mesz (2014) adds that the sport journalism is becoming so called ‘yellow journalism’. He made this observation because Oxford Dictionary refers it as ‘the type of journalism that relies on sensationalism and lurid exaggeration to attract readers’.

When the views of Rowe (2007) and that of Mesz (2014) are considered, one will understand that there is an element of belittlement to the sports media. However, in reality their claims are not tenable when we critically study what is obtainable in the world of sports. It is a clear indication that sport men and women constitute the richest class in social strata of the world excluding a few business tycoons. Therefore, how could news about such category of people described as ‘playfulness’? This was why the theme of this research is worthwhile as sports constitute essential part of the modern life.

Robbins (2015) defines sport journalism as a branch of journalism interested in sport activities, athletes, coaches or the sport management and provides complete news and information. Similarly, Robbins (2015) views sports journalism as a disciplined craft of watching people compete. It requires the ability to watch competition at both the ‘grand and atomic level’, extract it into a meaningful contemporary and historical context, and report it briefly and clearly in ways that are insightful, informative, entertaining, and memorable. Robbins (2015) adds that professional sport journalists travel great distances to

witness important games, and they broadcast the news they compiled to an international audience who intensely have interest in sports, known as fans. But at the atomic level, sports journalists record the private and important competition. They report from different levels of sport competitions.

Robbins (2015) describes the modern sport journalists ‘as walking, talking, and critically thinking Swiss Army Knife’. This is because they cover games, break emerging news, profiles personalities, documents regular events such as the Olympics, chronicles entire seasons, narrates nonfiction literary journalism and more. Therefore, Sports journalism is no longer about merely writing words. It is about executing news distribution in every form imaginable. When we look at the above definitions, we will conclude that sport journalism deals with the arts of reporting stories on happenings in various sport competitions, players, clubs, and other sport news that merely for leisure. Thus, the overall status of sport journalism is a significant one like political, business and health journalism.

### **2.2.1. General Characteristics of Sport News**

Crystal and Davy (1969) say about sporting news, the need for vivid description is often so strong as to reduce explanation to a minimum. Based on this, sport news has peculiar characteristics which make language usages distinct from that of other news. The following are the views of scholars on its characteristics which add immensely to this work.

Bruce and Anderson (1994) consider sport news as similar to other types of news stories because sport news consists of the headline, lead and body. They are differentiated by the use of precise, concise, lively, attractive and informal language. Sport news writers in the

past were fond of using flowery prose, clichés, (such as *'Bang the apple'*), but in general today's sports pages are prepared with better, more balanced writing than ever before. When we consider the view above, the desire to minimise space, and to make the news appealing is not excuse that errors should flow in the newspaper. There are need to provide an error free newspaper so as readers would have confidence in the language usage and the news company to gain trust from their audience.

Taking Sport Index (2004), makes a similar assertion that English newspapers and tabloid newspapers in particular, make use of a special language that is only familiar to sports fans especially among football fans, a lot of small or familiar names for clubs are common. Recently, there have been wide use of sporting terms, often metaphorical in nature with a striking use of war language like 'drilled', 'attack', 'hordes', 'the old enemy' etcetera. This is no surprise according, since this military language matches the feeling of nationalism and patriotism.

Marriott (2007), comments that in sports commentary language is 'now-movement'. This means that a commentary of an on-going sport is delivered at the time it is taking place. Smith and Higgins (2013) on this ground, remark that live sport commentaries use lexicons that catch attention to generate excitement in audience, often by communicating sense of high drama in events seen.

### **2.2.2. Language of Sport News**

Every aspect of human endeavour has a typical way in which language is applied in communicating activities going on. Some require a formal one, while others are expressed in casual language. Being that sport is the topic of discussion here, the language is

expected not to be exclusively formal. The followings are findings on the features of language used in sport news.

Silaski (2009) conducted research on metaphors in sport newspaper headlines; he found that there are unconventional metaphors, in which the choices of metaphorical words are as a result of the feature of the subject being discussed. This includes, nicknames of sport club which are characterised with animals such as birds and others. The topic discussed by Silaski (2009) is pertinent to this research work as it provides insight in relation to unconventional language usages in newspapers, and this also created a sense of inquisitiveness to make an in-depth study of errors found in sport newspapers.

Mesz (2014) observes that there is a high rate of appearance of clichés in sport journalism. On the other hand, a journalist who does not use clichés is considered to be more serious and credible. He adds that there is frequent usage of metaphors, euphemisms, emotionally marked words or neologisms. He also discovered that there is use of metonyms in sport commentary: this describes the closeness between given words; for example, *'There are lot of nervous stomachs in the stadium right now'*, *'the gold goes to Williams'*. He also mentioned that hyperbole (an exaggerated statement of a common happening) is also used such as *'Detroit Pistons – one of the biggest upsets in NBA finals history'* (an overreaction of an unexpected victory), *'another fancy stuff'* (an overreaction of a skilful move). Similarly, he found that sport journalists make use of pejoration, which means adding new negative meaning to a word which is originally neutral or has a positive meaning, such as *'brick'* originally the brick is a neutral word, but in basketball it becomes negative in the meaning of a bad shot. The research of Mesz (2014) is relevant to the subject matter of this research work. This is because sport commentary could make use of figurative of speech,



but the essence of correctness and clarity should be given necessary consideration irrespective of the views of those who think that the sports media is pseudo-journalism. Therefore, it is crucial that priority is given to accuracy no matter how the needs to manipulate language arise.

Gray (2016) remarks that sport has its own language and its codes has sub-brand vernacular. However, Mosey (2010) appeals that sport should not give anyone ‘a licence to inflict cruelty upon the English language’.

From the above discussions, it can be observed that the language of sport news make use of ornate and informal language because it deals with recreational activities that require a genre of language, that is potential in catching and retaining the attention of audience. Due to this, there are possible tendencies for less concern in the standard of language used in such sport news. This research intends to explore such errors.

### **2.2.3. Journalese**

McArthur (1995) remarks that the term ‘journalese’ originated in the late 19th century, which refers to the general, mostly non-technical term to portray the way journalists write (and speak) or are taught to do. However, Crystal and Davy (1969) state that Journalese is like ‘jargon’ and other pseudo-descriptive terms have to be understood in relation to the way they are used. Besides, it has no specific linguistic definition. He believes it as pejorative criticism of a way that people feel about some press, or particular paper. But when it is delimited to just linguistic differences as on similarities, it is easy to clarify the idea that ‘journalese’ could be used to convey different not a single thing, but rather a multifactorial mixture of what is characteristic of a number of different kinds of

journalistic material. The types of journalistic materials which are crucial to this research work are grammatical errors contained in the *SportingSun newspaper*, and are relevant to caution proffered by Thompson (2010) that language of broadcast news is contaminated by journalese and lasting solutions are not yet found to the problem.

Waterhouse (1989) identified two versions of journalese. The first ‘officialese’ which can be found everywhere, in official documents, press releases and corporate literature, and includes sophisticated phraseology and pompous adjectives to denote great significance. The second version is ‘tabloidese’ is by bolted together monosyllables and sensationalism. Both ‘officialese’ and ‘tabloidese’ are relevant to this work as they comprise the major content of the *SportingSun*, thus the newspaper comprise short articles along with photographs that display sport men and women purposely to stimulate and to retain readers’ attention throughout to read the caption attached to the article.

Block (2012) mentions *The Reuters Handbook for Journalists* to have said journalese comprises clichés esteemed by journalists and often have root from the adopted shorthand found in headlines. Smith et al. (2013) declare that news writers sometimes fall into sloppy styles of generalities, clichés, jargon, and overwriting; such phrases like: ‘*temperature sores*’, ‘*cost skyrocket*’, ‘*rivers rampage*’, and advises to avoid journalese. In addition, this research work anticipates that even though clichés adopted from short hand and headlines are used in sport news, deletion of essential components that facilitate information dissemination in sentences should not occur in the sport newspapers.

#### **2.2.4. The Conception about Journalese**

The language in newspapers have to be plain and straight forward for the consumption of every reader, not in personal or mysterious codes, because consumers of the stories in newspapers do not nowadays constitute only the elite class.

McArthur (1995) perceives that journalese is likely to be short and is designed to attract, and stimulate readers whose attention traverse. Due to excessive compression of journalese, it sometimes misinforms and misleads readers, who are not conversant with its peculiar codes to force readers to read a headline or picture caption, twice. These concur with errors of omission of the articles, prepositions and auxiliary verbs in some sentences of the data analysis of this study. Similarly, most of the time such errors are assumed to have occurred as a result of negligence, or the need to minimise space.

Another view is that of Wilson (1996), who believes that journalese is a dynamic form of expression, plain, straight forward, calculated to capture the attention of people who might otherwise ignore events in the world beyond their personal experience. He concludes that it is purposeful and has function not because the writers cannot improve, but can go too far and become parody. He similarly observes that journalese is supported by experts in language who dismiss the idea of ‘good usage’; however, it passes the test of effective communication.

However, Noble (2006) considers the tendency to use journalese results from the desire to be colloquial, similarly to make writers words and phrases understandable to the public because the more writers do away with formality a bound is developed with the readers. Therefore, he finally gives a go ahead to use journalese. Conversely, the desire to be colloquial should not give licence to errors in sport newspapers, as this of course lead to negative consequences and the intended information may not be achieved.

On the other hand, a good journalese according to Philip (2002) should be natural, lively and enjoyable to read, and bad journalese is the one that one has to read more than once to

grab its meaning. Kubicek (2010) supports this claim as he remarks notwithstanding that journalese is often condemned because of its uninventive language use; but it still serves the purpose of communicating content of the newspapers. In addition, Agu (2015) avoids using the term 'journalese' in his write up because he views it as a technical word or formal register denoting the peculiarities and linguistic traces of the journalism simply because Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (2006) terms it as being 'derogatory', the language is typically trivial and full of clichés and jargons, used by inexperienced journalists. Considering the above views, one can conclude that journalese should be avoided being that the essence professionalism is very important in journalism. Effectiveness and error free production strengthen trust that bound audience and sport news producers and this has a close relationship to the topic of this study being that it is concerned with grammatical accuracy.

Jowitt (2016) cites Mc Arthur (1995) to have analysed journalese without expressing clear disapproval of it. He adds that purism has now existed in Nigeria for decades and could be divided into two groups: those who chiefly attempt to correct grammatical and other apparent errors, and those who aspire to advocate original and correct use of the language, through the evasion of expression that may be 'correct' but to the opinion of the writer are boringly conversant and unacceptable.

However, there are categories of journalists Nigeria, as some are well trained and experienced while others practice the profession without being well trained, therefore they do not exhibit professionalism in the course of carrying out their duty. This practically indicates that journalese also constitutes unusual grammatical constructions, and such ungrammaticalities in sport news are what this research work studied.

### 2.2.5. Clichés

Jowitt (1991) considers clichés in Nigerian English (NE) as mostly the same as that of the Standard British English (SBE) even though many clichés have not established themselves in NE, and they are strictly required by etiquette among journalists and others who write newspapers. He adds that clichés in NE can be classified into two categories according to stylistic use. Clichés of Formal style like: '*aid and abet*', '*...canker-worm that ate deep into fabric...*', '*last but not (the) least*', '*to mention but a few*'. (b). Clichés of informal style like: '*bad eggs of the society*', '*bouncing baby boy*', '*to crown it all*', '*day in, day out*', '*the national cake*', '*spread like bush fire in harmattan*', etc. Jowitt (2016) equally advocates that some journalists often use certain clichés consciously for saving space. Therefore, asserts that what counts as cliché is subjective; words horrible to one writer is not for others. Here Jowitt does not take a stand about the use of the concept.

Ibrahim (1992) conducted a research on clichés in some Nigerian English writings, common expressions on print and electronic media and popular fictions. He concluded that factors responsible for it were inadequate vocabulary, tendency to imitate the stylistic taste of others, laziness of the English language users, and other psycholinguistic factors commonly found in the second language situations. This viewpoint has a close relation with this research. They are connected in the sense that the use of cliché and ungrammaticality in writings are detrimental effects of laziness and unprofessionalism, and being that sport news is now a global trend that binds nations together, therefore the need to use acceptable language is indispensable for effective communication intercourse.

However, a similar view is of Rob Kirk, an Editorial Development Manager, *The Sky News*; in Thompson (2010) recapitulates that clichés are bothersome since they are 'lazy'

and ‘insulting’ because they indicate that the correspondent does not know how to use a more creative word simply to impress the audience. Another view from Thompson (2010), opines that some phrases that begin as innovating and fascinating piece of writing become cliché quickly. Here a stand about cliché is taken and it suffices to conclude that writers should be more inventive in their language usage so as not to keep repeating the same cliché in their stories which these acts make reading boring.

Ashipu (2013) affirms that Clichés is ‘trite or won out jaded expressions’. He elucidates that they are expressions that have been used recurrently that the critically minded readers are tired of them. He adds that clichés are used in editorials perhaps because they save the writer’s task of thinking up new ways of saying something.

#### **2.2.6. Grammar**

The core aspect that this research work deals with is grammar, and it is the circle which covers all facet of professionalism in journalism. The term grammar is viewed from different perspectives and has been a topic that highly attracted the attention of a lot of scholars and they have written extensively on it. Grammarians of different orientations, ranging from the Traditionalists, the Structuralists, the Transformational Generativists, the Functionalists and others have given insights on the term and their views are reviewed.

The layman’s conception about grammar, it is a set of nominative rules that determine correctness. We can say a sentence, is therefore incorrect if it contravenes any of the rules of usage which include tenses, agreement, punctuation, spelling, redundancy, (Olukpe 1979). The knowledge of these nominative rules play vital roles in compilation of accurate news report and help the reporters to manipulate English language in needed perspective

without distorting intended meaning, this function of grammar has significant relation to the topic of this research.

Radford (2007) stresses that grammar of a particular language as set of rules or principles which govern the ways we 'speak' and understand the language, and this is more precisely concerned with morphology, syntax, phonology and aspects of semantics. This view stresses the relevance of word formation in any language, how these words are organised into sentences, the sound pattern which represent the words, and meaning of the words. When we consider the above definitions, we can draw that grammar deals with correctness in language usage which includes speech and writing and the function it performs in social interaction.

Quirk et al. (1985) stresses competence and performance of an individual. The former are the rules acquired unconsciously by a native speaker but for foreign speaker it is difficult and requires diligence in learning them. Most of the sport journalists in Nigeria are not native speakers of English language. Therefore, it is necessary that they learn grammatical essential patterns that are required of them such as irregular verbs, prepositions etcetera so as to improve their communication expertise.

### **2.3.7. Grammatical Errors**

Every language has conventional rules that guide its usage. When these rules are broken then it is assumed that there are grammatical errors. Cobbett (1968) believes that grammar is a tacit assumption that rules should be known. This is why views on grammatical errors are examined so as to find out perceptions on the concept and justify their possible causes and to add to the already established literature about the problem.

*Nordquist (2017)* describe an instance of faulty, unconventional, or controversial usage, such as a misplaced modifier or an inappropriate verb tense as element of grammatical errors. This is relevant to the perception of Hsu (2013), that errors comprise inaccurate form, semantic and use. Burt and Kiparsky (1972) classify those errors into ‘local errors’ which linguistically include morphological, lexical, syntactic, and orthographic errors; while ‘global errors’ are communicative errors which show L2 learners misinterpretation of conversational messages. The classification of Burt and Kiparsky (1972) enriches this research work because errors related to word formation processes which include derivation and inflection (morphology), errors individual words that make up vocabulary of sports (lexis), errors in organisation of words in sentences (syntax), and errors in spellings constitute the theme this research work focuses on.

A lot of literatures in relation to grammatical errors in Nigerian Newspapers were documented in Nigeria and beyond. For instance, Nsereka (2012) shows his worry about high incidence of grammatical errors in the Nigerian mass media. His research work essentially focused to investigate into the causes of the errors, determine their effects on the perception and behaviour of audience members and the possible effects of the errors on the media. In the work, he discusses some linguistic ‘blunders’ that are transmitted by the media, specifying the class for each error under syntactic, semantic, and morphological or concord. His findings showed that the blunders committed were largely due to societal, professional and personal weaknesses such as absence of a comfortable study environment, lack of refresher courses for writers and editors, inadequate teaching of Basic English grammar in mass communication programmes, shoddiness in writing and carelessness with the prescriptive rules of grammar.



Kprogi (2013) spotted grammatical errors made by ministerial nominees during their screening by the senate. The author calls attention of public to the errors so as such errors will not recur. Among the errors he spotted are ‘\*my names are’ for ‘my name is’, ‘\*comity of states’ for ‘comity of nation’, ‘\*know fully well’ instead of ‘know full well’.

Mesz (2014) conducted a research on sport commentaries and expressions used by sport commentators during sport broadcast. He studied the lexicological level of their speech; he found that the occurrence of polysemous and homonymous words among randomly chosen sport terms. Similarly, there is high application of hyperbole by the commentators and are often influenced by their emotions and that reflects in their speech because they often overreact in the given situation. There are the usages of metaphors to depict the actions of athletes. Hyperbole immerses the tension and keeps the speech of the sport commentators interesting and dynamic. The most common cases of hyperbole in his research were formed by adjectives and with a positive connotation.

Adika and Klu (2015) investigated the use of the relative clause as a modifier in two major Ghanaian newspapers – *Daily Graphic* and *Daily Guide*. Specifically, Adika and Klu (2015) examined how the three main relative clauses; namely, defining, non-defining and sentential have been used in the selected newspapers. Analyzing data drawn from both newspapers from 1st June – 30th November, 2011, the researchers discovered that both newspapers contained violations of the syntactic and semantic rules with regard to the use of relative clauses. These violations, the researchers argue, could create potential sources of confusion for the reader in the interpretation of the sentences. Their paper described the nature of the violations and recommend that editors pay greater attention to this aspect of written communication. Furthermore, they suggested that language courses in schools and

institutes of journalism as well as universities in Ghana should pay substantial attention to the teaching of relative clauses as modifiers.

Linguo-stylistic analysis of newspaper reportage on the 2010 and 2011 crises in Jos: a case study of the *Nation* and *This Day* newspapers was conducted by Jonah (2012). He discovered that linguistic items were carefully selected by the newspapers to achieve their intentions and goals. In addition, the writers used simple and precise words which enhanced the clarity of their work.

In relation to few literature reviewed above, attempts have been made by researchers to study newspapers, their language, style, semantic orientation and more. Even though the literature reviewed are very relevant, it is still obvious that there are needs to analyse errors in sport news reports. Correctness in grammatical structure is an essential component of any news reportage as this shows the level of commitment of the story writers and editors of the media. Inefficient expertise of grammar is the possible chief factor which leads to failure in transmitting intended information; this possibly tarnishes the image of the media. Consequently, the studies above reveal that it is pertinent to further research on grammatical errors and this indicate the relevance of the theme of this research.

#### **2.2.8. The Grammatical Concord**

As explained earlier on, grammar studies how language works and the grammatical rules of English language specify agreement of parts of speech that make up sentences. This rule is called concord. This why this research finds it appropriate as its usage has been posing serious challenges especially in sport news. The student researcher views the importance of

revisiting the rules that apply to the use of concord purposely to relate them to their application in sport news.

Quirk et al. (1985) conceive concord as a relationship between two grammatical elements in such a way that if one element is used with a given feature, the other has to correspond with the other feature used. For example, a singular subject goes along with a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb. Consider these sentences:

- The child loves apples. (Singular subject + singular verb).
- The children love apples. (Plural subject + Plural verb).

This matches with the topic of this research as this are some of the errors that manifest in the data presented in chapter four of this work. There are many instances where singular subjects are used with plural verbs, or plural subjects are used with singular verbs vice versa, and these are errors.

Ogbazi (2012) stresses that there must be agreement of person, gender, case, number and. This can be exemplified in the following:

1. Agreement with Person: this denotes first person (person speaking, thus: noun or pronouns like I, me, we), second person (person spoken to, thus: a noun or pronouns you) and third person (person being discussed about, thus: a noun or pronoun like he, she, they and it). Consider the sentences below:

- He/she/it eats food.
- They eat food.

2. Agreement with Gender: agreement in terms of masculine, feminine and neuter genders. Consider the sentences below:

- **The boy** lost **his** book.
- **The girl** washed **her** face.
- **The cat** eats **its** food.

When we look at the sentences above, there is agreement between pronouns and antecedents and the sentences are considered ungrammatical when there deviation from the above usage, unless for poetic or stylistic purpose.

3. Agreement with Case: is a form of a noun, pronoun or adjective that indicate relation syntactic relation to surrounding words. Personal pronouns have three cases (nominative, accusative and genitive) and are further categorised into subjective case (like: I, you, he, she, it, they, who and whoever); the objective case (me, you, him, her, it, us, whom and whomever) and the possessive case (my, mine, your, yours, his, hers, its, our, their, theirs, whomever, whosever). Consider the example below:

- Musa kicked me.
- He kicked Musa.

The case shows relationship between the subject and the object. It is of course ungrammatical to write/say

- \*Me kicked Musa. Or
- \*Musa kicked he.

4. Agreement with Number: this deals with a classification consisting of ‘singular’ and ‘plural’ and the number of the verb they go along with. For example ‘carries’ is a singular verb, while ‘carry’ is plural. Consider the sentences below:

- **The donkey carries** heavy load.
- **The donkeys carry** heavy loads.

- **It was** carrying heavy load.
- **They were** carrying heavy loads.

The bolded words indicate agreement of the NPs with their verbs.

Eka (1994) stresses that consistency in the tense usage with regards to time reference is another significant area that concord deals with. Similarly, there are instances of such occurrence in the data of this research, and this makes this rule pertinent to this study. The sentence below is ungrammatical because of inconsistency in tense usage. Consider the sentence below there is a combination of different tense in the sentence therefore it is incorrect:

- \*Lawal entered the class; he sees his teacher and smiled at him.

The collective nouns are important aspects that constitute confusion in concord. There are instances of inconsistencies with regard to the use of collective noun in the data of this research, and Asher (1994) clarifies that collective nouns denote some entities made up of a collection of parts seen at any time as one, and taking a plural or singular verb respectively for example government, family, club, army, team, public and others. When we consider the above explanation, we can arrive at a point where there are different views pertaining the use of collective nouns. Some scholars argue that they concur with singular verbs while others insist that they are accompanied by plural verbs while others remain indecisive.

Quirk (1985) for instance, claims that plural concord is commonly used in British English than in American English. The American speakers perhaps view collective nouns as single unit while the British speakers view that they are not. Another interesting point, Nixon

(1972) believes that the possibility of plural verbal concord exists only with those words denoting a collection of living individuals as in the sentences below:

- The **fleet** is in harbour (i.e. a number of ships).
- The **fleet** are in town (i.e. a number of sailors).

Bauer (1994), in his study conducted on the noun government in editorials of *The Times* throughout the century, points out that although it is not possible to predict with any accuracy whether singular or plural concord will be used on any given occasion, or how much singular concord will be used in any given text and it appears that with time the use of singular concord will persist. However, Parrott (2000) discloses that some people choose either singular or plural verb form according to whether they are thinking in terms of a unified ‘body’ or of the various people who make it up.

When we consider the above discussions on grammatical concord, we can observe that they are very relevant to this study because there is freedom in the choice of either singular or plural verb to match with collective nouns in sentences mostly found in sport news. The problem is that this freedom of choice should not affect the normal rules of subject-verb agreement which if not properly utilized could lead to construction of ungrammatical sentences.

#### **2.2.9. Omission of the Articles**

Cullop (2004) views articles as words which come just before nouns like ‘the’, ‘a’, and ‘an. Ayodele (1988) discovers that for the purpose of economy, specifically in newspaper reporting, English language accepts the deletion of certain words from the sentence pattern. Such linguistically ethical omissions according to her are called Ellipsis. But, words essential for the effective communication of clear meaning must never be deleted. Such

deviations from accepted linguistic practices become errors. Ayodele (1988) proves that the misuse of '*the*' in the sentence structures of newspaper writing must be viewed partly in the context of language transfer or mother-tongue interference, and partly in that of inadequate linguistic exposure and of previous faulty methodology.

Dadzie (2009) finds out that the dropping of articles before nouns which are otherwise mandatory in SBE is one of the features of the Nigerian English (NE) usage. The sentence '\*He died of heart attack' is a concrete example of omission of an article in a sentence in Nigerian context, whereas the proper form in Standard British English supposes to be 'He died of a heart attack'. Dadzie (2009) adds that the definite articles are omitted where they are expected in NE particularly in proper nouns of descriptions as well as names of institutions, newspapers etc. When we critically look at the view of Dadzie (2009), omission of the articles in relation to Standard British English (SBE) and Nigerian English affect could affect intelligibility when writers intends to restrict meaning of their expression and definite articles are not included in the sentences. Take example provided by Ahmed (2012):

- 'There is word for that. Now, what is **the** word?'

When the bolded definite article in the above sentence, before 'word' is removed, its meaning could be loose and could refer to any other.

Similarly, underutilizations of definite articles also restrict intelligibility when they are not used when referring to something coming. Consider this example:

- The car key is inside **the** locker.

The bolded article restrict the meaning of the word ‘locker’, when definite article is not used to pre-modify it, its meaning can refer to any other locker not the one mentioned by speaker/writer.

Ativie (2010) identifies the omission of articles among the syntactic features of NE, and supports her claim with some examples of such usages in Nigerian context, thus: ‘\*make mistake’, ‘\*have lecture’ in which articles ‘a’ is omitted from the sentences.

When we consider the above researches, insights on the use of articles are given, but they did not study omission of the articles in relation to sport news. This provides an avenue for this dissertation to research into such problem in a different perspective so as to complement the gap they have left.

### **2.3.0. Omission of the Auxiliary Verbs**

Auxiliary verbs are used with other verbs (lexical verbs such as come, eat, sing, or use) to indicate tense, mood, voice and aspect.

WhiteSmoke (2009) posits that it is not every language that uses auxiliary verb as English. Many Indo-European languages make use of it and the characteristics of auxiliary verbs differ from language to language. He adds that other languages use auxiliary with suffix attached at the end of the verbs; he concludes that missing auxiliary verb in every way is a common mistake of a none native user of English language. The English auxiliary verbs are: am, is, are, shall, should, be, being, been, was, were, will, would, has, have, had, do, does, did, can, could, may, might, must and ought. Similarly, when auxiliary verbs are missing in news reports, such may lead to misinterpretation of the content of the news.



Considering this notion, errors of omission of auxiliary verbs constitute a relevant input to this study of grammatical errors in newspaper.

Jackson (2005) gives a valuable illustration that a verb phrase may minimally contain, before the main verb, a number of auxiliary verbs. For example, '*are deciding*', '*was deciding*', '*had decided*' etcetera have single auxiliary. More than one auxiliary can occur in a verb phrase and so many negative words, especially 'not' which normally follows the first auxiliary, like this: '*is being decided*', '*had been decided*', '*not being decided*', and '*had not been decided*'. This illustration portrays how auxiliary verbs are manipulated, and it provides a preamble to data on omission of auxiliary verbs that is presented in chapter four of this work.

In addition, Rajappan (2005) observes that the auxiliary verb 'do' in wh-questions often confuse English learners. He outlines the general structure of a wh-question consisting of 'do' thus: '*wh-word + Auxiliary do + main verb +adverbial*'. Then, 'I saw somebody' for example if a question is asked based on it, it becomes 'whom did you see?'

This research work finds omission of auxiliary verbs in sport news as a problematic area which needs to be studied. Such errors could be possibly found in the text of the news, if the news writers did not use 'sic' to precede the verbatim extracts and to indicate that it was intentionally done even it appeared to be a mistake as explained in chapter one of this work.

### **2.3.1. Misuse of Particles**

A particle, in grammar, is an adverb or preposition that combines with a verb to form phrasal verbs. Cullup (2004) asserts that native speakers of English have the intuitive

knowledge of the prepositions. He adds that foreign learners of English have to take the trouble to learn the prepositional combinations by heart, because they do not follow any obvious logical pattern; therefore, this lead to endless possibilities of mistakes. Furthermore, when we relate the causes of errors in newspapers such as, hectic nature of the newspaper industry, poor mastery of English language, mother tongue influence, poor typing, and poor editing, there are possibilities that prepositions may be misused in the *SportingSun* newspaper. In this regard, this area has a link with the subject of this research.

Daramola (2004) affirms that use of prepositions presents more problems to the Nigerian user than any other category even though the members of Kwa linguistic group make use of wordings similar to English prepositions. Daramola (2004) identified two errors in the use of prepositions in NE thus: omission of the correct preposition or any other letter or part of speech, or sometimes redundant addition of a letter or preposition or any other part of speech. He exemplifies the followings: ‘\*comprise of’ for ‘comprise’, ‘\*congratulate for’ for ‘congratulate on’ etc. when one puts the above insight into consideration, similar case applies to the use of particles in the *SportingSun*, chapter four of this work provides data on such occurrences.

Numerous researchers contributed on misuses of prepositions in Nigerian English: Bamgbose (1982) delineates the misuse of prepositions and cites these examples: ‘*voice out*’ instead of ‘voice’ (\*I am going to voice out my opinion), ‘\**congratulate for*’ instead of ‘congratulate on’ (\*I congratulate you for a brilliant performance). Also Giwa Demu (1986) also views the extracts he made from newspapers and popular Nigerian usages as wrong use of prepositions by Nigerians, the followings are among his finding: ‘\*Here is Dr ABC chatting *with* Mrs XYZ’ instead of chatting to. Oguntuase (1986) underscores

‘incorrect usage of English words taken from the finest newspapers in Nigeria, thus: ‘\*the president *congratulated* the author of the book *for* a job well done’, ‘\**congratulated* him *for* the chance he had in visiting America. Jowitt (1991) identifies some PNE which frequently put non-prepositional verbs into the prepositional sub-class and vice versa. She draws the following examples from Jowitt (1) Prepositional in SBE, non-preposition in PNE: ‘\*dispose of’ instead of ‘dispose’: You should dispose your car. (2) Non-prepositional in SBE, prepositional in PNE: ‘Condole’ instead of ‘\*Condole with’. Alabi (2010) concludes among the reason for the deviations and mistakes in the use of particles such as about, away, on, to are the influence of native languages, analogy with other phrasal verbs as well as false analogy whereby the syntactic characteristic of nouns are transferred to verbs and the free selection of particles.

### **2.3.2. Typographical Errors**

Accuracy is necessary when it comes to information dissemination. Media can perhaps lose their reputation when they are challenged with typographical errors, and such poses threats to their integrity. Studying typographical errors is significant to this study in this context. Spencer and Edwards (2001) give overview of the concept that they are errors related to typing mistakes such as transposing letters within a word. Typographical errors are different from spelling errors and are not related to how well the writer can spell. Spencer and Edwards (2001) classify typographical errors in different categories such as when capital letter at the beginning of a sentence is not used; this is caused by poor use of shift key. Leaving a space between words is caused by not hitting space bar hard enough, likewise too many spaces within words are caused by hitting space bar too hard. In some situations, one may come across additional character(s) within a word and these are caused

by pressing the key too hard or leaving finger too long on a key. Similarly, omission of character(s) within words is caused by hitting shift key by mistake. Equally, incorrect letter used is caused by having fingers on the wrong key to start with. Transposing letters result from typing too quickly. Finally, when numbers appear within words means fingers are put in the wrong place.

The fallible nature of human beings in production and dispersing information, faulty machinery and hectic nature of news production lead newspaper producers sometimes to make mistakes or errors here and there. This research draws views on typographical errors from different scholars to broaden the horizon on such occurrences in Nigerian context and how such errors influence language usage among readers.

Ayodele (1988) views that typographical errors are usually non-human errors, and are unavoidable in any normal mechanical process of newspaper production, but do often depict some degree of carelessness in type-setting, paste-up, proofs and editing. She concludes that typographic errors may frustrate attempts at high visibility and readability. However, the above author gives only a trivial discussion on the concept because her research did not focus on typographical errors; it was based on the misuse of the article ‘the’. Similarly, due to the time space, it is essential to reinvestigate to update the research.

Buckler (2016) protests that in the past, newspaper copies pass at least three editing processes which include spelling, grammar and clarity before they were printed but errors still manifest in them even though nowadays they are battling with financial problems and their efforts are not commended. However, he confesses that typographical errors are more apparent in online newspapers.

Being that sport news is now considered as one of the fundamental aspects of modern life, there is need to scrutinise typographical errors in them so as to enhance the quality of the newspaper prints.

### **2.3.3. Causes of Errors in *SportigSun* Newspapers**

It is stated in the literature of this study that editors suffer a lot editing news reports, commentaries, opinions, feature articles and other write-ups for publication. The problems they encounter include typographical, grammatical, punctuation errors and many other errors (Ahmad 2012). One can relate these errors to the insight given by Norrish (1983) that linguistic errors result from carelessness, interference from user's first language, translation from the first language, contrastive analysis and general order of difficulty, overgeneralization, and incomplete application of rules, material induced errors and part of creativity. A substantial number of errors in the newspapers are seen and corrected while others are not noted due to the nature of human imperfection and at times carelessness, tiredness or laziness of the writers and/or editors. Despite the fact that there are stylistic innovations in writings, dynamism of language, the need for economy and hectic nature of the news industry there is no excuse for ungrammaticality in the arrays of news reportage in newspapers as they are viewed as role models of English language usage. Likewise some people tend to be influenced by such errors in newspapers due to their inadequate knowledge of English language, and sometimes passion for sports make them to unsuspiciously adapt the wrong usages. In this respect, the following are possible causes of errors.

#### **2.3.4. Hectic nature of the Newspaper Industry**

The newspaper studied is produced on daily basis, and due to competitive nature of sport news industry, the *SportingSun* is stressed with the need to compete with other sporting newspapers, therefore to retain its daily production and marketing they have to do their best to maintain daily production at all cost. This is similar to Gwandu (2003) assertion which states that many newspaper companies are carried away by sensationalism and morbid search for customers in the competitive market place of the information dissemination.

Another reason, is the urge to be the first to break up-to-date and first-hand information which the readers crave to have, this is why they mindlessly commit errors, especially typographical errors in the course of production so as to satisfy the needs of the readers, however most of the readers are not after the correctness of the language used in the newspaper but only to get the news.

#### **2.3.5. Poor Mastery of English Language**

Poor mastery of English language is a potential reason for errors are found in the newspaper. As stated in the literature of this work, this resulted from lack of knowledge of the correct rules of the target language (Rod 1994). Similarly, overgeneralizations of rules also increase chances of errors in the newspaper. Richards (1971), in chapter two of this work states that errors occur when users of language create deviant structure on the basis of their experiences of the structures in the target language. Errors associated with this are the misuse of concord, wrong usages of prepositions, auxiliary verbs and articles.

### **2.3.6. Mother Tongue Influence**

Mother tongue influence is one of the potential causes of errors in the newspaper. The errors identified in chapter four of this work indicate that there are elements of mother tongue influence in the English used by the story writers. Take the use of articles for instance creates problems to most non-native users of English language.

Ojetunde (2013) observes that the problem also results from partial resemblance between the English articles ‘the’, ‘a/an’ for example with the Yoruba articles ‘naa’ and ‘kan’ because in Yoruba language for instance are not realized as pre-modifiers as a Yoruba speaker can say ‘*Omo naa*’ (child the) for the child, ‘*Ikowe kan*’ (pencil a) for a pencil and ‘*Eyin kan*’ (egg an) for an egg. In addition, the articles in Hausa language are not the same with that of English language. For instance, ‘*rigar*’, ‘*dokin*’, are derived from ‘riga and diki’ and the articles are indicated by inflectional /r,n/. The improper usages of articles are typical feature of the Nigerian English usage and result from the factors above.

### **2.3.7. Poor Typing**

Poor typing is one of the causes of errors in the newspaper. When we refer to the literature review of this study, the causes of typographical errors are clearly spelt out. Similarly, due to excessive work load the typists tend to rush to beat time and complete their tasks so as to avoid any wrath the company may inflict on them.

### **2.3.8. Poor Editing**

Being that newspaper industries are profit based establishments, they do many things to minimise cost of running the business so as to earn huge profits. One of the major criticisms they face is that in the course of cutting down cost, they disable key services that

help to improve the quality of their product this include copy editor elimination whose function is to check all errors for correction. The story writers are left with the task of editing their work by themselves, and they may possibly not observe many errors because each newspaper supposes to pass at least more than one editing process, however the newspaper has two editor: the editor and his assistant.

Another cause is lack of proper internal guidelines for error correction. There are no guidelines for standard news production produced by the newspaper company which will serve as a guide to story writers on the pattern they should adhere to meet the requirement for qualitative news needed by the company and the editors are eager to conceal their errors being that the company does not have people assigned to report and make sure that errors are fully corrected when prompted.

Similarly, readers are reluctant to report any errors that catch their attentions; therefore many errors go unnoticed and are left uncorrected because they think that it is a waste of time complaining about errors in newspaper because they do not get proper feedback, or many of the readers think that newspapers are error free prints.

In addition, there are no proper refresher programmes for editors on new innovation on news editing and error control because the industry is profit making oriented they prefer to extend their industries with monies they would have spent in retraining the editors.

### **2.3.9. Theoretical Framework**

Every research work has a gauge which serves as operational guide so as to come up with trustworthy results. A theoretical framework introduces and describes the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists; this gives the research a sense of



direction. Cole (2010) entreats that sport should not give anyone a licence to inflict cruelty upon the English language.

In Applied linguistics, Rod (1994) defines

‘An error is deviation from accepted rules of a language made by a learner of a second language. Such errors result from the learner's lack of knowledge of correct rules of the target language.’

Similarly, Ellis (1997) states that errors reflect gaps in learner's knowledge, they occur because the learner does not know what is correct. Gabriele et al. (1993) advance that interlanguage is the term for an idiolect that has been developed by a learner of a second language (or L2) which preserves some features of their first language (or L1), and can also overgeneralize some L2 writing and speaking rules. However, these two characteristics of an interlanguage yield in the system's unique linguistic organization. As such, these rules are claimed to be shaped by several factors, including L1-transfer, previous learning strategies, strategies of L2 acquisition (simplification), L2 communication strategies (circumlocution), and overgeneralization of L2 language patterns. These are the nature of some errors that manifested in the data obtained from the *SportingSun* where some features of first languages of the journalists conflict with that of English language and overgeneralizations are made in some aspects like the use of auxiliary verbs, tenses, redundancy, and transpositions/transformation some of the parts of speech of English language.

Meanwhile, this research work finds error analysis of Corder (1967) as a relevant theoretical framework because it deals effectively only with second language productivity especially in written aspect of English language which this research focuses on. Error analysis of Corder (1967) is carried out in three stages which include, collecting samples of

language usages, identifying errors in the samples, describing these errors, classifying them according to their nature and causes, and evaluating their seriousness. The explanation on how this technique is applied is presented in chapter three of this work.

Similarly, Corder (1981) also classifies “Errors” into *two* thus: firstly, ‘Errors of Competence’ which are the result of the application of the rules which do not tally to the target of standard language. It occurs when learners do not know the rules of target language adequately. This is obvious in wrong transposition of adjective/pronoun, wrong transformation of verb/adverb of manner, and wrong use of tense in the data obtained for this work. Again, it is further subdivided into two kinds: ‘Interlingual’ Error: this depends on linguistic differences between the first language and the target language, and is traditionally interpreted as interference problem such as in misuse of articles and wrong usages/omitted auxiliary verbs. This similarly relates to a specific interpretation of the target language and manifests itself as a universal phenomenon in any language learning process. It is mainly overgeneralization found in both the first language and the target language learning. Secondly, ‘Errors of performance’ are the outcome of the mistakes in language such as ‘false starts’ or ‘slips of the tongue’; this happens when the learners suffer from stress, indecision, conflict, fatigue. This, in print, can be compared to typographical errors.

Error analysis is also useful in generating information on common difficulties in language learning so as to develop materials and strategies to help learners avoid their errors. In this case, this research work is concerned with errors and mistakes found in newspapers under study not concerned with learners, being that sport news story writers are considered as

proficient in English language users because they were trained. Therefore, this work diverts a bit from focusing on learners rather to errors made by trained professionals.

Khan (2011) proposes that in order to analyse errors, it is vital to differentiate between mistake and error. He stresses the distinction is based on self-correction principle. A mistake is systematic and is self-corrected while error is systematic and consistent and cannot be self-corrected since the learners do not recognise them unless when they are prompted by someone proficient in language usage. In this case, spelling mistakes can be matched with this view.

Knowing the source of errors is important. Richards (1971) highlights four main causes of errors. Overgeneralization is first among them and it includes situations where the learner creates a deviant structure on the basis of his experience of other structures in the target language. A learner may write “\*She walked fastly to catch the bus” because he already knows “He walked quickly to catch the train”. The second cause is incomplete application of rules: this includes inability to fully develop a structure. Therefore, learners are observed to use declarative word order in questions such as “You like to play?” instead of “Do you like to play?” False concepts hypothesized is the third form and it occurs when the learners do not fully comprehend a distinction in the target language, for example, the use of ‘was’ as the marker of the past tense, as in the sentence “one day it was happened”. The forth cause is ignorance of rule restriction which relates to the application of rules to contexts where they do not apply. For example, “He made me to laugh” through extinction of the pattern found with the majority of verbs that take infinitival complements, for example, he asked/wanted/invited me to go.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0. Introduction**

This section presents the strategy that was applied in selecting the population of the study, the sampling technique, the methods of data collection and the tools for data analysis, and a conclusion at the end of the chapter.

#### **3.1. Research Design**

This research utilised descriptive survey method. Best and Khan (2007) explain that the method employs the process of disciplined inquiry through gathering and analysis of empirical data, and each attempts to develop knowledge. This method was applied in order to allow the student researcher to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way, thereby ensuring effective approach in addressing the research problem. Therefore, the sport news reports in the *SportingSun* newspaper were read and errors were identified, classified, explained and interpreted.

#### **3.2. Population of the Study**

A research population is a precise collection of individuals or objects known to have similar characteristics, (Moore et al. 2005). Sport newspapers are not documented in schools and public libraries unlike other conventional ones; likewise the copies are evacuated from vendors on frequent basis. Therefore, the student researcher found it very difficult in accessing many copies as required. Based on this, fifty copies constituted the population of the study based on available copies obtained. This was because of the limited time and resource at the disposal of the student researcher; hence not all the newspapers in the year were covered.

### **3.3. Sampling Technique**

Moore et al. (2005) expresses Simple Random Sampling as the basic sampling technique where a group of subjects for study is selected from a larger group and each subject is chosen entirely by chance, similarly each member of the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample. There are different types of sport newspapers produced in Nigeria, they include: *SportingLife* produced by the *The Nation*, the *Trust Sports* produced by the *Daily Trust*, *Complete Sport*, *Sporting Sport* and other online newspapers. Therefore, this study randomly selected from *SportingSun* published in 2017 without considering the dates of publication. Newspapers published in September, August, July and June 2017 were sampled based on availability of copies at the disposal of the newspaper vendors and readers contacted.

### **3.4. Methods of Data Analysis**

The student researcher read the selected newspapers thoroughly, identified errors in them, categorised the errors for analysis using his judgement of the rules of English grammar. The error analysis approach of Corder (1974) was equally applied which includes: collection of samples of the errors by reading the text of the newspapers; identification of the errors was done using the general knowledge of the rules of English grammar and with the help of research assistant by cross checking the texts extracted from the contents of newspapers so as to ascertain the errors. Description and explanation of the errors was done by making reference to authoritative textbooks on English grammar and the internet was checked to confirm accuracy and proper usages. Professionals in the English language were consulted to certify the correctness of the description and explanation of errors provided, and they include a Ph.D. student from the English Unit, Department of Modern

Languages and Linguistics, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto and the supervisor of this research. Classification of the errors was finally done by classifying them into categories under which each error fell.

### **3.5. Statistical Technique**

This research work used descriptive statistics in order to summarise the frequency of errors. This was done by presenting the frequency of the errors into tables and categorizing the errors in relation to the attributes of each variables found. A simple percentage of error occurrences were obtained by dividing the number of errors found by the number of the newspapers times 100, for instance:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Errors}}{\text{Total Number of Newspaper}} \times 100$$

The data obtained was coded into fifteen tables and one pie chart so as to ease readers understanding of the contents.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected from the selected fifty copies of *SportingSun* newspapers printed in 2017. The errors extracted from the newspaper constitute a catalogue for this study. The data presentation in this study takes a peculiar style that allows the student researcher to easily manipulate his data and to ease reading and understanding.

Errors that are identified in the newspaper are grammatical errors in the news content, verbatim quotation of sport men and women's speeches, and sport fans' views as explained previously in chapter one. The errors are documented in tabular form and categorised into sub-headings. The tables contain four columns. Column 1 takes the title of the story where the data was extracted, dates of publication and page numbers; column 2 contains error identification; column 3 is dedicated to description of the errors, while column 4 gives suggestions of the correct usages/forms.

#### 4.1. Presentation and Analysis

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
August 12th, 2017. Bursapor Snaps up Adegero. P.2.	...but <b>the Turkish side have</b> improved their bid to 1.5m according to sources in Norway...	The sentence comprises a definite article (the), and an NP (Turkish side) and a VP (have). The rule of concord states that singular subject takes singular verb. Therefore, the NP (Turkish side) must take auxiliary verb (has). Unless if the subject is plural (the Turkish Sides) the VP becomes (have).	The sentence should be written this way: <i>...the Turkish side has improved its bid to 1.5m according to sources.</i>
August 12th, 2017. Conte Opens Title Defence against Tricky Clarets. P.4.	<b>The Turf Morr based outfit have</b> established <b>themselves</b> in the top division, but they remain a much more dangerous prospect at home than on the road.	The head of the sentence is an NP (the Turf Morr based outfit) which is a singular noun. It has to take a singular VP (has) not plural VP (have). A plural antecedent (they) is wrongly used to refer to the aforementioned NP and takes plural VP (Remain).	The correct form should be: <i>The Turf Morr based outfit has established itself in the top division, but it remains a much more dangerous prospect at home than on the road.</i>
August 12th, 2017. Fer Ready for Saint. P.5.	<b>Poul Clament side</b> finished up <b>their</b> 2017 – 18 preparations with a thumping 4-0 over Serie A side Sampdoria at the liberty stadium.	There is no collocation between noun (Poul Clament side) and possessive pronoun (their).	The fragment should be written this way: <i>Poul Clament side finished up its...</i>



August 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Why Rogers are Struggling. P.6.	... <b>he put</b> it down to stronger challenge mounted by other NPFL teams that may have resolved not to allow the Flaying Antelopes repeat the run that saw them end a 32 – year wait for the title.	There is no agreement between third person singular NP (he) and VP (put).	The correct form should be: ... <i>he puts</i> .
July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Pedro out Ten Days. P.2.	<b>The Sun report</b> that the Spanish international was taken to hospital as a precaution after the incident...	There is subject verb disagreement. <i>The Sun</i> is a singular subject while <i>report</i> is plural verb and cannot go together. An 's' should be added to the verb.	The correct form is <i>the Sun reports</i> ...
August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Bayern Ready £50m Eric Dier Bid. P.5.	<b>The Sun claim</b> German giants Bayern are ready to test the North Londoners resolve by offering £50m for the versatile midfielder.	The subject ( <i>the Sun</i> ) which is a name of a newspaper and is a singular noun does not agree with the plural verb (claim).	The fragment should be: <i>the Sun claims</i> ...
August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Mourinho Plots £100m Bale Move. P.4.	The 28-year old's future at the Bernabeu has come into question in recent weeks as the <b>La Liga side continue</b> to pursue a deal for AS Monaco's in-demand starlet Kylan Mbeppe.	There is no conformity between NP (the La Liga side) and VP (continue) because the NP is a name of a tournament and it requires a singular VP.	The correct form supposes to be: <i>the La Liga side continues to pursue a deal</i> ...
July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Gundogan: City Suffered under Pep. P.2.	Gundogan believes that <b>it take</b> even more time to fully merge themselves in Guardio-way of playing...	The NP, a neuter personal pronoun (it) does not concur with the VP (take) (s) should accompany to the verb.	The correct expression should be: <i>Gundogan believes that it takes</i> ...
August 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. Crown Still good for>NNL Title - Oyeleye. P.6.	Despite the setback recently suffered by Crown of Oshogbo, <b>the club still believe it has all it takes</b> to pick of the two spots to gain promotion to	There is no agreement between the phrase (the club still believe) that has transitive verb and the other fragment (it has all it takes) because in former has a plural verb	The correct form supposes to be: <i>the club still believes it has all it takes</i> ...

	the elite league at the of the season.	while the later takes a singular verb. Therefore the sentence is ungrammatical.	
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Sturridge is World Class – Lallana.	<b>Italian Daily Tottosport claim</b> the Swede is considering a return.	The verb ‘claim’ is plural and cannot go with a singular noun ‘Italian Daily Tottosport’ and it makes the sentence ungrammatical.	The correct subject verb agreement in the sentence should be: <i>Italian Daily Tottosport claims...</i>
August 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Inter Fights Man U for Aurier. P.5.	<b>Tuttosports claim</b> that Paris Siant-Germain considers an Inter Milan offer a more attractive proposition.	The same comment as above.	The same comment as above.
August 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. ...To Offer Perisic New Deal. P.5.	...that is according to <b>Italian broadcaster sport media set, who claim</b> Inter are only willing to go as high as £86,000 a week.	‘Who’ in the sentence is a relative pronoun which is has a noun ‘Italian broadcaster sport media set’ as its antecedent. The verb that precedes it must be singular. Hence the sentence is ungrammatical.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Italian broadcaster sport media set, who claims...</i>
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. BUNDES LIGA Dortmund Want £100m for Dembele. P.3.	<b>Jose Morinho’s side have been</b> linked with a bid for Dembele earlier this summer...	There is subject verb disagreement between a singular NP ‘Jose Morinho’s side’ and a plural VP ‘have been’. The sentence is considered ungrammatical.	The fragment supposes to be: <i>Jose Morinho’s side has been...</i>
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. Barca Tracks Dybala, Griezmann. P.4.	As numerous sources hint that <b>the Persian outfit are prepared</b> to meet Neymar’s £199m buyout clause at the Catalan club.	The sentence is ungrammatical because there is no conformity between singular NP (the Persian outfit) and plural VP (are prepared).	The part of should be written this way: <i>the Persian outfit is prepared...</i>
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. Napoli rejected €165m Insigne Coulibaly offer. P.4.	...it wasn’t easy, <b>claim Lagazzetta Dello Sport</b> .	Lagazzetta Dello sport is a name of a newspaper. Therefore it is a singular NP and must take a singular VP not plural.	The phrase should be written like this: <i>claims Lagazzetta Dello sport...</i>

September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Spurs Land Sergue Aurier. P.2.	The Ivory Coast International had also been linked with both Chelsea and Manchester United, but <b>the North London outfit have managed</b> to get a deal over the line for the 24-year-old.	In the sentence, there is no agreement between the singular subject (the North London outfit) and the plural verb (have managed).	The correct form should be written like this: <i>the North London outfit has managed...</i>
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Inter Signs Bastoni. P.4.	He broke into Atlanta first team last season playing three Serie A games as <b>his side have surprised</b> fourth-place finishers, along with an additional Coppa Italia outing.	The NP 'his side' is an anaphor to third person's (he) team which is a single entity. Thus requires a singular VP to be grammatical.	Then, the sentence supposes to be written as such: <i>his side has surprised...</i>
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Germain Offered Watford. P.4.	<b>Diago Simon's side are desperate</b> to conclude a deal to resign Diego Costa from Chelsea...	There is a disagreement of Subject (Diago Simon's side) and verb (are desperate) and these make the sentence ungrammatical.	The fragment supposes to be written like this: <i>Diago Simon's side is desperate</i>
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Germain Offered Watford. P.4.	<b>The Spanish side are</b> now looking to raise extra funds in order to get a deal for Costa over the line...	There is a no agreement between NP which refers to the individuality of the subject (Spanish side) not as a group and VP (are). This makes the sentence ungrammatical.	The correct form supposes to be: <i>The Spanish side is...</i>
September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Barkley to join Spurs in January. P. 2.	<b>The North London outfit intend</b> to swoop for his services for a cut-price fee midway through the campaign.	There is no correlation between NP 'The North London outfit' which is a unit of a football company and VP 'intend' a plural verb. It require an inflective 's' to make the sentence grammatical.	The phrase supposes to be written this way: <i>The North London outfit intends...</i>
September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Man United Targets Griezmann. P.3.	<b>The premier League side, who sit</b> top of the standing three fixtures respectively...	'The premier League side' is an NP distinctively referring to a single entity not collection of entities. It	The correct form supposes to be: <i>The premier League side, who sits...</i>

		therefore requires a singular VP for grammaticality.	
September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. PSG welcomes Mbeppe. P.5.	<b>...the French club are</b> confident <b>they have</b> structured the deal in such a way as to avoid an infringement.	'The French club' in the sentence refers to a single club in France, not all the clubs there. With regard to this, the VP has to be singular, so also subsequent forms.	The correct form of the fragment supposes to be: <i>the French club is confident it has...</i>
August 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Napoli Renews Suarez Interest. P.4.	<b>Serie A outfit Napoli set</b> to make one final assault on Barcelona midfielder Denis Suarez...	The sentence is ungrammatical because there is no agreement between the singular subject 'Serie A outfit Napoli' and plural VP 'set'.	The correct form supposes to be: <i>Serie A outfit Napoli sets to make...</i>
July 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Atletico Offers Costa £22m. P.5.	<b>The La Liga side are</b> reported to have drawn up a special training programme to keep Costa match fit while he is not playing games.	There is no NP-VP agreement. The NP is singular as explain in similar cases and should take a singular verb unless if the writer refers to many La Liga sides.	The fragment supposes to be written thus: 'the La Liga side is...
July 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. NFF Tussle: Supreme Court Advices on Judgement Date. P.6.	The new counsel further asked the court to adjourn the case <b>to enables him acquaints himself</b> with the case files.	Expression is ungrammatical because an infinitive verb does not take an inflectional 's' hence we cannot say '*to enables him acquaints'.	It is correct to say: <i>The new counsel further asked the court to adjourn the case to enable him acquaint himself with the case files...</i>
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. City Blocks Iheanacho's Move. P.2.	<b>...although pre-season commitments means</b> that the football association has been told he cannot play for England Under 19s at the European Championships in Georgia next month.	There is no conformity between plural NP 'commitments' and singular VP 'means' therefore the sentence is ungrammatical.	The correct expression should be: <i>although pre-season commitments mean that...</i>
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Anichebe Joins China Train.	<b>Anichebe joins fellow Nigerian Lake James at his new club who</b>	The sentence is ungrammatical because the NP 'Anichebe' is the	The appropriate usage should be: <i>Anichebe joins</i>

P.2.	<b>sit</b> the 11 <sup>th</sup> in the 16-team China league one.	antecedent to the relative pronoun 'who' then it should take a singular VP not plural.	<i>fellow Nigerian Lake James at his new club who sits the 11<sup>th</sup> in the 16-team China league one...</i>
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Belguim club wants Awoniyi on loan. P.2.	<b>Swedish side Kelmar</b> who <b>were compensated</b> when Awoniyi moved to Liverpool in two years ago...	The expression is ungrammatical since there is no correspondence between the singular NP 'Swedish side Kelmar' and plural VP 'were compensated'.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Swedish side Kelmar who was compensated...</i>
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. Real, PSG Ready £120m Mbeppe bid.	<b>Both of the European giants</b> <b>wants</b> to offer Mbeppe a chance to play for them...	The word 'both' is a conjunction and refers to two entities. A plural verb must precede such conjunction not singular. Then the sentence is incorrect.	The correct form is: <i>Both of the European giants want to offer Mbeppe a chance to play for them...</i>
July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Bremen Sacks Pizzarro. P.3.	Claudio Pizarro has been released by Wader Bremen, <b>the German Liga side</b> <b>have confirmed</b> .	The sentence is ungrammatical because the NP 'German Liga side' is singular and takes a plural VP 'have confirmed'. Such cannot occur unless the NP is plural like to write 'the German Liga sides' then the VP becomes 'have confirmed'.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>the German Liga side has confirmed...</i>
July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Arsenal Agrees £44m Lacazette Deal. P.8.	The deal would surpass the £42.5m <b>it cost</b> Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...	The sentence is ungrammatical because there is no subject verb agreement between 'it' and 'cost'. The NP is a first person singular masculine. In the case of present simple tense such pronoun takes a singular VP with inflectional 's'.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>it costs Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</i>
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Schake Signs Insua. P.3.	'This is a big step for me <b>Schalke are a big club</b> who <b>have</b> left their mark in Europe', Insua told Schelke's	The speaker refers Schalke as an individual club not the people that make up the club. Therefore the sentence is	The correct usage is: <i>Schalke is a big club who has...</i>

	official website.	incorrect because the subject of the does not correlate with the verb.	
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Barca's £22m Porlinho Bid Rejected. P.8.	<b>Chinese Super League side have</b> issued a statement saying <b>they</b> have turned down an offer of £22m for <b>their</b> 28-year-old midfielder.	The sentence is incorrect because the NPs ('Chinese Super League side', a 3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural pronoun 'they' and 3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural possessive pronoun 'their') and VPs (they) used in the expression are mutually exclusive. The subject of the sentence is singular and must take singular anaphor and a singular VP.	The correct form supposes to be: <i>Chinese Super League side has issued a statement saying it has turned down an offer of £22m for it 28-year-old midfielder.</i>
June 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Brovo's Heroices Chile in Final. P.3.	<b>Chile has booked their</b> place in the final of the 2017 Confederation Cup after beating Portugal on penalties at the Kazan Arena.	There is ungrammaticality in the sentence since the fragment 'Chile has booked' cannot agree with a possessive pronoun plural 'their'.	The correct expression supposes to be: <i>Chile has booked its place...</i>
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Betis in Cristial Tello Talks.	<b>The Italian outfit have opened</b> against playing £7m to sign the Spaniard on a permanent deal.	There is no correlation of NP 'The Italian outfit' and VP 'have opened' because the NP is singular subject and requires a singular verb not plural.	The correct expression supposes to be: <i>The Italian outfit has opened...</i>
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Is Arsenal Community Shield Win a Fluke? P.5.	...Sportingsun sought <b>fan's view</b> whether community shield won by Arsenal was a fluke.	The sentence is ungrammatical since the NP does not comply with the rule of compound noun formation. 'Fan' has a possessive 's' this indicates not only one view is expected but many.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Sportingsun sought fan's views...</i>

### Errors on Concord in *SportingSun*

## Discussion

Grammarians like Asher 1994 believe that collective noun denote some entity made up of a collection of parts seen at any particular time as individual part acting separately as one and taking respectively a singular or plural verb. However, there are some situations where such compound nouns are entirely not treated as a singular NP. In such cases the NP should be treated as a singular NP not plural. From the data presented above, it was discovered that *The SportingSun* newspaper is inconsistent in using singular and plural verb in compound nouns/NP like ‘*the Turkish side*’, ‘*The Turf Morr based outfit*’ and ‘*The Prinsipality club*’ and many of such occurrence. Such inconsistencies are the bases which make the usages of compound NPs ungrammatical. The followings are some of the cases where the NPs are used inconsistently with singular VPs.

- *Manchester City is threatening Chelsea plans for Juventus £65m rated fullback Alex Sandro.* July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Vol. no 034. P.4
- *Liverpool has slapped a \$134m price tag on Philippe Coutinho in a bid to ward off interest from Barcelona.* July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Vol. 2. No.35. P.4.
- *...for the simple reason that FIFA has not yet approved his one-time change of association from England to Nigeria.* August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Vol. 2. No. 20. P2.
- *The committee is one of the most influential committees in world football...* September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Vol. 2. No. 65. P.6

The data indicate that there are cases of subject-verb disagreement in the newspaper. Some pronominal do not agree with the verb/VP form attached to them thus deviate the rules of concord which states that a singular NP takes singular VP and Plural NP goes with plural

VP, therefore it is considered as ungrammatical to write ‘*it take...*’ for ‘*it takes*’, ‘*he put*’ for ‘*he puts*’.

Similarly, in the case where a compound NP ‘*my other colleague (Sampson)*’ is used with a plural VP ‘*are*’ is overt indication of incompliance with the concord rules. All the words in the NP are singular thus: ‘*my*’ is (a personal possessive pronoun), ‘*other*’ (an adjective pre-modifying the head NP), ‘*colleague*’ (the head of the NP). Considering this, a plural VP supposes not to follow after the NP, and this led the sentence to be ungrammatical.

In the case where the determiner ‘*both*’ was used in to modify an NP as in this phrase ‘*both of the European giants*’ a singular NP ‘*wants*’ was used which indicates the degree of incompliance to the rules of subject-verb agreement because the article is used for more than one NP therefore it cannot agree with a singular VP ‘*wants*’ in the same environment.

<b>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</b>	<b>Error identification.</b>	<b>Description of Errors.</b>	<b>Suggestions.</b>
August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Squirrels Ambush Eagles in Cotonou. P.6.	Also at the 2008 AFCON in Ghana, the Eagles fought hard to <b>over-ome</b> the Squirrels 2-0 with goals scored by Mikel Obi and Yakubu Aiyegbini.	The bolded ‘over-ome’ word is misspelt.	The correct spelling is ‘overcome’.
August 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Ahead US Open: Child Custody Battle Forces Azarenka out. P.8.	In a bizarre ruling a judge has asked Victoria Azarenka to choose between the two – tennis or <b>a her</b> child...	An unneeded indefinite article ‘a’ is mistakenly inserted in between the two words ‘or’ and ‘her’ and has rendered the sentence ungrammatical.	The worded supposes to be deleted completely from the sentence.
August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.	He <b>believ</b> sd the fear factor weapon was	The bolded word ‘believsd’ is	The correct spelling supposes



Bale Salutes Mourinho. P.3.	beginning to grow again for Reds.	misspelt.	to be 'believed'
11 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017. Juve leads £40m Roberto Chase. P.5.	...but sport claims that Juve are now the <b>frontunners</b> his signature.	The bolded word 'frontunners' is misspelled and can possibly cause confusion to readers.	The correct spelling supposes to be 'front-runners'.
July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. West Brom Wants Vermaelen. P.2.	Vermealen had 52 caps for Belguim having made his international debut in 2006 while at Ajax, where <b>the</b> began his senior carrier.	The bolded word is misspelt for a definite article and makes the sentence ungrammatical.	The misspelt word is a third person singular objective pronoun 'he'. Therefore the correct form supposes to be: <i>where he began his senior carrier...</i>
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. We must Defect in Yaunde – Rohr. P.2.	No <b>dought</b> Cameroun will attempt to seek redemption when they face Nigeria at the stated Ahmodou Ahijo in Younde tomorrow evening.	The bolded word 'dought' is misspelt and could lead to meaninglessness in the sentence.	The correct form of the misspelt word supposes to be 'doubt'.
September 2, 2017. Will May weather Stay Retired? P.5.	SportingSun <b>sough</b> fans view whether Mayweather will stay retired.	The bolded word 'sough' is a misspelt past form of a verb 'seek' and caould lead to meaninglessness.	The correct form of the word is 'sought'.
July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Uyo not Jinxed to Eagles – Onazi. P.6.	'It was not the reason we <b>lost</b> the reason was simply because we were not at our best on that night and no matter how painful it is, losing games is part of football', Onazi stated.	The first bolded word 'lost' is misspelt for the verb 'loss'. There is difference between the two as the former means unable to find way, while the former means not having something. This greatly changed the meaning of the sentence and makes it ungrammatical.	The correct sentence form supposes to be: 'It was not the reason we loss the reason was simply because we were not at our best on that night and no matter how painful it is, losing games is part of football'
August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.	Barcelona had been linked with a move for	The two bolded words are auxiliary	The correct form of the sentence

Conte Hazard can Leave Chelsea.	the Belgian and could step up <b>had</b> interest on Hazard if <b>had</b> bid to land Phillippe Courinho from Liverpool did not come to fruition.	verbs misspelt for a third person possessive singular feminine pronoun 'her'. This greatly distorted the sentence meaning as it is ungrammatical.	supposes to be: <i>Barcelona had been linked with a move for the Belgian and could step up her interest on Hazard if her bid to land Phillippe Courinho from Liverpool did not come to fruition...</i>
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. West Brom Captures £12m Rodriguez. P.2.	The forward, moved to Southampton from Burnley in 2012 for £25m and his impressive performances earned <b>his</b> a call up to the England squad under Roy Hodson.	The bolded word 'his' is a third person singular possessive pronoun misspelt for 'him' third person singular pronoun complement. This greatly influences the meaning of the sentence.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>The forward, moved to Southampton from Burnley in 2012 for £25m and his impressive performances earned him a call up to the England squad under Roy Hodson.</i>
July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Ogbogh Expresses Delight Returning to Scoring ways. P.6.	Rivers United forward, Emeka Ogbugh finally returned to scoring ways after making his first start since <b>his</b> came back from illness.	The bolded word 'his' is a third person singular possessive pronoun misspelt for 'he' third person singular pronoun subject. This also greatly influences the meaning of the sentence	The correct spelling supposes to be: <i>Rivers United forward, Emeka Ogbugh finally returned to scoring ways after making his first start since he came back from illness.</i>
September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Eagles Perfect Shooting for Cameroun. P.6	His club <b>mate</b> , John Ogu also impressed with his left foot shots, troubling the goalkeepers...	The word 'Mate' is misspelt for 'met' and each has a distinct meaning.	The correct spelling should be: <i>His club mate, John Ogu also impressed with his left foot shots, troubling the goalkeepers...</i>

#### Typographical Errors in the *SportingSun*

## Discussion

The data obtained on typographical errors are classified into categories. The misspelt words are bolded and written as they appear in the newspaper. In the literature of this work, specifications of typographical errors were made. The followings are the examples of the errors documented from the newspaper studied in their context.

- *Also at the 2008 AFCON in Ghana, the Eagles fought hard to **over-ome** the Squirrels 2-0 with goals scored by Mikel Obi and Yakubu Aiyegbini*
- *But sport claims that Juve are now the **frontunners** his signature.*
- *SportingSun **sough** fans view whether Mayweather will stay retired.*

Another form of typographical error recorded is word replacement. The errors cause total distortion of meaning in the sentences in the news they appear. Consider the followings:

- *Vermealen had 52 caps for Belgium having made his international debut in 2006 while at Ajax, where **the** began his senior carrier.*
- *The forward, moved to Southampton from Burnley in 2012 for £25m and his impressive performances earned **his** a call up to the England squad under Roy Hodson.*
- *Barcelona had been linked with a move for the Belgian and could step up **had** interest on Hazard if **had** bid to land Phillippe Coutinho from Liverpool did not come to fruition.*

- No **dought** Cameroun will attempt to seek redemption when they face Nigeria at the stated Ahmodou Ahijo in Younde tomorrow evening.

Misspelling of words is also documented in this research work. The word ‘**lost**’ for ‘loss’. The former means to be unable to find way to a place while the later means no longer having or in possession of something. Therefore the meanings of the words are not replaceable and such misspelling leads to distortion of meaning of sentence.

- ‘It was not the reason we **lost** the reason was simply because we were not at our best on that night and no matter how painful it is, losing games is part of football’, Onazi stated.

<b>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</b>	<b>Error identification.</b>	<b>Description of Errors.</b>	<b>Suggestions.</b>
June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. CHAN Eagles Begin Training. P.6.	Also in * camp was at last night were Mountain of Fire and Miracle duo of Sikiru Olatunbosun and Stapen Odey.	The asterisk in between the words means an article (definite) is left out in the sentence.	A definite article ‘the’ should be inserted in between the words thus: <i>Also in the camp was at last night...</i>
August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Barca Tempts Courtinho with £120m.	There could also be an additional problem for *Premier League champions Chelsea if Barca do not land Courtinho.	The same explanation as above.	A definite article ‘the’ should be slotted in between the words thus: <i>There could also be an additional problem for the Premier League champions Chelsea if Barca do not land Courtinho</i>
September 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Wenger: Mbeppe too Expensive for arsenal. P.2.	However, speaking to * French Channel Telefot, the under-fire Gunners manager confirmed that the deal was too rich for them.	The asterisk means that a definite article is missing in the NP of the sentence. The NP French	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>speaking to the French Channel Telefot...</i>

		Channel Telefot is a proper noun referring to a specific media not any other requires an article to make it distinct from other media.	
September 4th, 2017. Torinno: Belotti too Expensive for Chelsea, others. P.5.	Torinho received a number of offers for star striker, Andreas Belotti but none of them triggered his 100 million release clause according to * club president Urbano Cairo.	In between the words with asterisks there supposes to be an article because the NP is specific to the person being spoken about.	A definite article should be put in the NP as such: <i>according to the club president Urbano Cairo...</i>
September 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. 2017 Afrobasket D'Tigers off to Tunisia.	*African champions D'Tigers will today depart for Tunisia ahead of the 2017 Afrobasket tournament ...	The asterisk indicates there supposes to be a definite article before the NP. The NP is specific to the team alone but not any other.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>The African champions D'Tigers will today...</i>
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017.. Quadri Needs Coach – Oladapo. P.7.	Vice president of * African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF), Alabanji Oladibo believes the ITTF Africa cup champion needs a quality and word class coach to excel at this year's ITTF world cup.	The same explanation as the above.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Vice president of the African Table Tennis Federation (ATTF), Alabanji Oladibo...</i>
June 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Supersport Assures Exciting Times.	*Supersport has restated its commitment to giving soccer fans across Nigeria an exciting viewing experience as the FIFA Confederations Cup shifts gear.	The same explanation as the above.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>The Supersport has restated its commitment to giving soccer fans across Nigeria an exciting viewing experience...</i>
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. POGBA: I'll die	Paul Pogba admitted he worked hard to bring * former Everton striker,	The asterisk indicates that an article is missing.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Paul Pogba admitted he</i>

for Lukaku. P.8.	Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United.	The NP being 'former Everton striker, Romelu Lukaku' discussed 'former Everton striker, Romelu Lukaku' is known to the subject of the sentence therefore requires a definite article.	<i>worked hard to bring the former Everton striker, Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United...</i>
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### Wrong use of Definite Articles

<b>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</b>	<b>Error identification.</b>	<b>Description of Errors.</b>	<b>Suggestions.</b>
August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Conte: Hazard can Leave Chelsea. P.2.	'I have great consideration for this player because he is * top quality'.	The asterisk indicates that an indefinite article is not used in between the words it appears.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>'I have great consideration for this player because he is a top quality'.</i>
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Dortmund Eye Raeder. P.3.	Borussia Dortmund and premier league side Newcastle United are both interested in signing * former Bayern Munich goal keeper ...	The same explanation as above.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Borussia Dortmund and premier league side Newcastle United are both interested in signing a former Bayern Munich goal keeper ...</i>
August 31st, 2017. Ola Aina Eyes Eagles Debut. P. 3.	We've got * <b>an</b> important two games against Cameroun coming up and I'm really looking forward to the whole experience.	The article 'an' is used before a singular noun or a noun that has a plural form. The article cannot be used with a plural noun, then one cannot say '*an important two games' it is ungrammatical.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>We've got important two games against Cameroun...</i>

September 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Chelsea may recall Omeruo. P.6.	Premier League champion will be able to recall Nigeria defender Kenneth Omeruo in January from his loan spell at * Turkish club, Kasimpasa.	The asterisk indicates that an indefinite article 'a' is missing in between the words.	The correct usage supposes to be: Premier League champion will be able to recall Nigeria defender Kenneth Omeruo in January from his loan spell at a Turkish club, Kasimpasa.
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Omero in talks with Turkish club Goztepe S.K. P.2.	It is one hundred percent confirmed that * newly promoted top-flight club Goztepe S.K. have directly approached the Chelsea defender over transfer to the club before the transfer window.	The asterisk indicates that an indefinite article is missing before the NP 'newly promoted top-flight club Goztepe S.K.'.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>It is one hundred percent confirmed that a newly promoted top-flight club Goztepe S.K. have directly approached the Chelsea defender...</i>
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Quadri Need Quality Coach – Oladapo. P.7.	'I know that he needs * technically sound coach to excel at the world championships'.	An indefinite article 'a' is not placed before the NP 'technically sound coach'.	The correct form supposes to be written thus: <i>'I know that he needs a technically sound coach to excel at the world championships'</i>
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Athletics: Gac Motors Splash N800 on Asaba 2018. P.7.	This is * sign that we will be able to fulfil our promise to have a championships whose cost will not be borne by the host city and Delta state alone but also by corporate Nigeria.	An indefinite article is not put before the NP 'sign'.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>This is a sign that we will be able to fulfil our promise...</i>

### **Misuse of Indefinite Articles in *SportingSun***

## Discussion

The data show that definite and indefinite articles are misused. Ayodele (1988) cautions that it is unacceptable to omit words that foster effective communication purposely for economy because is a form of error. The articles omitted in the above sentences are vital in the sentences being that they play key roles in making the readers understand who the interlocutors are, how familiar they are to the players or other entities discussed about in the news report. For instance, the proper names of media, football governing bodies, and in many cases teams supposed to be preceded by articles to indicate their uniqueness.

There is one case where an indefinite article is misused, the article ‘an’ was used with a plural noun which such deviate the rule of compound noun formation. One cannot write/say ‘*\*an important two games*’ because the NP is made up of an article ‘an’ which can only be preceded by a singular noun (examples an ant, an image, an egg); an adjective (important), a quantifier (two) which determines number, and a plural noun acting as the head of the NP (games). Considering this the indefinite article used in the sentence is ungrammatical, the NP can rather be used without an article at all, thus ‘*two important games*’.

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
August 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Ahead US Open: Child Custody Battle Forces Azarenka out. P.8.	Her attorney told the judge that her client * willing to put up her Mc Keague in a hotel for the 2-week tournament but the judge disagrees.	The sentence is ungrammatical because the asterisk indicates that an auxiliary ‘was’ is missing in between the NP ‘her client’ and the main VP ‘willing’. A past	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Her attorney told the judge that her client was willing to put up her Mc Keague in a hotel for the 2-week tournament but the</i>



		continuous tense is formed with an auxiliary 'was' (if the NP is singular) or 'were' (when the NP is plural).	<i>judge disagrees.</i>
July 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Arsenal Coaches Tran Bosso, Ogbeide, 27 others. P.6.	Three members of the technical coaching crew of premiership club Arsenal FC yesterday * began a week-long coaching clinic.	The sentence is ungrammatical because an auxiliary verb is missing which helps to make a simple past tense. The tense is formed by adding an auxiliary verb 'had' to past participle.	The correct formation supposes to be: <i>Three members of the technical coaching crew of premiership club Arsenal FC yesterday had began a week-long coaching clinic.</i>
August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Liverpool joins Lemar Race. P.2.	During his two season at Stade Louis 11, Lemar had netted 19 times in 81 appearances in all competitions, and his form * helped Monaco won the ligue 1 title ahead of Paris Saint-Germain during the most recent campaign.	An auxiliary verb 'had' is left out in the sentence because the writer intends to make the sentence in past perfect tense.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>his form had helped Monaco won the ligue 1 title ahead of Paris Saint-Germain during the most recent campaign...</i>
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Onazi Names Daughter 'Makayla'. P.6.	Super Eagle's vice-captain, Ogeni Onazi, whose wife * delivered of a baby girl has named her 'Makayla'.	The sentence is ungrammatical because an auxiliary verb 'was' is not inserted before the main verb 'delivered' since the writer is assumed to make the sentence in simple past tense.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Super Eagle's vice-captain, Ogeni Onazi, whose wife was delivered of a baby girl has named her 'Makayla'.</i>
August 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Expect Firework at Nigeria Open – Li Ping. P.7	Li Ping has won some ITTF Tours and now he will * visiting Africa for	The sentence is ungrammatical since an auxiliary verb 'be' does not	The correct form supposes to be: <i>Li Ping has won some ITTF Tours and</i>

	the first to feature in the ITTF Challenge...	precede the main verb 'visiting' as the writer is intended to write in simple future tense.	<i>now he will be visiting Africa for the first to feature in the ITTF Challenge...</i>
Rohr Okays Draw in Yaoundé. P.5.	Super Eagles coach, Gernot Rohr said he was fulfilled his target of four points from the back to back games against Cameroun in the world cup 2018 Qualifiers.	The sentence is ungrammatical because a wrong auxiliary verb 'was' is used for 'has'. This makes it difficult to identify the thematic roles between the NPs 'Gernot Rohr' and 'his target of four points'.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Super Eagles coach, Gernot Rohr said he has fulfilled his target of four points from the back to back games against Cameroun in the world cup 2018 Qualifiers...</i>
September 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017. Will Mayweather Stay Retired? P.5.	'I don't see Mayweather * stay retired'.	The sentence is ungrammatical because an auxiliary verb 'can' is wrongly ellipted from the sentence.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>'I don't see Mayweather can stay retired'.</i>
June 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. World Taekwondo: Kogi-Born athlete Targets Medal.	Five of seven Nigerians had crashed out since the tournament began on June 24, leaving 2015 All Africa Games silver medallist, Edion Samson (male – 63kg) and Kolade as the nation's survivors.	The sentence is ungrammatical as a wrong auxiliary verb 'had' is used for 'were' this also causes thematic role identification problem.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Five of seven Nigerians were crashed out since the tournament began on June 24...</i>
August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017. Man U offers £118 Visas to fans. P.4.	Jose Mourinho's side is in Russia on September 27 and supporters * planning <b>to go have had</b> to make quick arrangements.	The sentence is ungrammatical. The first problem is that an auxiliary verb 'are' is missing. The second problem is that some irrelevant particles 'to', 'go', 'have' and 'had' are wrongly	The correct order of the sentence supposes to be: Jose Mourinho's side is in Russia on September 27 and supporters are planning to make quick arrangements.

		inserted into the sentence. These make the sentence ambiguous.	
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### **Wrong Usage/Omitted Auxiliary Verbs.**

#### **Discussion**

It was discovered that there are wrong usage of auxiliary verbs in some sentences of the newspapers read for this study. Among the wrong usages are the omission of these auxiliaries (was, had, be, and can) because they provide information in relation to the time when an action is/was carried out. Therefore such missing words cause important part of information that supposed to be dispersed to be incomplete and the readers especially the beginners find it very complicated in making meaning out of such constructions as they will of course find it difficult to predict when the topic of discussion happened. Consider this expression:

- *\*Her attorney told the judge that her client willing to put up her Mc Keague in a hotel for the 2-week tournament.*

Considering the sentence above, one cannot tell exactly when the action of ‘*willing to put up her Mc Keague in a hotel for the 2-week tournament*’ happened; therefore there is element of incompleteness in the sentence.

The table also presented a case of wrong replacement of auxiliary verb. The auxiliary verb ‘*was*’ was used instead of ‘*has*’. This misleads the reader of the story because they are put in the dark on who does the action of ‘*fulfilled*’ among the two NPs. Is it the (Super Eagles coach, Gernot Rohr) or (his target)? Consider the sentence below:

- *Super Eagles coach, Gernot Rohr said he **was** fulfilled his target of four points from the back to back games against Cameroun in the world cup 2018 Qualifiers.*

It was also documented in the table that there are irrelevant particles serving as auxiliary verbs. Consider the sentence below:

- *Jose Mourinho's side is in Russia on September 27 and supporters \* **planning to go have had** to make quick arrangements.*

The bolded words are irrelevant particles which make the sentence awkward and meaningless to readers.

<b>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</b>	<b>Error identification.</b>	<b>Description of Errors.</b>	<b>Suggestions.</b>
July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Reds want Refinha, Gomez for Courtinho. P.4.	Liverpool has added a twist to the saga involving Phillipe Courtinho's move to Barcelona, as they are requesting that in exchange for Brazil international they want both midfielders Rafinha and Andre Gomes – <b>plus also</b> a huge fee from the La Liga giants.	Either of the bolded words 'plus' and 'also' is redundant. Hence only one of them should be used.	It is better to write it like this: ... <i>they are requesting that in exchange for Brazil international they want both midfielders Rafinha and Andre Gomes – plus a huge fee from the La Liga giants.</i>

#### **Redundancy in the *SportingSun***

## Discussion

Being that redundancy is the use of more than one word to express the same thing, it refers to any expression in which a modifier's meaning is contained in the word it modifies (for example, added bonus, adequate enough). Consider this expression below:

- *They want both midfielders Rafinha and Andre Gomes – **plus also** a huge fee from the La Liga giants.*

The bolded words in the sentence above show that the news writer of course tried to make a concept vividly explained by using two synonymous words at a time. Hence the second word becomes a mere a wasteful repetition as it cannot add any meaning beyond the first one.

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
September 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Oboabona Drums Support for Eagles. P.6.	The former Sunshine stars captain expressed optimistic that the Eagles will qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.	A transitive verb is supposed to be preceded by an NP. The word 'optimistic' is an adjective and cannot precede a verb. Therefore the sentence is ungrammatical. It can only be used in this form: ' <i>In fact, there are a number of good reasons to be optimistic</i> '.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>The former Sunshine stars captain expressed optimism that the Eagles will qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.</i>
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Man U Agrees £75m Lukaku Fee. P.4.	It has been suggested that Mino Raiola, who helped bring Pogba, Zlatan	The meaning of the sentence is not complete as an adjective 'that' is not ellipted from	An adjective should be put to complement the NP and the NP should be written

	Ibrahimovic and Hen-Mkhitaryan to Old Trafford * summer, may have played big part in the ex-Anderlechtman's decision to sub Chelsea...	the NP.	this way: <i>Mino Raiola, who helped bring Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Hen-Mkhitaryan to Old Trafford this summer...</i>
September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. Andriano Salutes Ibra. P.3.	Andriano told FC Inter news: "I want to only say that Ibra is a great *"	The word 'great' requires a complement as it cannot make meaning alone.	The correct usage supposes to be: "I want to only say that Ibra is a great man'. Or ... <i>Ibra is great.</i>

### **Wrong Usage of Noun Phrase in the *SportingSun***

#### **Discussion**

The table above indicates that there is a case where an adjective was used instead of a noun in a sentence and such occurrence gave the sentence an awry meaning. Consider this expression below:

- *The former Sunshine stars captain expressed **optimistic** that the Eagles will qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia*

There is also an instance where an adjective necessary in modifying a noun is deleted and as such the meaning in the sentence is not complete. Refer to the sentence below:

- *It has been suggested that Mino Raiola, who helped bring Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Hen-Mkhitaryan to Old Trafford \* summer, may have played big part in the ex-Anderlechtman's decision to sub Chelsea.*

When we consider the above sentence, one will have to read the sentence more than to grab its meaning and it can confuse beginners.

Similarly, there is a situation where a complement totally absent in the NP in a sentence.

Consider the instance below:

- ‘*I want to only say that Ibra is a **great***’.

When we consider the sentence above we will notice that there is a missing complement after the bolded NP. This is because the adjective ‘*great*’ needs an explanation of what it is, because the complement can be anything (like thief, football player or doctor and more).

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2017. West Brom Captures £12 Rodriguez. P.2.	But Rodriguez’s spell on the South Coast was interrupted by a couple of series of injuries that kept him out for a total of 75 matches.	Either of the NPs is tautologous as both of them carry the same meanings.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>But Rodriguez’s spell on the South Coast was interrupted by a series of injuries</i>

#### **Tautology in the *SportingSun***

Tautology is saying of the same thing twice over in different words and it is regarded as faulty style in writing. The section above discloses occurrence two phrasal verbs with the same meaning in the same environment. This is considered as a wasteful and faulty expression which can possibly bore the readers.

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Gunners Snatch Community Shield. P.3.	Straight after the restart, however Chelsea took the lead through Moses, who converted from	The word ‘quickest’ is a superlative of an adjective ‘quick’ and it is only used to make a	Another adverb (very) can rather be used to describe the fastness. The correct usage supposes to be:

	close range after reacting quickest to Gary Cahills header back into the penalty area.	comparison between more than two NPs. Therefore it is ungrammatical to use it in this context.	<i>who converted from close range after reacting very quickly to Gary Cahills header back into the penalty area...</i>
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### Transposition of Superlative/Positive Adverb in the *SportingSun*

#### Discussion

A superlative adjective (quickest) is used in the place of positive adjective. The adjective describes one person or thing as having more of a quality than all other people or things in a group for instance,

- *The ‘Silver Arrow’ will be **the fastest train** in the world when it is built.*

In situation, the story writer makes wrong use of comparative adjective because it is used wrongly making comparison with only one entity in the sentence as in the expression below:

- *Chelsea took the lead through Moses, who converted from close range after reacting **quickest** to Gary Cahills header back into the penalty area.*

It is imperative to know that comparative adjectives have a systematic way of using them. When one is discussing only one entity the positive comparative adjective is used, when the comparison is between two entities a comparative adjective is used, and when one wants to make comparison between more than two entities the superlative comparison is used. Consider the examples below:

- *My car is **fast**.* (Positive comparison)
- *My car is **faster** than yours.* (Comparative comparison)



- *My car is the **fastest** among yours and Audu's car.* (Superlative comparison)

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
August 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Wilshire's Arsenal Future Hangs. P.3.	'I wanted first him to come back, he is coming out of a fracture'.	The word 'first' is an adverb of time and it is placed the end of a sentence not after a verb.	The sentence supposes to be written like this: <i>I wanted him to come back first, he is coming out of a fracture.</i>

### Transposition of adjective/Pronoun in the *SportingSun*

#### Discussion

From the table above, the word 'first' can be an adjective or an adverb and refers to the person or thing that comes before all others in order, time, amount, quality or importance and is used as ordinal number. Consider the expressions below:

- *Aliyu always arrives **first** at the meetings.*
- *\*Aliyu always **first** arrives at the meetings.*

When we consider the sentences above we can understand that the former sentence follows the order of arrangement while the later does not as the adverb is transposed and makes the sentence sounds clumsy.

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
August 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Kaduna Utd Wants 3pts, 3 Goals over Jets. P.6.	On behalf of the management, Mighty Jets flouted the rule in fielding Sheriff Fashanu, a player that alleged	A verb 'alleged' is used instead of an adverb of manner (allegedly).	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>A player that allegedly absconded from Kaduna.</i>

	absconded from Kaduna.		
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### **Wrong Transformation of Verb/Adverb of Manner in the *SportingSun***

#### **Discussion**

A verb is a word indicating action or state of being while adverbs of manner tell how an action happens, and they are usually placed either after the main verb or after the object. The bolded word in the sentences in the table is a verb and an adverb of manner supposed to be used instead. If one has to make the use of the word as it appears in the sentence it is suggested that to make it in infinitive form by replacing the former verb with ‘*alleged to have*’ to make the sentence correct, thus:

- *On behalf of the management, Mighty Jets flouted the rule in fielding Sheriff Fashanu, a player that **alleged to have** absconded from Kaduna.*

<b>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</b>	<b>Error identification.</b>	<b>Description of Errors.</b>	<b>Suggestions.</b>
July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Wolves Fans to Honour Ikeme. P.6.	It would be opened at 10am on the morning and continue through until 10am of the next day.	The italicised word is a misused preposition.	The correct preposition is ‘in’ and the sentence supposes to be: <i>It would be opened at 10am in the morning and continue through until 10am of the next day...</i>
August 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Mbappe Agree PSG Deal. P.8.	Monaco starlet, Kylan Mbeppe has agreed * personal terms with Paris Saint-Germain over a move to the French Capital, it has been claimed.	There is a missing preposition in the sentence.	A preposition should be inserted between the verb ‘agreed’ and NP ‘personal term’. The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Monaco starlet, Kylan Mbeppe has</i>

			<i>agreed to personal terms...</i>
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### **Misuse of Prepositions in the *SportingSun***

#### **Discussion**

From the table 12, a case of a replaced preposition was recorded whereby ‘on’ was used for ‘in’ which makes the sentence ungrammatical. It is important to be acquainted with the usage of prepositions of time, they include the followings: ‘**at**’ is used for a precise time, ‘**in**’ is used for months, years, centuries, and long periods, while, ‘**on**’ is used for days and dates. Consider the expressions below:

- *I have an appointment **at** 10am.*
- *It normally rains **in** the morning.*
- *Do you work **on** Mondays?*

The second error is of a missing preposition in the sentence. Prepositions are short words (on, in, to) that usually stand in front of nouns (sometimes also in front of gerund verbs). Even advanced learners of English find prepositions difficult; translation from mother tongue is usually not possible because each language has its peculiar ways of using them. A preposition in one’s native language might have several translations depending on the situation; this is why non-native speakers of English language have problems with using them because there are hardly any rules as to when to use which preposition. Consider the expression below; it has a missing preposition indicated by an asterisk.

- *Monaco starlet, Kylan Mbeppe has agreed \* personal terms with Paris Saint-Germain over a move to the French Capital.*

<b>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</b>	<b>Error identification.</b>	<b>Description of Errors.</b>	<b>Suggestions.</b>
July 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Monaco Targets Imbula. P.4.	Radio Monte Carlo is reporting that Monaco are stepping up their efforts to sign Stroke City midfielder Gianelli Imbula.	The writer makes use of present continuous tense for simple present tense. This will make the reader to think that the action is still on even after the expression and this makes the sentence ungrammatical.	The correct usage supposes to be: <i>Radio Monte Carlo reports that Monaco are stepping up their efforts to sign Stroke City midfielder Gianelli Imbula.</i>
July, 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Ibra Spotted in Turin. P.8.	The 25-year-old was release from Europa League winners Man United following a horrific injury late in the season.	The verb of the sentence is in passive voice and it requires a participial verb.	The correct usage is: <i>The 25-year-old was released from Europa League winners Man United following a horrific injury late in the season.</i>

### **Wrong Usage of Tense in the *SportinSun***

#### **Discussion**

Tenses are verb forms expressing the time which actions take place relative to the speaker or writer. The first column the news writer made use of a present continuous tense for simple present tense. The writer supposed to be conscious of the tense they use so as to make the reader to know the specific time actions take place because there is difference between action going on at present time and the one that is a constant truth happening.

The second is error in the tense of passive voice. A letter 'd' is missing in the verb of the sentence, perhaps it is a typographical error or the writer is not acquainted to the correct passive voice. Consider the sentence below, thus:

- The 25-year-old **was release** from Europa League winners Man United following a horrific injury late in the season.

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Wenger: Arsenal hope of bringing Lemar £100m. P.4	Arsenal's hope of bringing in Lemar faded late on deadline day, however, as the winger apparently did not want to join a club unable to offer him Champions League football.	An infinitive phrase 'unable to' is used instead of a conjunction 'that' and a negative verb 'cannot'. These make sentence ambiguous.	The expression supposes to be: <i>Arsenal's hope of bringing in Lemar faded late on deadline day, however, as the winger apparently did not want to join a club that cannot offer him Champions League football.</i>

#### Irrelevant Words in Sentence in the *SportingSun*

#### Discussion

From the table 14 above, it can be observed that the sentence contains a bolded word which is irrelevant infinitive phrase 'unable' wrongly replaced for a conjunction 'that' and there is a missing negative auxiliary verb 'cannot' in the sentence. Such construction can make a reader to be confused about the meaning of the sentence.

Date of publication, title and page numbers.	Error identification.	Description of Errors.	Suggestions.
July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Reds want Refinha, Gomez for Courtinho. P.4.	Liverpool has added a twist to the saga involving Phillipe Courtinho's move to Barcelona, as they are requesting that in exchange for	The asterisk indicates that comma and conjunction are missing. The writer supposes to punctuate the dependent phrase	The sentence should be written this way: Liverpool has added a twist to the saga involving Phillipe Courtinho's move to Barcelona, as

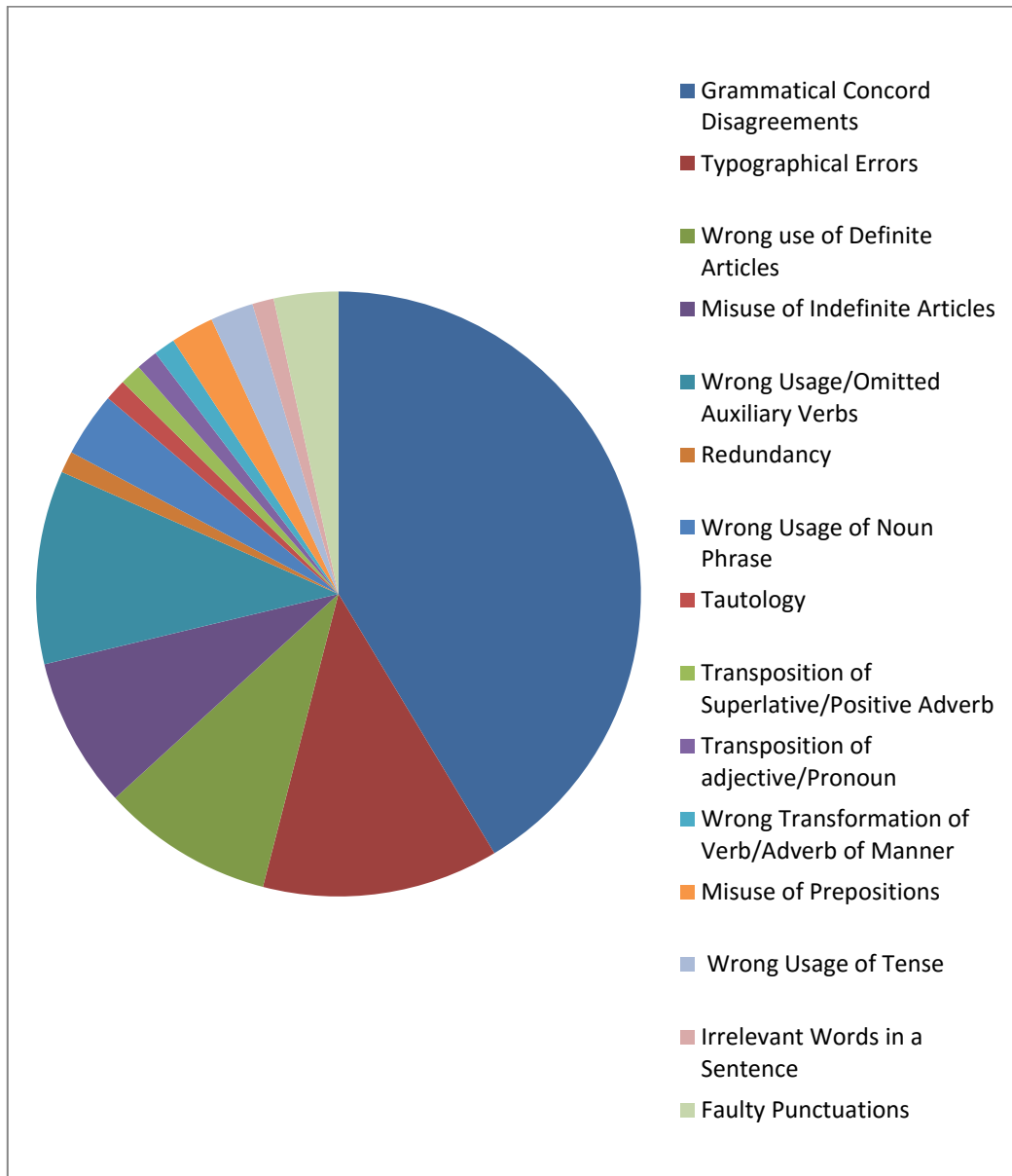
	Brazil international * they want both midfielders Rafinha and Andre Gomes.	in the sentence so as its meaning will be clear.	they are requesting that in exchange for Brazil international, and they want both midfielders Rafinha and Andre Gomes.
July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Uyo not Jinxed to Eagles – Onazi. P.6.	It was not the reason we lost * the reason was simply because we were not at our best on that night and no matter how painful it is, loosing games is part of football, Onazi stated.	A full-stop, semi- colon or a comma and conjunction are not placed after the first part of the sentence where an asterisk is placed. This makes the sentence awkward and monotonous.	It is better written this way: <i>It was not the reason we lost. The reason was simply because we were not at our best on that night...</i> Or <i>It was not the reason we lost; the reason was simply because we were not at our best on that night...</i>
July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2017. Schake Signs Insua. P.3.	‘This is a big step for me Schalke are a big club who have left their mark in Europe’, Insua told Schelke’s official website.	It is a sentence compound sentence and there is no comma, semi-colon or a conjunction (and) in between the two independent clauses. The writer did not include a full-stop at the end of the quotation to indicate the end of verbatim report.	The sentence supposes to be written thus: <i>‘This is a big step for me, Schalke are a big club who have left their mark in Europe’, or ‘This is a big step for me and Schalke are a big club who have left their mark in Europe’.</i>

### **Faulty Punctuations in the *SportingSun***

#### **Discussion**

Punctuations are used to structure organize, create sense, clarity and stress in sentences in writing. The asterisks in the sentences above from the data indicate that commas, and/or conjunctions and full stops are missing in the sentences. The rules that guide using joining comma are mandatory to be learned to help to avoid such confusing expressions above due

to improper punctuations. A comma is used to join two complete sentences into a single expression, and it must be followed by a suitable connecting word. The connecting words which can be used in this way are *and*, *or*, *but*, *while* and *yet*.



**Frequency of Errors**

## Discussion

Figure 1 is a pie chart providing a pictorial representation of the errors recorded in this chapter. The following are the interpretation of the chart. The appearance of grammatical concord disagreement in the fifty copies of the *SportingSun* was 41.37%, while typographical errors recorded was 12.65%. Wrong use of the definite articles was 9.20%, and misuse of indefinite articles made 9.20%. Wrong use/ omitted auxiliary verbs made 10.35%, and redundancy in the newspapers read recorded 1.15%. Meanwhile, wrong use of noun phrase made 3.44%; also tautology in the contents of the newspapers contacted made 1.15%. Transposition of superlative/positive adverb recorded 1.15%, while transposition of adjective/pronoun made 1.15%. Wrong transformation of verb/adverb of manner was recorded to be 1.15%, whereas misuse of prepositions was 2.30%. Similarly, wrong use of tense summed to be 2.30% and irrelevant words in a sentence were 1.15%, and faulty punctuation was recorded 3.44%.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION

#### 5.1. Summary

This research work made a random selection of fifty copies of the *SportingSun* newspaper produced in 2017. For effective management of data, the work was limited to the study of grammatical concord errors, wrong use of tense, typographical errors, wrong usage of the articles, errors in the use of auxiliary verbs, redundancies and tautology in sentences, wrong usage of noun phrase, improper trans-positioning of words and inclusion of irrelevant words in sentences. In analysis of the data obtained, the error analysis of Corder (1974) was applied which includes identification by reading the newspapers critically and pointing out errors in them, description and explanation by making reference to authoritative books of grammar and consulting trained individuals in English language for confirmation of the correct usages, and evaluation of the errors by categorizing them.

#### 5.2. Findings

The research work identified errors in the *SportingSun* newspaper, and the errors were described based on the theoretical framework explained in the literature of this work. Frequencies of the errors were presented in percentages, and the possible causes of errors were identified. The major discoveries of the study include the followings:

1. Subject verb disagreement (concord) is major problem discovered in the *SportingSun* newspaper.

2. Words were transposed for others, this comprise: superlative adjective/adverb transposition, and adjective/pronoun transposition, and transformation of verb to adverb of manner in some of the sentences also occurred in the newspaper,

3. And it was found that there were wrong usages/omitted auxiliary verbs in some of the sentences in the newspaper.

### **5.3. Conclusion**

Some of the errors identified in this study correspond with those highlighted in the Nigerian English usage. Similarly, it is obvious that the sport newspaper proprietors, editors, story writers and other stake holders in the industry are challenged with the task of using accurate and reliable language throughout their prints. Else, their newspapers would be viewed by public as mere papers filled up with varieties of errors

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