**Identity and attitude towards borrowed discourse-pragmatic features in Nigerian English**

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**Abstract**

Borrowed discourse-pragmatic features such as *jare, jor, shebi, chai, oya, ke, biko, haba, shikena,* and *o,* are features, which have been loaned from indigenous Nigerian languages into Nigerian English (e.g., Unuabonah, 2020; Honkanen, 2022). Recent studies have investigated the sources, meanings, collocational patterns, syntactic position, and discourse-pragmatic functions of these discourse-pragmatic features, using corpus methodologies (e.g., Unuabonah & Oladipupo, 2021; Unuabonah, 2021; Honkanen, 2022). Among other things, these studies reveal the diverse functions of these features, including serving as attention, emphasis, mitigation, and agreement-seeking markers. However, apart from Westphal (2021) who explores the contextual usage and attitude to indigenised and borrowed question tags among Nigerian students, these studies have not extensively investigated identity and attitude of a diverse population of Nigerian English speakers to these features. Therefore, this study investigates Nigerian English speakers’ attitudes and the complexities of identity towards borrowed discourse-pragmatic features in Nigerian English. Moreover, it examines the influence of age and ethnicity on the use of these features. The data, which are collected via a mixed-methodology (survey and written matched-guise test) are analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics as well as the postcolonial pragmatic approach (Anchimbe & Janney, 2011). Preliminary findings indicate that the contextual usage of these features determine speaker’s attitude to these features. While more positive attitudes are recorded in the survey, more negative attitudes are discovered in the written matched guise test. Results further reveal that age and ethnicity are statistically significant to the attitudes of these speakers. Although findings vary with use of mixed methods, this study reveals that attitude to the use of borrowed discourse pragmatic features is based on context.

**Keywords**: attitude, borrowed pragmatic markers, postcolonial pragmatics, identity, Nigerian English speakers

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