

Grammatical Errors in Selected Nigerian Newspapers and their Implications for Communication

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Abstract

The Nigerian newspapers are regarded as one of the mediums for, not only having access to current news but also learning good grammar. It is believed that before any information is published, the newspaper editors will ensure that it is error free. However, this view has not been entirely true as most of the newspapers are awash with various grammatical errors. This study therefore, made a grammatical analysis of errors in two selected Nigerian newspapers. The purpose was to identify the errors and their effects on the readers. To achieve this, the researcher adopted qualitative method of research in analyzing the data collected from the selected newspapers. Three research questions were raised for the research. Error Analysis Theory by Pit Corder was adopted in the study because of their relatedness. The researcher discovered grammatical errors such as morphological errors, tautology, concord errors, punctuation errors, among others. It was concluded that these errors have negative effects, such as reduction in readership and commercial patronage, on the newspaper organizations. Based on the findings, the study recommended that, sanctions should be made on the newspaper organizations that fail to properly edit their works to avoid misleading the reading public, since newspapers are the sources of information and education, too; newspaper organizations should employ grammar experts who will check for errors and make correction before they publish their works.

Keywords: Grammar, Grammatical Errors, Newspaper, Nigerian Newspaper, Communication

Introduction

Every communication is meant to influence the beliefs, attitudes or behaviour of the audience as desired by the communicator. For this reason, every good speaker or writer takes into consideration the lexical, morphological as well as syntactic structures of the language he uses in order to communicate effectively in a clear and precise manner. He has in mind the truism that the first criterion for all writing is grammatical accuracy. According to Callihan (2019), one may not expect a (writer) to write with beauty, grace and clarity but one can expect him/her to handle his language with grammatical competence. This means, in specific terms, that words should be conjugated and spelt correctly, sentences well-structured and punctuation marks properly incorporated to make communication meaningful.

A word incorrectly used may be misunderstood, and certainly offend the educated reader. In addition, a journalist who is careless with word usage or spelling is a nuisance to the sub-editor and a great danger to the reputation of his medium (Oguntunase, 2020). Worse still, as Candlin, cited in Oguntunase (2020) says, nothing is more destructive of self-confidence in a writer than uncertainty in the command of correct English; and to be caught in a serious grammatical error is to forfeit the confidence of the reader as well. In spite of this, wrong grammar is so common in the Nigerian newspapers that one wonders why correct grammatical expressions have been thrown to the winds.

Errors in written materials over the years continue to show the imperfection of people in mastering the English language as a second language (L2). Writing is a difficult process even in the first language, in many cases, some journalists are still translating words, phrases and sentences from their native language to English. The difficulty lies not only in generating and organizing ideas but also in translating these ideas into legible text.

The presence of error in written articles in most cases alters the meaning of the discourse and can lead to misinterpretation of the concept. In the words of Jowitt (2015), 'it is legitimate to speak of variations as 'errors' where they are due to wrong learning, and are generally regarded by educated people as errors'. In his words, some errors might be attributed to mother tongue (MT) transfer or to transfer from pidgin, others to false hypothesization or over-generalization, and others to failure to learn the special phonics or syntactic features of certain words. The national newspapers are considered the model for learning Standard British English (SBE). Learners most often rely on them for learning the correct forms of spelling and others. Students study them to enable them learn new vocabulary and correct forms of tenses. It is expected that whatever information communicated will be useful source of material for learning for anyone that refers to it. But some newspapers do not measure up to this expectation.

Error analysis (EA) is a technique for identifying, classifying and systematically interpreting the unacceptable forms produced by someone learning a second or foreign language, using any of the principles and procedures provided by linguistics (Crystal, 2013). In the interest of economy in written communication, especially in newspaper reporting, good usage of English accepts the omission of certain words from the sentence pattern. Such linguistically ethical omissions are called Ellipsis. However, words necessary for the effective communicating of clear meaning must never be omitted. Such deviations from accepted linguistic practices become errors.

Owing to this flexibility of language, it can be manipulated by the users to suit their purposes. This accounts for the existence of the various styles of language such as those of

politics, medicine, law, the pulpit, and journalism. Argots, slang and specialized vocabulary of schools and colleges are also used for a variety of reasons in the Nigerian newspapers. But whether here or there, old words drop out and new words are admitted.

"The choice of one symbol above another provides clues to the orientation of the communicator and perhaps of his audience, as when anti-British newspapers in the United States play up the 'Empire' and ignore the 'Commonwealth'" (Lasswell, 2017).

Language flexibility and its manipulation by each user to achieve the desired objective remain valid only so long as grammatical rules are not violated. This means that journalists can employ flowery expressions and manipulate language to record the desired effect on their audience provided that this is done within the confines of standard rules of grammar. All said, the main purpose of language is to communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings, and when language fails in this all-important function, Sopuluchi (2015) notes that "it either confuses issues or discommunicates, because the limits of language are the limits of thought". Therefore, when newspaper information fails to give the required information in the appropriate way that is expected, especially grammatically, it either misinforms or misled the readers.

Statement of the Problem

Newspapers are one of the major means through which the public get information on what is going on within and outside the country. The newspapers also, to a very great extent, serve as a medium for learning good grammar to many people who use them. The Nigerian newspapers may often be replete with errors in which some of the grammars are often and wrongly used or omitted from sentence structures. The social and psychological effects of such deviations could be unsettling because the newspapers and the journalists are often unconsciously taken by many readers to be models of linguistic excellence.

In this all-important function of processing messages for the print or broadcast media, writers and editors have "strong and supple" English words to play with. Despite the availability of such a large stock of words, many journalists still prostitute with words and expressions that are un-English. They have failed to obey the grammar code (rules). On the excuse of economy of space and air time, many media often publish poor works that are filled with grammatical errors. The result of all this is a negative effect on the perception and behaviour of audience members and even, in the long run, on the media themselves. This has, to a great extent, affected the public views on some of the newspaper industries that are often found in this problem; also, those who rely on learning good grammar from these newspapers have been wrongly educated. This study therefore, attempts to examine common grammatical errors and their implications in communication using Daily Sun Newspaper and Vanguard Newspaper as case study.

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to analyze common grammatical errors and their causes in the selected Daily Sun Newspaper and Vanguard Newspapers. Specifically, the study intends to:

- i. Identify the grammatical errors found in the newspapers;
- ii. Establish the possible effects the grammatical errors have on audience perception and behavior;
- iii. Determine how grammatical errors possibly affect the media themselves

Research Questions

To guide this study, the following questions are formulated:

- i. What are the grammatical errors found in the newspapers?
- ii. What are the possible effects the grammatical errors have on audience perception and behavior?
- iii. How do the grammatical errors possibly affect the media themselves?

Scope of the Study

The present study is delineated to analysis of common grammatical errors and their implications in Nigerian newspapers. The area the study will cover is *Daily Sun Newspaper* (Wednesday, August 3, 2022) and *Vanguard Newspaper* (Saturday, August 6, 2022). This is because grammar is a prerequisite for effective communication, therefore, journalists and editors are not exempted.

Significance of the Study

The present study will be useful to the government, the newspaper industries, the public, schools and researchers.

To the government, this study will provide them with the information on the need to have standard newspaper and media industries that are certified by the necessary agencies as it will prevent them from giving the public wrong information that is orchestrated by wrong grammar. The newspaper industries will benefit immensely from this study in that it will educated them on the common grammatical errors occurring in their prints that may be scaring their patronizers away. It will also enable them to embark on training that will help them upgrade in their grammar usage.

This study will also be useful to the public as it will enlighten them on the common grammatical errors some of the newspapers make in their print which are capable of giving wrong information to them.

The schools, especially higher institutions, and more especially departments such as English, Mass Communication, Theatre Arts, etc. will immensely benefit from it as it will serve as a learning material on the common grammatical errors found in some of the newspapers.

Researchers will also find the study invaluable. This is because it will give them insight on the common grammatical errors that exist in the Nigerian newspapers. It will also serve as a reference material to those who are researching on the same topic or any related one.

Conceptual Framework

Grammatical Error

Broadly speaking, a grammatical error—also known as a usage error—refers to any instance of faulty, unconventional, or controversial usage, such as a subject-verb disagreement or an inappropriate verb tense. It should be noted that grammatical errors are distinct from other types of writing errors such as misspellings, typographical errors (i.e., mistakes made in the typing process such as simple duplication, omission, transposition, or substitution of a small number of characters), factual errors (i.e., mistake made in specifying facts), logical fallacies (i.e., errors of reasoning), and faulty punctuation (i.e., “errors in the use of spacing, conventional

signs, and certain typographical devices as aids to the understanding and the correct reading, both silently and aloud, of handwritten and printed texts”; Encyclopaedia Britannica, n.d.).

Newspaper

Newspapers are among the most accessible texts available to the vast majority of people – literate, illiterate, young and old, students, workers, elites and peasants – in any community. This is because every category of reader can find something he or she cares about inside the newspaper’s pages. Nahte (2017) defined newspaper as a document consisting large sheets of paper that are folded together, regularly printed, or a website containing, news reports articles photographs and advertisements Cheyney (2020) explained that newspaper is the textbook that provides up-to-date information on local, state/provincial national, and world affairs; the most current analysis and criticism on executive and legislative decision-making; the latest in music, theatre, television, and the fine arts and even columns and comics to make people laugh.

Theoretical Framework

Theory of Error Analysis

Error analysis theory was propounded by Pit Corder (1976). Error analysis theory refers to the utilization and research on learners’ errors that are committed in the process of second language learning. It’s a sub-discipline of applied linguistics and playing a very significant role in second language learning and teaching. Pit Corder, the founder of this discipline, first illuminated the nature, significance and classifications of learners’ errors on the basis of cognitive psychology system and put forward a set of concrete approaches to apply error analysis theory in second language teaching. To understand error analysis theory, the meaning of "error" is of essential necessity.

The basic tenets of Error Analysis in view of a new mentalist orientation regarding Language learning and learners’ mistake is basically that language learning was no longer looked at merely as a matter of habit formation but rather as a mental activity. This focus on the mental activity of the learner provided a new perspective on learners’ errors. If the learner was using his mind to process the language being learnt, errors could not be viewed as bad or as failure to learn. Errors had to be looked at as positive signs of mental activity on the part of the learner, as well as, clues to the direction of the learners’ thinking. It however means looking at errors as ‘attempts of learning’ rather than as ‘Failure to learn’.

The researcher has chosen to use Error Analysis in this research work because it remains the best tool for describing and explaining errors and the reasons behind their continuous occurrence with different groups of learners/ users of English Language including journalists.

Empirical Studies

A research on Role of Newspaper in English Language Learning was carried out by Mittal (2014). The paper focuses on different aspects, benefits and innovative uses of Newspaper reading which will help in learning English language. The researcher adopted content analysis method. Four local newspapers were analyzed. The result of the study showed that newspapers are contributing greatly in the learning of English language, especially the adults who are barely educated. The researchers suggested some activities and exercises which can be introduced in class room for Effective English learning in an interactive way. These activities will not only teach them but will erase their shortcomings in a humanistic way.

Mittal's study is very relevant to the present study in that the two studies are discussing the importance of grammar hence, Mittal's research work will help the present study to highlight the importance of grammar and its rightful usage. Though, the study by Mitta and the present study differ to some extent in that Mittal's research work is based on analyzing the role of Newspaper in English Language Learning while the present study dwells on analysis of grammatical errors found in selected newspapers.

A study was conducted by Nsereka (2012) on grammatical blunders in Nigerian newspapers causes, consequences, counter, measure. The main purpose of the research was to probe into the causes of the errors, determine their effects on the perception and behaviour of audience members and gauge the possible effects of the errors on the media themselves. The paper discusses some linguistic blunders that are transmitted by the media, specifying the class each error falls under-syntactic, semantic and morphological or concord. Findings show that the blunders committed are largely due to societal, professional and personal weakness 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. It notes that while too many grammatical errors in a medium constitute a nuisance to the educated audience member, they pose a threat to the affected medium's patronage. The paper therefore, recommends, among other things that without prejudice to the peculiar language and tradition of journalism, English grammar be taught by well qualified hands in mass communication or the equivalent departments in the institutions offering them from the students' first year in the programme to their graduation year and refresher courses be conducted periodically for editors and reporters by media houses. More hardwork, thorough editing and proper proofreading as well as a reorientation of pressmen are also recommended to keep grammatical errors in check.

Nsereka's research and the present study are related in that the two researches are investigating on the grammatical errors committed by news media which can misinform the readers. Nevertheless, the two studies differ in some areas: the present study is specifically discussing grammatical errors in some Nigerian newspapers while Nsereka's study is investigating on the causes and consequences of the grammatical error.

Bulus and Aminu (2016) conducted a research on analysis of the causes of English grammatical errors in communicative genre: A case study of mathematics students at Gombe State University, Nigeria. This study was aimed at investigating errors used among mathematics students of Gombe State University, Nigeria. Also, the study explored students' attitudes towards English. The researchers selected a sample that consisted of 100 Hausa first language speakers, covering different educational backgrounds. The instrument of the study was a sociolinguistics questionnaire. Results indicated that the respondents had both positive and negative attitudes towards the target language –English. They freely used Hausa language in the domain of home and with family members. Also, the results indicated that a total number of 86 errors were committed and most of these students were less proficient in the use of prepositions which was one of the main grammatical aspects. The major causes of the errors were due to new attitude towards English as the users of English in this part of the world have become less proficient in English because Hausa has become the mother tongue of some speakers who may not have originally come from the Hausa land. The results have also shown that Hausa language has constructed a social structure in which those who used the language enjoy privileges in local

transactions in trade, religion, instructions, etc. So, due to incessant need for everyday communication, a change of “new rules of English by Hausa users were apparent.

Mansoor and Saeed, J. (2013) carried out a research on The Effect of Using Print Media on Children’s L2 Literacy Development: A Longitudinal Study. The paper tries to examine the effect of using print media in the classroom on the children’s L2 literacy development in an EFL context. Since reading is regarded as a chief goal, in many second- foreign language teaching situations, it receives a special focus. Media as a tool for language learning/teaching, can help both instructed and non-instructed learners to overcome the difficult task of language learning. In order to determine the effects of print media usage on the development of children’s foreign language reading abilities, 30 children aged between 7-8 familiar to English alphabet were selected. Based on DIBELS performance, participants were homogenized and assigned as low group. According to National Reading Panel, storybooks, magazines and newspapers were used to teach five areas of reading proficiency, i.e. phonemic awareness, phonics fluency, vocabulary and text comprehension. After one year of instruction, based on DIBELS performance, participant were assigned to medium and high groups; implying the effect of direct instruction and print media usage in classrooms for developing foreign language reading abilities.

Methodology

The researcher chose the qualitative research method because it does not rely on numerical measurements but depends, instead, on research that produces descriptive and analytic data. It is multi-method in focus, involving an interpretative, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. The sources of data for the study are excerpts gotten from the selected newspapers - The Vanguard and The Sun, all chosen purposively from 2022 publications.

Two Nigerian newspaper publication from two newspaper publishing companies, which are *The Vanguard* and *The Sun* were used as the sample size. The newspapers were read critically for identification of any grammatical error. The copies were selected from 2022 editions of the two newspapers. Since the data for this research work consist of errors identified from spontaneous language use, Corder’s clinical method of elicitation of errors was used which involves getting information by means of written composition/articles in the two selected Nigerian newspapers.

According to Corder (1973), there are two kinds of elicitation of errors: clinical and experimental. Clinical involves getting the informant to produce data of any sort like general interview or writing a composition. As a result, the researcher read through pages of the selected newspapers and identified various forms of grammatical errors therein.

Presentation of data in Qualitative research usually comes in form of words (from interviews, images or objects). As a result, the data as well as the findings in this study were presented in form of narratives. To effectively carry out this in the present work, grammatical errors such as Tautology, Concord Errors, Punctuation Errors, Omission, Morphological errors, and other grammatical errors were analyzed based on the theory of Error Analysis with the aim of-

- (i) Identifying the grammatical errors found in the newspaper

(ii) Establishing the possible effects the grammatical errors have on audience perception and behavior.

(iii) Determining how grammatical errors possibly affect the media themselves.

Analysis

To ease the analysis, the following arrangement was used to identify the newspaper, the story in review, error in the story and the corrections made:

Type of grammatical error

Name of the newspaper with the page number

Title of the story under review (or, the story headline)

Errors found

Explanation of error

Correction for the error

Research Question 1:

What are the grammatical errors found in the newspapers?

The grammatical errors found in the newspapers include:

Tautology

This often involves just a few words in a sentence that have the same meaning, or in which one word is part of the other word. The saying of the same thing twice over in different words, generally considered to be a fault of style. In grammar, a tautology is a redundancy, in particular, the needless repetition of an idea using different words. Repetition of the same sense is tautology. Looking at pages of these papers selected by the researcher, there are some instances of tautology by the writers. e.g.

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.4)

Title: News Around the City.

Error: ...gunmen kill 7 security guards, injure 2 more others in Imo.

Explanation- the usage of '2 more' and 'others' is a redundant and needless repetition

Correct: Gunmen kill 7 security men, injure 2 others in Imo.

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.4)

Title: Abduct scores of passengers

Error: ...he said the latest incident has put fear and anxiety among people in the area.

Explanation- 'fear and anxiety' is a repetition of the same idea, rather 'fear' or 'anxiety' should be used.

Correct: ...he said the latest incident has put fear among people in the area.

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.6)

Title: Kogigov shuts brothels, shanties, bans wearing of face masks.

Error: ...shanties in Lokoja, Osara, Zango, Itobe, Obajana, Okaba all other areas.

Explanation- with the mentioned locations, the usage of 'all other' is not necessary, 'other' is most suitable.

Correct: ...shanties in Lokoja, Osara, Zango, Itobe, Obajana, Okaba other areas in the state.

Concord Errors

Concord is the relationship between the subject (Who or what the sentence is about) and the verb in a sentenceThe relationship between the subject and verb is therefore faulty because we have a Singular Subject-Plural Verb situation. To correct a concord error, one must always change the verb, not the subject. Examples are:

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.14)

Title: Harvest of Weddings

Error: ...In one day, 20 couples tie the knot in Lagos Catholic Church

Explanation- the plural verb 'tie' cannot go with a singular noun 'the knot', but rather with a plural noun (object) 'the knots'

Correct: ...In one day, 20 couples tie the knots in Lagos Catholic Church

Punctuation Errors

Using incorrect punctuation or using punctuation in the wrong place can completely change the meaning of the sentence. The punctuation marks allow one to organize his thoughts in the correct manner and make one's writing easier to read. Some of the punctuation errors found in the newspapers include:

VANGUARD NEWSPAPER (P25)

Title: Dolapo Badmos dazzles at 40

Error: ...the name, 'CSP Dolapo Badmos' rings a bell both home and abroad, thanks to her global publicity as a police image maker...

Explanation- a comma should be used after 'abroad' instead of a full stop

Correct: ...the name, 'CSP Dolapo Badmos' rings a bell both home and abroad. Thanks to her global publicity as a police image maker...

VANGUARD NEWSPAPER (P19)

Title: ...The new price of bread

Error: ...This in a layman's language means she looks after my financial interests..

Explanation- a comma should come after 'this' for a comprehensible sentence

Correct: ...This, in a layman's language, means she looks after my financial interests.

Omission

VANGUARD NEWSPAPER (P25)

Title: 2023: APC has reached its terminal point in Lagos

Error: ...and today what we were able to get in APC we were able to do in PDP...

Explanation- a comma was omitted after 'today' resulted in an ambiguous sentence

Correct: ...and today, what we were able to get in APC, we were able to do in PDP...

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.4)

Title: News Around the City.

Error: ...a source from the community said the gunmen who came in two vehicles ...

Explanation- the omission of 'that' after 'said' made the sentence incomprehensible being a reported speech

Correct: ...a source from the community said that the gunmen who came in two vehicles ...

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.19)

Title: Abiaguber: Unending battle for APC ticket

Error: Opposition plotting to scuttle polls, set up interim govt – FG

Explanation- there is an omission of the definite article 'the' before 'opposition'Correct:

The opposition plotting to scuttle polls, set up interim govt – FG ***VANGUARD NEWSPAPER (p34)***

Title: Regal Gin Unvells Dandizzy as Brand Ambassador

Explanation- an indefinite article 'a' was omitted before 'sincere'

Error: ...Dandizzy, in a heartfelt speech offered sincere gratitude to Regal Gin.. Correct:

...Dandizzy, in a heartfelt speech offered a sincere gratitude to Regal Gin..

Morphological errors:

They are errors formed or made when the morphological aspect of grammar is being tainted, or misinformed. Morphology is the structure of words; it is the relation on how words are formed and how it fits together. E.g.

VANGUARD NEWSPAPER (p34)

Title: The future of logistics market in Nigeria

Error: ...Sunday Amusa is the Divisionl head of BPL Logistix,.

Explanation- the wrong use of the morpheme –'tix' in place of the most suitable –'tics'

Correct: ...Sunday Amusa is the Divisional head of BPL Logistics,..

DAILY SUN NEWSPAPER (P.32)

Title: Nigeria on Edge

Error: ...increasing awareness for e-div-idend and seek the amendment in the law.

Explanation- the wrong use of the hyphen in the e-div-idend instead of e-dividend.

Correct: ...increasing awareness for e-divi-dend and seek the amendment in the law.

Research Question 2:

What are the possible effects of grammatical errors on audience perception and behavior?

Newsprints are expected to be one of the sources of learning, especially good grammar. This is among the reasons the newspaper organizations always ensure that writers and editors who have good knowledge and command of English language are employed. News media that fail to look into the grammar usage of their writers and editors are bound to lose people's patronage. Ekeanyanwu (2013) explained that the quality of news media outlet is seen from the quality of the story it tells and the standard of grammar used.

When good media report is laced with grammatical error, the readers easily get disinterested in the story; it can also make the readers to believe that the source of the story is not genuine, or/ unqualified reportage. In summary, it reduces the interest of reading public. The makes the readers acquire wrong rule about language unconsciously

Research Question 3

How do the grammatical errors possibly affect the media themselves?

The grammatical errors found in the news media have different effects on the media.

Reduces readership: those who always depend on the newspapers for authentic information will start reducing their readership, giving the fact that the errors might be misleading or carry wrong information.

Poor commercial patronage: the business organizations that advertise in the newspapers will stop doing so as the readers who are meant to see and read the adverts are no longer following the newspaper. It makes the public to have negative impression about the Mass Media there reducing their patronage. Most journalists are not grounded in their field especially in the use of grammar. They go about putting together words without following the rule of English language. It also puts the country Mass Media in a negative light. i.e. it will make the International Community to have negative perception about the Nigeria Media. It makes caricature of our editors. Government most at times does not hold them accountable. English language as a second language in Nigeria also constitute a problem to journalists. There is no way an L2 speaker will communicate without committing one or two blunders, the only way out for the journalists is to be conscious of what they are writing and to consult a good dictionary when in doubt.

Findings

Based on the analysis, the following findings were made:

- i. There are different grammatical errors found in the newspapers. These errors include tautology, concord errors, punctuation errors, omission and morphological errors.
- ii. Grammatical errors have different effects on audience perception and behavior. These effects include that wrong grammar usage by newspaper editors makes the audience to have low interest in reading a particular newspaper
- iii. Grammatical errors affect the media given that as those errors reduce readership of the paper, those who patronize the media through advertisements will also reduce.

Discussion of Findings

From research question 1: what are the grammatical errors found in the newspapers? The study revealed that there are different grammatical errors found in the selected newspapers. These errors include tautology, concord errors, punctuation errors, omission and morphological errors. The implication of these errors in communication is that most people who rely on these newspapers for quality grammar will end up learning and speaking grammar that are filled with errors. This is in line with findings of Adu (2017) who noted that the problem of grammatical errors is that they will always mislead the learner. Pit Coder's Error Analysis theory supports this by highlighting the fact that second language play significant role in grammatical errors. Also, in research question 2: What are the possible effects the grammatical errors have on audience perception and behavior? From the findings of the study, it is discovered that grammatical errors can influence how an audience perceives and behaves in response to the content. These effects can range from subtle misunderstandings to more pronounced impacts on credibility and engagement. This is in line with Khansir, (2019) who stated that grammatical errors can also hinder comprehension and clarity. Incorrect phrasing or word choice might alter the intended meaning of sentences, making it challenging for the audience to grasp the message. Consequently, readers or listeners may become frustrated and disengage from the content. Pit Coder's theory of error explained, against this backdrop, that error is bound to occur in a sentence when there is exchange of the initial sentence which leads to change of idea. In research question 3: How do the grammatical errors affect the media themselves? From the finding which revealed that it Reduces readership, Poor commercial patronage, it shows that it puts the country Mass Media in a negative light. Nahte (2017) supported this by stating that in the realm of news and journalism, grammatical mistakes can tarnish the reputation of the news source. This prompts readers to question the accuracy of the information being presented. In line with Pit Coder's error analysis, errors always have effect on the entire meaning of an idea.

Conclusion

Newspaper is a medium of news, the source of information about world, national and local events and means of establishing mutual understanding. It is an instrument of education, contributing to the development of human resources and capital in promoting economic growth. It is a multiplier in the communication process, spreading widely and rapidly information which will aid national development. The past few years have brought in changes in the face or look of

the newspapers, several new tools have become available in the hands of newspaper designers, page makers and editors. A newspaper is a vehicle for transmitting news and ideas. Therefore, the grammatical usage in the newspapers are expected to be standard and with less errors.

However, there are major grammatical errors in newspapers that often make the reader wonder if the news was actually edited before printing. These, errors are the major markers that make the readers and subscribers to reduce their patronages. Also, these grammatical errors can mislead the readers in so many ways, especially those who are not equip with standard English. Publishing with good grammar helps the newspaper publisher to refrain from distorting facts or sensationalizing events.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Sanctions should be made on the newspapers that publish so many grammatical errors frequently to avoid misleading the people, since newspapers are the sources of information and education, too.
2. Newspaper organizations should employ grammar experts who will check for error and make correction before they publish their works.
3. Errors found after the circulation of their works should be made known to the readers in the subsequent publication to let the public know that the publishers made a mistake not that the errors were a product of ignorance

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