INTRODUCTION

Newspapers have been tools for promoting literate societies globally. 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. For this reason, 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 the 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. 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 Sporting Sun 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.

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 we consider the view above, we can deduce that grammatical errors are found here and there in sport newspapers and the errors are perhaps consumed by some unsuspecting readers and probably manifest in their usage.

**Literature Review**

Silaski (2009) conducted a 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 clubs 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 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 skillful 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 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 regardless of the needs to manipulate language.

A lot of literatures in relation to grammatical errors in newspapers were documented in Nigeria and beyond. For instance, Nsereka (2012) shows his worry about high incidence of grammatical errors in the Nigerian massmedia. His research work essentially focused to investigate the causes of the errors, determine their effects on the perception and behaviour of readers 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.

Madu (2019) conducted a research on grammatical errors in the Nigerian print media, thus The Sun, The Vanguard and The Guardian. The objective of her study was to identify, describe, analyze, and correct obvious grammatical errors in the selected newspapers. She made use of qualitative research method; thirty copies of the selected copies of the newspapers covering the months of January 2005 to July 2018 editions were randomly selected and examined using the tenets of Transformational Generative Grammar of Noam Chomsky. The data analysis was done using the Error Analysis of Stephen Pit Corder. Similarly, she presented her data analysis in a narrative form and classified into lexical, syntactic, and semantic categories. Her finding was that grammatical errors were as a result personal native language habits, socio-economic influences and outright abuse of journalese.

The research presented by Madu (2019) is pertinent to this research because it deals with errors in newspaper. Although it shares similar objectives with the current research, the research was limited to finding errors that were present in the general and conventional newspapers while the current research extends its context to sport specific newspapers which have high patronage among youth.

**Theoretical Frame work**

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. Similarly, Corder (1981) adapts the notion of Chomsky (1965), and classifies “Errors” intowhous: 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. Errors of competence are 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.
Table 1 Errors on Concord in the Sporting Sun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication, title and page numbers</th>
<th>Error identification: concord and agreement</th>
<th>Description of Errors</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 12th, 2017, Bursapor Snaps up Adegboro. P.2.</td>
<td>...but the Turkish side have improved their bid to 1.5m according to sources in Norway...</td>
<td>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 VP becomes (have). The sentence should be written this way: ...the Turkish side has improved its bid to 1.5m according to sources.</td>
<td>The correct form should be: ...he puts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12th, 2017, Why Rogers are Struggling. P.6.</td>
<td>...he put it down to stronger challenge mounted by other NPFL teams that may have resolved not to allow the Flying Antelopes repeat the run that saw them end a 32 - year wait for the title.</td>
<td>The subject (the Sun) which is a name of a newspaper and is a singular noun does not agree with the plural verb (claim). The NP, a neuter personal pronoun (it) does not concur with the VP (take) (s) should accompany to the verb. 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 while the later takes a singular verb. Therefore the sentence is ungrammatical.</td>
<td>The correct form should be: the Sun claims... The correct expression should be: Gundogan believes that it takes...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 7th, 2017, Bayern Ready £50m Eric Dier Bid. P.5.</td>
<td>The Sun claim Germangiants Bayern are ready to test the North Londoners resolve by offering £50m for the versatile midfielder. Gundogan believes that it take even more time to fully mense themselves in Guardino-way of playing...</td>
<td>Despite the setback recently suffered by Crown of Oshogbo, the club still believe it has all it takes to pick of the two spots to gain promotion to the elite league at the of the season.</td>
<td>The correct form supposes to be: the club still believes it has all it takes...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27th, 2017, Gundogan: City Suffered under Pep. P.2.</td>
<td>...that is according to Italian broadcaster sport media set, who claim Inter are only willing to go as high as £60,000 a week.</td>
<td>Lagazzetta Dello sport is a name of a newspaper. Therefore it is a singular NP and must take a singular VP not plural. ‘The premier League side’ is an NP distinctly referring to a single entity not collection of entities. It therefore requires a singular VP for grammaticality. Express is ungrammatical because an infinitive verb does not take an infinitival ‘s’ hence we cannot say ‘to enables him acquaints himself with the case files’.</td>
<td>The correct form of the fragment supposes to be: the French club is confident it has... The correct form supposed to be: Serie A outfit Napoli sets to make... It is correct to say: The new counsel further asked the court to adjourn the case to enable him acquaints himself with the case files...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3rd, 2017, Crown Still good for NNL Title - Oneyeye. P.6.</td>
<td>...it wasn’t easy, claim Lagazzetta Dello Sport.</td>
<td>‘Who’ in the relative pronoun which is has a noun ‘Italian broadcast sport media set’ as its antecedent. The verb that precedes it must be singular. Hence the sentence is ungrammatical.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: Italian broadcast sport media set, who claims... The phrase should be written like this: claims Lagazzetta Dello sport...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6th, 2017, ...To Offer Perisic New Deal. P.5.</td>
<td>The premier League side, who sit top of the standing three fixtures respectively...</td>
<td>The correct form supposed to be: The premier League side, who sits... The correct form of the fragment supposed to be: the French club is confident it has... The correct form supposed to be: Serie A outfit Napoli sets to make... It is correct to say: The new counsel further asked the court to adjourn the case to enable him acquaints himself with the case files...</td>
<td>The correct form supposed to be: The premier League side, who sits...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 3rd, 2017, Napoli rejected £165m Insigne Coulibaly offer. P.4.</td>
<td>The Turkish club still believe they have structured the deal in such a way as to avoid an infringement.</td>
<td>The sentence is ungrammatical because there is no agreement between the singular subject ‘Turkish club’ and plural VP ‘set’. ‘The premier League side’ is an NP distinctly referring to a single entity not collection of entities. It therefore requires a singular VP for grammaticality.</td>
<td>The correct expression should be: although pre-season commitments mean that... The correct usage supposes to be: Anichebe joins fellow Nigerian Lake James at his new club who sit the 11th in the 16-team China league one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5th, 2017, Man United Targets Griezmann. P.3.</td>
<td>Serie A outfit Napoli set to make one final assault on Barcelona midfielder Denis Suarez...</td>
<td>The new counsel further asked the court to adjourn the case to enable him acquaints himself with the case files.</td>
<td>The appropriate usage should be: Anichebe joins fellow Nigerian Lake James at his new club who sit the 11th in the 16-team China league one... The correct form is: Both of the European giants want to offer Mbepe a chance to play for them...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5th, 2017, PSG welcomes Mbepe. P.5.</td>
<td>...the French club are confident they have structured the deal in such a way as to avoid an infringement.</td>
<td>‘The Premier 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.</td>
<td>The correct form supposed to be: the French club is confident it has... The correct form supposed to be: Serie A outfit Napoli sets to make... It is correct to say: The new counsel further asked the court to adjourn the case to enable him acquaints himself with the case files...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30th, 2017, Napoli Renews Suarez Interest. P.4.</td>
<td>Anichebe joins fellow Nigerian Lake James at his new club who sit the 11th in the 16-team China league one.</td>
<td>The sentence is ungrammatical because there is no agreement between the singular subject ‘Serie A outfit Napoli’ and plural VP ‘set’. ‘The Premier League side’ is an NP distinctly referring to a single entity not collection of entities. It therefore requires a singular VP for grammaticality.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: Anichebe joins fellow Nigerian Lake James at his new club who sit the 11th in the 16-team China league one... The correct form is: Both of the European giants want to offer Mbepe a chance to play for them...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6th, 2017, NFF Tussle: Supreme Court Advices on Judgement Date. P.6.</td>
<td>Both of the European giants wants to offer Mbepe a chance to play for them...</td>
<td>‘This is a big step for me Schalke are a big club who have left their mark in Europe’, Issuad told Schelke’s official website.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: Schalke is a big club who has...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 24th, 2017, City Blocks Iheanacho’s Move. P.2.</td>
<td>‘This is a big step for me Schalke are a big club who have left their mark in Europe’, Issuad told Schelke’s official website.</td>
<td>The deal would surpass the £42.5m it cost Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: it costs Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 24th, 2017, Anichebe Joins China Train. P.2.</td>
<td>...the Turkish club has all it takes to pick of the two spots to gain promotion to the elite league at the of the season.</td>
<td>‘Both of the European giants wants to offer Mbepe a chance to play for them...’ The ‘both’ is a conjunction and refers to two entities. A plural verb must precede such conjunction not singular. Then the sentence is incorrect.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: it costs Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3rd, 2017, Real, PSG Ready £120m Mbepe bid.</td>
<td>‘This is a big step for me Schalke are a big club who have left their mark in Europe’, Issuad told Schelke’s official website.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: it costs Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7th, 2017, Schake Signs Issuu. P.3.</td>
<td>‘Both of the European giants wants to offer Mbepe a chance to play for them...’ The ‘both’ is a conjunction and refers to two entities. A plural verb must precede such conjunction not singular. Then the sentence is incorrect.</td>
<td>The speaker refers Schalke as an individual club not the people that make up the club. Therefore the sentence is incorrect because the subject of the does not correlate with the verb.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: it costs Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 4th, 2017, Arsenal Agrees £44m Lacazette Deal. P.8.</td>
<td>The deal would surpass the £42.5m it cost Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
<td>‘Both of the European giants wants to offer Mbepe a chance to play for them...’ The ‘both’ is a conjunction and refers to two entities. A plural verb must precede such conjunction not singular. Then the sentence is incorrect.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: it costs Arsenal to sign Mesut Ozil from Real Madrid in 2013...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9th, 2017, Is Arsenal Community Shield Win a Fluke? P.5.</td>
<td>...SportingSun sought fan’s view whether community shield won by Arsenal was a fluke.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: SportingSun sought fan’s views...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 2 Typographical Errors in the SportingSun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</th>
<th>Error identification: Typographical errors</th>
<th>Description of Errors</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th August, 2017. Juve leads £40m Roberto Chase. P.5.</td>
<td>…but sport claims that Juve are now the frontunners his signature.</td>
<td>The bolded word ‘frontunners’ is misspelled and can possibly cause confusion to readers.</td>
<td>The correct spelling supposes to be ‘front-runners’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 12th, 2017. Ahead US Open: Child Custody Battle Forces Azarenka out. P.8.</td>
<td>In a bizarre ruling a judge has asked Victoria Azarenka to choose between the two – tennis or a her child...</td>
<td>An unneeded indefinite article ‘a’ is mistakenly inserted in between the two words ‘or’ and ‘her’ and has rendered the sentence ungrammatical.</td>
<td>The correct spelling supposes to be ‘believied’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11th, 2017. Bale Salutes Mourinho. P.3. September 3rd, 2017. We must Defeat in Yaunde – Rohr. P.2.</td>
<td>He believed the fear factor weapon was beginning to grow again for Reds. No doubt Cameroun will attempt to seek redemption when they face Nigeria at the stated Ahmodou Ahijo in Youande tomorrow evening.</td>
<td>The bolded word ‘believied’ is misspelt.</td>
<td>The correct spelling supposes to be ‘believed’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27th, 2017. Uyo not Jinxed to Eagles – Onazi. P.6.</td>
<td>‘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.</td>
<td>The bolded word ‘dought’ is misspelt and could lead to meaninglessness in the sentence.</td>
<td>The correct form of the misspelt word supposes to be ‘doubt’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The first bolded word ‘lost’ is misspelt for the verb ‘lost’. 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.</td>
<td>The correct sentence form supposes to be: ‘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’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3 Wrong Usage/Omitted Auxiliary Verbs in the SportingSun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</th>
<th>Error Identification: Wrong Usage/Omitted Auxiliary Verbs</th>
<th>Description of Errors</th>
<th>Suggestions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 12th, 2017. Ahead US Open: Child Custody Battle Forces Azarenka out. P.8.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The sentence is ungrammatical because the asterisk indicates that an auxiliary verb ‘was’ is missing in between the NP ‘her client’ and the main VP ‘willing’. A past continuous tense is formed with an auxiliary ‘was’ (if the NP is singular) or ‘were’ (when the NP is plural).</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: 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 judge disagrees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9th, 2017. Onazi Names Daughter ‘Makayla’. P.6.</td>
<td>Super Eagle’s vice-captain, Ogeni Onazi, whose wife * delivered of a baby girl has named her ‘Makayla’.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: Super Eagle’s vice-captain, Ogeni Onazi, whose wife was delivered of a baby girl has named her ‘Makayla’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohr Okays Draw in Yaoundé. P.5.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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’.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: 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...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29th, 2017. World Taekwondo: Kogi-Born athletes Targets Medal.</td>
<td>Five of seven Nigerians had crashed out since the tournament began on June 24, leaving 2015 All Africa Games silver medalist, Edion Samson (male – 63kg) and Kolade as the nation’s survivors.</td>
<td>The sentence is ungrammatical as a wrong auxiliary verb ‘had’ is used for ‘were’ this also causes thematic role identification problem.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: Five of seven Nigerians were crashed out since the tournament began on June 24...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31st, 2017. Man U offers £118 Visas to fans. P.4.</td>
<td>Jose Mourinho’s side is in Russia on September 27 and supporters * planning to go have had to make quick arrangements.</td>
<td>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 inserted into the sentence. These make the sentence ambiguous.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4 Redundancy and tautology in the SportingSun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</th>
<th>Error identification: Redundancy and tautology</th>
<th>Description of Errors.</th>
<th>Suggestions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 25th, 2017, Reds want Refinha, Gomez for Courtinho. P.4.</td>
<td>Liverpool has added a twist to the saga involving Philippe Courtinho’s move to Barcelona, as they are requesting that in exchange for Brazil international Rafinha and Andre Gomes – plus also a huge fee from the La Liga giants.</td>
<td>Either of the bolded words ‘plus’ and ‘also’ is redundant. Hence only one of them should be used.</td>
<td>It is better to write it like this: ...they are requesting that in exchange for Brazil international they want both midfielders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 3rd, 2017, West Brom Captures £12 Rodriguez. P.2.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Either of the NPs is tautological as both of them carry the same meanings.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: But Rodriguez’s spell on the South Coast was interrupted by a series of injuries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 Wrong Usage of Noun Phrase in the SportingSun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</th>
<th>Error identification: Wrong Usage of Noun Phrase.</th>
<th>Description of Errors.</th>
<th>Suggestions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6th, 2017, Oboabona Drums Support for Eagles. P.6.</td>
<td>The former Sunshine stars captain expressed optimistic that the Eagles will qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.</td>
<td>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: ‘In fact, there are a number of good reasons to be optimistic’.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: The former Sunshine stars captain expressed optimism that the Eagles will qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7th, 2017, Man U Agrees £75m Lukaku Fee. P.4.</td>
<td>It has been suggested that Mino Raiola, who helped bring Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Henrikh Mkhitaryan to Old Trafford <em>summer</em>, may have played big part in the ex-Anderlechtman’s decision to sub Chelsea...</td>
<td>The meaning of the sentence is not complete as an adjective ‘that’ is not ellipted from the NP.</td>
<td>An adjective should be put to complement the NP and the NP should be written this way: Mino Raiola, who helped bring Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Henrikh Mkhitaryan to Old Trafford this summer...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 3rd, 2017, Andriano Salutes Ibra. P.3.</td>
<td>Andriano told FC Inter news: “I want to only say that Ibra is a great *”.</td>
<td>The word ‘great’ requires a complement as it cannot make meaning alone.</td>
<td>The correct usage supposes to be: “I want to only say that Ibra is a great man”. On ...Ibra is great.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 Transposition of Superlative/Positive Adverb in the SportingSun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of publication, title and page numbers.</th>
<th>Error identification: Transposition of Superlative/Positive Adverb.</th>
<th>Description of Errors.</th>
<th>Suggestions.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 7th, 2017, Gunners Snatch Community Shield. P.3.</td>
<td>Straight after the restart, however Chelsea took the lead through Moses, who converted from close range after reacting quickest to Gary Cahills header back into the penalty area.</td>
<td>The word ‘quickest’ is a superlative of an adjective ‘quick’ and it is only used to make a comparison between more than two NPs. Therefore it is ungrammatical to use it in this context.</td>
<td>Another adverb (very) can rather be used to describe the fastness. The correct usage supposes to be: who converted from close range after reacting very quickly to Gary Cahills header back into the penalty area...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Error analysis is also useful in generating information on common difficulties in language learning 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.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research utilised descriptive survey method to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way, thereby ensuring effective approach in addressing the research problem. Fifty copies of the Sport Sun editions constituted the population of the study being that sport newspapers are not documented in schools and public libraries unlike other conventional ones; to this end, the copies are collected from vendors on frequent basis. This study randomly selected from SportSun 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.

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.

**Data Presentation Analysis**

The data presentation in this study uses a table that allows the researcher to easily to ease reading and understanding the data presented.

**DISCUSSION**

According to the Guide to English and Logical Reasoning for BITSAT (2019), collective nouns take different pronoun ‘its’ and ‘their’ in place of the same noun, this is because when a pronoun stands for collective noun it must be in the singular number and neutral in gender. But when collective noun conveys the idea of separate entities comprising the whole, the pronoun standing for it must be plural number. 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 Turkish based outfit’ and ‘The Prinsipality club’ and many of such occurrence. Such inconsistencies are the bases which make the usages of compound NPs ungrammatical.

In addition, 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 non-compliance 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.

**Discussion**

The data obtained on typographical errors are classified into categories. The misspelt words are bolded and written as they appear in the newspaper.

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

The errors in the above data presented include omission of a character within words was perhaps caused by hitting shift key by mistake as in over-one and sough, additional character(s) within a word as in frontunners was possibly caused by pressing the key too hard or leaving finger too long on a key.

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 following:

- Vermeulen 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 Courtinho from Liverpool did not come to fruition.

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.

**Discussion**

It was discovered that there are wrong usages of auxiliary verbs in some sentences of the newspapers in 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 it may be 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’ 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.

**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.

**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).

**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 this 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)

**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 latter does not as the adverb is transposed and makes the sentence sounds clumsy.

**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 sentence in the table is a verb and an adverb of manner supposed to be used instead. If one has to make 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._

**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 readers 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 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.

Findings

The research work identified errors in the SportingSun newspaper, and the errors were described based on the theoretical framework of Corder (1967, 1974). The major discoveries of the study include the following:

1. Subject verb disagreement (concord) is major problem discovered in the Sporting Sun 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.

4.

CONCLUSION

Some of the errors identified in this study correspond with those highlighted in the Nigerian English usage by different scholars over the years. Similarly, it is obvious that the sport newspaper proprietors, editors, story writers and other stakeholders in the industry are challenged with the task of using accurate and reliable language throughout their prints. The response to such challenge determines the degree of growth for the media genre in terms of spread and patronage.

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