

“You are quite funny *paa!*”: A corpus-based study of borrowed discourse-pragmatic features in Ghanaian English

ABSTRACT

This study explores six borrowed discourse-pragmatic features – *koraa/kraa*, *saa*, *paa*, *yoo*, *wai/wae*, and *waa*,– which are borrowed from indigenous Ghanaian languages into Ghanaian English, in order to investigate their sources, meanings, frequencies, positioning, syntactic distribution, collocational patterns, and discourse-pragmatic functions. The data, which are obtained from the Ghanaian components of the International Corpus of English, the corpus of Global Web-based English, and News on the Web corpus are analysed within a postcolonial corpus pragmatic framework. The results show that most of the discourse-pragmatic features occur in clause-final position and are usually attached to declaratives. *Koraa/kraa*, *paa*, and *saa* function as emphasis pragmatic markers and emotive interjections, *yoo* as attention, agreement, and emphasis pragmatic markers, *waa* as an attention marker, emphasis pragmatic marker, and emotive interjection, and *wai* as a mitigation and interrogative marker. Thus, the paper highlights the contributions of indigenous Ghanaian languages to the discourse-pragmatic aspects of Ghanaian English.