Isaac N. Mwinlaaru

Senior Lecturer · Department of English
University of Cape Coast

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PROFILE

Isaac N. Mwinlaaru obtained his PhD degree from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and he is Associate Professor of Language Sciences at the Department of English of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. His research interest areas include Systemic Functional Linguistics, language description and typology, Historical Linguistics, Educational Linguistics and Discourse Studies. He has published in internationally recognized journals such as Functions of Language, Journal of English for Academic Purposes, Journal of Pragmatics, Language Sciences, Research in African Literatures, Sociolinguistic Studies, Power & Education, and Functional Linguistics. His a contributor to The Routledge Handbook of African Linguistics (2018) and co-editor of Approaches to Specialized Genres (Routledge, 2021).

RESEARCH

Interests	Systemic functional linguistics · Language typology · Grammaticalization · Verbal Art · African Literature · Stylistics · English for Specific Purposes · Language description and
Areas	Language and Linguistics · Experimental and Cognitive Psychology · Literature and Literary Theory · Linguistics and Language · Artificial Intelligence · Developmental and Educational Psychology

RESEARCH SUMMARY

53	663	14	20	3.33	43%
Publications	Citations	h-index	i10-index	Field-weighted impact	World top 10%

Counted from the 53 publications listed below, 2010–2026. Field-weighted impact is the mean over the 35 works scored for it; 1.00 is the world average for works of the same field, type and year. 15 of the 35 papers scored for it are among the world's most cited tenth for their field, type and year.

POSITIONS

Associate Professor 2024–present
Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

Senior Lecturer 2020–2024
Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

Lecturer 2017–2020
Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

Research Associate (PT) 2016–2017
Department of English, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR

Visiting Lecturer (PT) 2016–2017
Department of English, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR

Assistant Lecturer 2013–2017
Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

Senior Research Assistant 2010–2013
Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

English Tutor 2008–2011
English, Sammo Senior High School, Cape Coast, Ghana

Teaching Assistant 2007–2008
Department of Arts & Social Sciences Education, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

Hong Kong Polytechnic University
ENGL, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR

PhD student 2013–2017
Department of English, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, China

M.Phil 2009–2012
Department of English, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

B.Ed. (Arts), English with Religious Studies 2003–2007
Department of Arts and Social Sciences Education, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

DISTINCTIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Faculty of Humanities Distinguished Thesis Award for PhD Students, 2016/17
Hong Kong Polytechnic University Faculty of Humanities, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles 35

1. Emmanuel Mensah Bonsu, Guangwei Hu, **Isaac Nuokyaa-Ire Mwinlaaru** (2026). Evaluative adjectives in preprint abstracts from STEM fields: Diachronic trends and semantic shift. *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rmal.2026.100360
2. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2026). Natural language ontology: diachronic restructuring of nominal classification in Dagaare. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.1515/jall-2024-0028
3. Lieke Stoffelsma, Kelvin Fai Hong Lui, Catherine McBride, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Yanyan Ye (2026). Relations between morphological awareness, vocabulary knowledge and word reading in different orthographies and scripts: Evidence from Africa and Asia. *Cognitive Development*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cogdev.2026.101698
4. Emmanuel Kyei Emmanuel, Wilson Awiah Jujugenia, Joseph Benjamin Archibald Afful, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, William Kudom Gyasi (2026). SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE OF GUEST SPEAKERS' SPEECHES AT A GHANAIAN UNIVERSITY. *LANGUAGE LITERACY Journal of Linguistics Literature and Language Teaching*. https://doi.org/10.30743/ll.v10i1.13359
5. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2025). Is there a polarity-prominent language? A typological perspective on Dagaare verbal systems. *Lingua*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2025.103988
6. Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma (2025). Methodological considerations in language description: an interview with Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen. *Journal of World Languages*. https://doi.org/10.1515/jwl-2024-0098
7. Lieke Stoffelsma, Mabel Selasi Quashigah, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2025). Reading achievement among bilingual children in a postcolonial English context: the importance of cross-linguistic transfer and socio-economic status. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*. https://doi.org/10.1080/13670050.2025.2529553
8. Lieke Stoffelsma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Wilbert Spooren (2025). Testing university students' morphological awareness of English as a second-language. *System*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2025.103626
9. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2025). projection in Dagaare: Dynamics in quoting and reporting locutions and ideas.

Language, Context and Text. https://doi.org/10.1075/langct.23011.mwi

10. Esther Asare, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Emmanuel Amo Ofori (2024). Construing Joy as Body Parts in Akan: Synergizing Conceptual Metaphor and Transitivity Analyses. *WORD*. https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.2024.2344245
11. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2024). What is finiteness in Dagaare? *Journal of World Languages*. https://doi.org/10.1515/jwl-2024-0010
12. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Foong Ha Yap (2021). Syntactic position, qualitative features and extended demonstrative functions: Dagaare distal demonstratives nɛ̀ and lɛ̀ in interactional discourse. *Journal of Pragmatics*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2021.01.033
13. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2021). deixis in the Dagaare Nominal Group: Syntagmatic and Paradigmatic Perspectives. *WORD*. https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.2021.1957546
14. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Mark Nartey (2021). 'Free men we stand under the flag of our land': a transitivity analysis of African anthems as discourses of resistance against colonialism. *Critical Discourse Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/17405904.2021.1999286
15. Lieke Stoffelsma, Wilbert Spooren, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Victor Antwi (2020). The morphology-vocabulary-reading mechanism and its effect on students' academic achievement in an English L2 context. *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeap.2020.100887
16. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2019). Emotion, Attitude, and Value in Primary School Chinese Textbooks. *The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Language Teaching*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=ra2lDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PT466&dq=info:8r5AGp91vfMJ:scholar.google.com&ots=YZZGtMuFH4&sig=X5MSHRL5rLAVxHRZiS6bcIfbdDY
17. Mark Nartey, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2019). Towards a decade of synergising corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis: a meta-analysis. *Corpora*. https://doi.org/10.3366/cor.2019.0169
18. Jorge Arús-Hita, Kazuhiro Teruya, Mohamed Ali Bardi, Abhishek Kumar Kashyap, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2018). Quoting and reporting across languages: A system-based and text-based typology. *WORD*. https://doi.org/10.1080/00437956.2018.1463001
19. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Samuel K. Nkansah (2018). The trickster as a semiotic figure for construing postcolonial experience: Kwakye's "The Clothes of Nakedness". *Journal of the African Literature Association*. https://doi.org/10.1080/21674736.2018.1526030
20. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Yuanyi Ma (2018). 'The axial rethink' – making sense of language: an interview with Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen. *Functional Linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40554-018-0058-8
21. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru**, Foong Ha Yap (2017). A tale of two distal demonstratives in Dagaare: Reflections on directionality principles in grammaticalisation. *Language Sciences*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langsci.2017.07.005
22. **Isaac Nuokyaa-Ire Mwinlaaru** (2017). Bridging boundaries across genre traditions. *Functions of Language*. https://doi.org/10.1075/fol.15017.mwi
23. Stoffelsma, Lieke, **Mwinlaaru, Isaac N.**, Otchere, Gloria, Owusu Ansah, Alfred L., Adjei, Joseph A. (2017). Curriculum design in practice : improving the academic reading proficiency of first year university students. *PolyU Institutional Research Archive (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)*.
24. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2016). A survey of studies in systemic functional language description and typology. *Functional Linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40554-016-0030-4
25. **Mwinlaaru, INI** (2016). Bridging boundaries across genre traditions : a systemic functional account of generic patterns in biodata. *PolyU Institutional Research Archive (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)*.
26. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2014). Promotional discourse in academic writing: Generic patterns of biodata. *2nd Asia-Pacific Corpus Linguistics Conference [APCLC], The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, March*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Isaac-Mwinlaaru/publication/281581636_Promotional_discourse_in_academic_writing_Generic_patterns_of_biodata/links/569385d808aec14fa55e906d/Promotional-discourse-in-academic-writing-Generic-patterns-of-

biodata.pdf

27. **Isaac Nuokyaa-Ire Mwinlaaru** (2014). Style, Character, and the Theme of Struggle and Change: Chinua Achebe's Anthills of the Savannah. *Research in African Literatures*. https://doi.org/10.2979/reseafrilite.45.2.103

28. Joseph Benjamin Archibald Afful, **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2013). When 'Sir' and 'Madam are not: Address terms and reference terms students use for faculty in a Ghanaian university. *Sociolinguistic Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1558/sols.v6i3.491

29. Dora F. Edu-Buandoh, **Isaac Nuokyaa-Ire Mwinlaaru** (2013). 'I'll Deal with You …': Power and Domination in Discourse in a Ghanaian Educational Context. *Power and Education*. https://doi.org/10.2304/power.2013.5.3.222

30. **IN Mwinlaaru** (2012). A stylistic study of characterisation and point of view in Chinua Achebe's Anthills of The Savannah: A functional-semantic perspective. *Unpublished MPhil Dissertation, Department of English, University of Cape Coast*. https://www.academia.edu/download/51938999/Mwinlaaru_2012_A_stylistic_Study_of_Characterisation_in_Chinua_Achebes_Anthills_of_the_Savannah.pdf

31. **Isaac Nuokyaa-Ire Mwinlaaru** (2012). Department of English University of Cape Coast. *Between Language and Literature: A Festschrift for Professor Kofi Edu Yankson*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=13684393424369680788&hl=en&oi=scholarr

32. Joseph BA Afful, **IN Mwinlaaru** (2012). Sub-disciplinary variation and rhetoric in dissertation acknowledgements written by education students: The case of the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. *National development through language education*. https://ir.ucc.edu.gh/server/api/core/bitstreams/d82e63f6-13e9-4414-b75f-a743c6667271/content

33. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2012). Transitivity and narrative viewpoint in Ngugi wa Thiong'o's Weep Not, Child. *Between language and literature*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Isaac-Mwinlaaru/publication/258166859_Transitivity_and_narrative_viewpoint_in_Ngugi_wa_Thiong'o's_Weep_Not_Child/links/0deec5272791e6312e000000/Transitivity-and-narrative-viewpoint-in-Ngugi-wa-Thiongos-Weep-Not-Child.pdf

34. Joseph B Archibald Afful, **I Mwinlaaru** (2010). Commonality and individuality in academic writing: An analysis of conference paper titles of four scholars. *English for Specific Purposes World*. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Isaac-Mwinlaaru/publication/228937587_COMMONALITY_AND_INDIVIDUALITY_IN_ACADEMIC_WRITING_AN_ANALYSIS_OF_CONFERENCE_PAPER_TITLES_OF_FOUR_SCHOLARS/links/0deec523aaa5a58615000000/COMMONALITY-AND-INDIVIDUALITY-IN-ACADEMIC-WRITING-AN-ANALYSIS-OF-CONFERENCE-PAPER-TITLES-OF-FOUR-SCHOLARS.pdf

35. J Afful, **I Mwinlaaru** (2010). The construction of multiple identities in the acknowledgement section of a masters dissertation. *English for Specific Purposes World*. https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=5675953082426249667&hl=en&oi=scholarr

Books 1

1. Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Systemic Functional Insights on Language and Linguistics. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6

Book chapters 14

1. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Applying Systemic Functional Linguistics to Translation Studies Around the World. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_10

2. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Cognition in Systemic Functional Linguistics. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_6

3. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Computational Linguistics. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_5

4. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Life and Work of Christian Matthiessen (Part I). *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_2
5. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Life and Work of Christian Matthiessen (Part II). *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_3
6. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Some Conceptual Issues in Systemic Functional Linguistics. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_4
7. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Systemic Functional Language Typology. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_7
8. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). The Way into Systemic Functional Linguistics. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_1
9. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Theoretical Contributions to Translation Studies. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_9
10. Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma, **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2022). Translation as a Linguistic Process. *The M. A. K. Halliday library functional linguistics series*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8713-6_8
11. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2020). Introduction: Genre research into the 21st century–goals, approaches and applications. *Approaches to Specialized Genres*. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429053351-1/introduction-kathy-ling-lin-isaac-mwinlaaru-dennis-tay
12. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2020). Towards a meta-theory of genre. *Approaches to Specialized Genres*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=Id0MEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA17&dq=info:1afFg95fWGkJ:scholar.google.com&ots=dedhGOadwJ&sig=Vqlhw_q7EbQwdMUWv3CcrO2mnvk
13. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2018). A system-based typology of mood in Niger-Congo languages. *The Routledge Handbook of African Linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315392981-6/system-based-typology-mood-niger-congo-languages-isaac-mwinlaaru-christian-matthiessen-ernest-akerejola
14. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2018). Grammaticalising attitude: Clause juncture particles and negotiation in Dagaare. *Perspectives from systemic functional linguistics*. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315299877-11

Conference papers 1

1. **Isaac N. Mwinlaaru** (2017). Lexical bundles in academic bio-data: A corpus interdisciplinary analysis. *Corpus Linguistics*.

Reports 2

1. **Isaac N Mwinlaaru** (2020). Approaches to specialized genres. *Routledge*. https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=Id0MEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=info:YFpqtBjWihQJ:scholar.google.com&ots=dedhGOadwN&sig=gqtHZ0KgRKOhrqDizlQ7wqiXjyU
2. **Isaac Nuokyaa-Ire Mwinlaaru** (2017). A systemic functional description of the grammar of Dagaare. *Hong Kong Polytechnic University*. https://theses.lib.polyu.edu.hk/handle/200/9174