

OLUWABUNMI BLESSING ALAO

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Enthusiastic, proficient, and visionary professional with extensive expertise in language education, multilingualism, and second language acquisition research. A researcher with a solid background in innovative educational practices and advanced teaching techniques. Keen on utilizing cutting-edge ideas and tools to craft equitable solutions for complex educational challenges, with an emphasis on enhancing language instruction and literacy growth for diverse learners and communities.

EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, New York.

August 2024-Till Date

Department of Learning and Instruction (Ph.D.)

Research focus: Language Education and Multilingualism, Second Language Acquisition, Multilingualism and Dyslexia

University of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

2021

Master of Education in English

Thesis: Assessment of Teaching Methods of Contemporary English Teachers of Junior Secondary Schools in Ibadan North Local Government.

University of Ilorin, Nigeria.

2017

Bachelor of Arts in Education

Thesis: Factors Associated with Mass Failure of Learners in English Language in Secondary Schools in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo, New York.

2024-Till Date

Role: Graduate Researcher

- Analyzed quantitative data to identify correlations between vocabulary instruction strategies and reading fluency
- Coded qualitative interview data from 25 preservice teachers on teaching Difficult Histories, collapsing 100+ responses into 10 thematic codes using iterative thematic analysis.
- Utilized linguistic corpora and CLAN software to analyze child language data, transcribing and coding utterances for vocabulary usage in multilingual contexts, contributing to insights on effective instruction strategies.
- Conducted a systematic literature review of observational studies on vocabulary instruction, sourcing references via WorldCat using backward referencing, and synthesizing findings into an Excel sheet for thematic coding.

University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

2019-2021

Graduate Researcher

- Reviewed literature on contemporary as well as traditional methods of teaching English language
- Developed research instruments in groups to identify various methods adopted in the classroom as well as the reasons for different methods
- Identified the impacts of these methods on individual learners in the classroom
- Attended departmental seminars and research presentations on educational development
- Drafted research instruments for data collection
- Assisted in data collection on secondary school English language teachers' attitude to teaching during the COVID-19 era.

Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko.

2016

Undergraduate Research Assistant

- Reviewed online articles on housing planning and sustainable development
- Assisted in data collection using observation, interviews and questionnaires

PUBLICATION

Alao, O. (2025). Assessment of teaching methods of contemporary English teachers of upper basic classes in Ibadan North Local Government, Oyo State Nigeria. *Corona Journal of Emergent Research in Education*, 2(1), 23–33. ISSN: 2955-0319. (Print-only publication)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/394449184_ASSESSMENT_OF_TEACHING_METHODS_OF_CONTEMPORARY_ENGLISH_TEACHERS_OF_UPPER_BASIC_CLASSES_IN_IBADAN_NORTH_LOCAL_GOVERNMENT_OYO_STATE_NIGERIA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Buffalo, New York.

2024-Till Date

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Learning and Instruction, Graduate School of Education

- LAI 551LEC A: Childhood Literacy Methods (Graduate, 25 students, Spring 2025, Course ID 22044)
 - Designed and delivered lectures on translanguaging as a pedagogical approach to enhance emergent bilingual literacy, integrating multilingual strategies aligned with Common Core standards.
 - Created translanguaging-based lesson plans for emergent bilinguals to improve student reading engagement.
 - Mentored graduate students in developing literacy interventions using translanguaging
- LAI 682LEC A: Assess Second Language Proficiency (Graduate, 8 students, Summer 2025)
 - Delivered online lectures via Zoom on second language assessment frameworks, such as CEFR and ACTFL.
 - Developed proficiency assessment projects on UB's Brightspace platform, incorporating rubrics and portfolio-based evaluations for equitable testing.
 - Facilitated weekly discussion forums on topics like test validity and linguistic diversity.
 - Provided feedback on student-designed assessments

Oyo State Teaching Service Commission, Ibadan, Nigeria. **2021-2024**

- Taught English language to L2 learners
- Took students extra lessons on English Language
- Presented English dictionaries to outstanding students
- Organized reading club to improve students' reading prowess
- Prepared certificate class for external examination in English language (WAEC & NECO)
- Acted as the Staff/School secretary
- Led as the head of literary and society debate club

Dansol High School, Lagos, Nigeria (Graduate Trainee) **2019**

- Learnt professionalism in teaching
- Equipped with training on the latest developments for effective teaching and learning
- Connected with senior professionals in the field of education

Mangu Secondary School, Plateau State, Nigeria (NYSC) **2017-2018**

- Taught English language to L2 learners
- Prepared certificate class for external examination in English language (WAEC&NECO)
- Sensitized young learners on the importance of education and career development.

Oyinle high School, Oba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. (Volunteer Teacher) **2017**

- Addressed various problems learners encounter learning a second language
- Assessed learner's progress in learning

Excellent International College, Ilorin, Kwara state, Nigeria (Teaching Practice) **2016**

- Learnt the rudiments of teaching and learning from experienced teachers
- Practically applied theories of teaching and learning

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

UB, GSE Dean's Student Research Award for American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference **Feb, 2025**

Presidential Fellow, University at Buffalo **2024–Present**

CONFERENCE ATTENDED

- American Educational Research Association (AERA), Denver, CO. 2025
- Modern Languages Association (MLA) Conference, New Orleans, LA. **2025**
- New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSFLT). **2024**
- Lagos Teachers' Conference. **2019**

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

- American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) **2024**
- American Educational Research Association (AERA) **2024**
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) **2024**
- Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) **2021**

- NYSC Foundation (Support for Service) **2017**
- Teacher's Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) **2017**

VOLUNTEERING AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- Treasurer, Nigerian Graduate Student Association at University at Buffalo. **2025**
- Volunteer, Teaching Black History Conference. **2025**
- Volunteer, Journeys End Refugee Group, Buffalo, New York. **2024-Till date**
- Volunteer, Modern Languages Association (MLA) conference. **2024**
- Guest speaker at Praiz Foundation's 3-day Enlightenment Program on leadership **2022**
- School Secretary, C.G.S, Abidioki, Oyo State, Nigeria **2021**
- Convener of the First 5 Project **2021**
 - Award gifts to outstanding students in the classroom to serve as reinforcement at Community Grammar School, Abidioki, Oyo State, Nigeria
 - Initiated a reading club to improve the literacy level and develop a reading culture among students at Apete/Ayegun Community Grammar School, Oyo State, Nigeria
- Volunteer at Edu-Aid, Lagos, Nigeria **2019**
 - Educated underserved young school children outside the school environment
 - Teach literacy
 - Organize book clubs and games as alternatives to learning
- Secretary, Peer Educators, National Youths Service Corps **2018**
- Children Coordinator and Assistant General Secretary, Nigeria Christian Corper's Fellowship **2018**

CERTIFICATION

- Student Organizations Understanding Leadership **2025**
- Sail Teachers Fellowship Training on Inquiry Based Learning. **2024**
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) by the TEFL Professional Institute – Teacher Record. **2023**