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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59681

Manuscript Title: Personal Name Attribution among the Dogon of Mali: A Socio-Onomastic Analysis of Naming Motivations and Cultural Practices,

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✔		
Techn. Quality			✔	
Clarity			✔	
Significance	✔			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Repot

General Overview

The reviewed manuscript, titled "Personal Name Attribution among the Dogon of Mali: A Socio-Onomastic Analysis of Naming Motivations and Cultural Practices," offers a thorough and methodologically sound investigation into the cultural, linguistic, and sociological dimensions of anthroponymy. Situated within the region of Sangha, Bandiagara, Mali, the study successfully bridges the gap between anthroponymy and sociolinguistics by framing personal names not merely as static lexical identifiers, but as dynamic cultural artifacts. The authors utilize a qualitative research design, incorporating semi-structured interviews with thirty purposively sampled local resource persons, participant observation, and a comprehensive corpus of names to dissect the underlying motivations of Dogon naming practices.

The structural organization of the article is logical, moving gracefully from a broad introduction of African and Malian naming traditions to a detailed framework of categorization. The classification schema—spanning theophoric names, event-related or circumstantial names, descriptive names, ordinal names, twin names, and sacred names—demonstrates exceptional analytical rigor. Furthermore, the study effectively highlights the collaborative and often intergenerational nature of the naming process, noting the critical roles played by biological parents, extended family, and spiritual authorities such as the

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Hogon. By grounding their findings in comparative literature from across the African continent—such as studies on the Bamanan, Ibibio, Fe'efe'e, and Dangme—the authors successfully position Dogon naming practices within a broader continental and theoretical context. The paper is written with a high level of academic clarity, maintaining an objective tone and appropriately acknowledging the exploratory nature and limitations of its qualitative data.

Suggestions for the Improvement

While the manuscript maintains a high academic standard, several areas require refinement to elevate its analytical depth and methodological transparency prior to final publication. First, the linguistic analysis of the corpus warrants closer scrutiny. The authors frequently rely on informant-reported meanings and glosses (e.g., segmenting *Baraama* into *bara* for water and *Ama* for God, or examining the bound morpheme *ya-* in feminine forms). Given that etymologies are stated to be kept distinct from established linguistic verifications, the authors should explicitly temper their morphological claims or integrate basic phonological/morphological proof to substantiate these morpheme divisions. Providing a brief methodological note on how linguistic transcriptions or tones (common in Dogon languages) were handled during audio recordings would significantly enhance the linguistic credibility of the paper.

Second, the contextualization of the research site and the participants requires minor expansion. Although the authors note that 30 participants (20 men and 10 women) were chosen via purposive sampling, providing a bit more detail regarding the demographic criteria, age ranges, or specific traditional roles of these informants would help contextualize their authority on esoteric naming practices, such as the sixty-year *Sigi* cycle or Hogon installations. Additionally, the discussion section would benefit from a more deeply synthesized critical analysis rather than a restatement of findings. While comparisons to the Bamanan, Ibibio, and Fe'efe'e are valuable, the text would be strengthened by explicitly contrasting how socio-political structures (such as the distinct spiritual office of the Hogon) uniquely shape Dogon naming trajectories compared to centralized or differently stratified societies. Finally, minor stylistic and typographical polish is needed throughout the manuscript to correct occasional formatting inconsistencies and smooth out transitional phrasing between subsections.

Recommendation for the Editor

Given the strong theoretical framing, rich qualitative corpus, and clear contributions of this research to the fields of African sociolinguistics and onomastics, I recommend that the manuscript be accepted for publication following **minor revisions**. The study addresses a notable gap in the documentation of Dogon cultural heritage and provides a replicable framework for future socio-onomastic investigations. Addressing the minor linguistic clarifications, deepening the contextualization of the informant matrix, and refining the comparative discussion will ensure the paper reaches its full scholarly potential.

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