

A LEXICO-SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF ERRORS IN SELECTED HAUSA FILMS SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study provides a comprehensive lexico-syntactic analysis of errors in the English subtitles of selected Hausa films, with a focus on the cultural and linguistic challenges of translating between Hausa and English. Hausa cinema, often referred to as "Kannywood," represents a vibrant cultural tradition, yet the process of subtitling its films introduces linguistic complexities that may distort the original meaning. Drawing on linguistic theory and error analysis, the research categorizes subtitle inaccuracies into lexical mistranslations, syntactic misalignments, and omissions. These errors are examined in the context of cultural expressions, idiomatic phrases, and syntactic differences, highlighting the impact of subtitling inaccuracies on cultural representation and audience comprehension. Findings reveal recurring patterns of error that stem from linguistic disparities, technical constraints, and insufficient cultural adaptation. By applying a structured analytical framework, this study proposes strategies for improving subtitle quality, emphasizing the need for cultural competence, professional training, and technological support in subtitling practices. The implications extend beyond linguistic research, offering practical insights for translators, filmmakers, and educators. This work underscores the critical role of accurate subtitles in preserving the cultural integrity of Hausa films while fostering global accessibility and cross-cultural understanding.

Keywords: Hausa cinema, lexico-syntactic analysis, subtitling errors, audiovisual translation, cultural adaptation.

1. INTRODUCTION

The art of filmmaking is a powerful medium for preserving and disseminating culture. In regions such as Northern Nigeria, Hausa films have become a vibrant cultural repository, showcasing the rich traditions, language, and daily experiences of the Hausa people. However, to ensure these films are accessible to a global audience, subtitling in English has become an indispensable component of film production. Subtitling bridges linguistic gaps and fosters cross-cultural communication, enabling viewers worldwide to connect with the narratives of Hausa cinema. Despite its critical role, subtitling often suffers from linguistic inaccuracies that can distort meaning and misrepresent the original context. This review examines lexico-syntactic errors in the subtitles of selected Hausa films, exploring their causes, implications, and potential solutions.

Hausa cinema, commonly referred to as "Kannywood," is a thriving segment of Nigeria's entertainment industry. Over the years, the industry has produced numerous films that reflect the region's unique cultural and social values. As the third most spoken language in Africa and a lingua franca in West Africa, Hausa boasts a significant audience within and outside Nigeria (Adamu, 2019). Subtitling these films into English not only broadens their reach but also enhances cultural exchange by introducing non-Hausa speakers to the region's way of life. Subtitles are particularly critical for audiences who rely on them for comprehension due to linguistic or hearing limitations (Luyken et al., 1991). However, translating films from Hausa to English involves complex linguistic and cultural dynamics. Effective subtitling must preserve the essence of dialogues while adapting them to the syntactic and lexical structures of English. Inadequate translations risk losing cultural nuances or altering intended meanings, undermining the films' authenticity. Hence, subtitles play a dual role: aiding understanding and preserving cultural integrity.

Subtitling, as a subset of audiovisual translation, is fraught with challenges. Translating between Hausa and English requires addressing significant structural and lexical differences between the two languages. Hausa, a Chadic language, exhibits unique features such as tone marking and a complex verbal system, which often have no direct equivalents in English (Newman, 2000). Additionally, cultural expressions, idioms, and proverbs intrinsic to Hausa culture may defy straightforward translation, resulting in errors or omissions in subtitles (Abdullahi-Idiagbon & Olaniyi, 2011). Moreover, the technical constraints of subtitling exacerbate linguistic challenges. The brevity required for on-screen text often necessitates condensation of dialogues, which can result in oversimplified or inaccurate translations. Errors in subtitling may include lexical mistranslations, grammatical inconsistencies, and syntactic misalignments, all of which compromise semantic coherence. The combined effect of these errors is a distorted viewing experience that diminishes the quality and authenticity of the films.

Lexico-syntactic analysis provides a systematic approach to evaluating and addressing errors in subtitles. This method focuses on identifying and categorizing issues at the lexical (word-level) and syntactic (sentence structure) levels. Lexical analysis examines mistranslations, omissions, and inappropriate word choices, while syntactic analysis addresses structural inconsistencies such as incorrect word order, tense usage, and agreement errors (Cheng, 2004). Applying this analytical framework to Hausa film subtitles allows researchers to pinpoint specific error patterns, uncover underlying causes, and propose targeted solutions. Beyond its academic utility, lexico-syntactic analysis contributes to practical improvements in subtitle quality. By highlighting areas of linguistic disparity, this approach informs training programs for translators and encourages the development of standardized subtitling practices. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of cultural competence in audiovisual translation, ensuring that subtitles faithfully represent both linguistic and cultural contexts.

This review aims to explore lexico-syntactic errors in the subtitles of selected Hausa films, shedding light on the challenges of achieving linguistic accuracy in audiovisual translation. By identifying common error patterns and their implications, the study seeks to enhance understanding of the linguistic complexities inherent in Hausa-English subtitling. The findings are expected to benefit filmmakers, translators, and language educators by providing actionable insights for improving subtitle quality. The significance of this study extends beyond the realm of linguistic research. Accurate subtitles are vital for preserving the cultural integrity of Hausa films while ensuring their accessibility to diverse audiences. Misrepresentation or misinterpretation in subtitles risks perpetuating stereotypes or alienating viewers, undermining the films' global appeal. By addressing these issues, this review contributes to the broader goals of cultural preservation and cross-cultural understanding, positioning Hausa cinema as a compelling medium for global storytelling.

Therefore, subtitling is a pivotal component of Hausa filmmaking that enables cultural exchange and fosters inclusivity. However, the process is laden with linguistic challenges that compromise subtitle accuracy and effectiveness. By employing a lexico-syntactic analytical approach, this review aims to illuminate the complexities of Hausa-English translation and propose strategies for improvement. The study's findings will serve as a valuable resource for stakeholders in the film and translation industries, enhancing the accessibility and authenticity of Hausa films for a global audience.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theoretical Framework

Overview of Lexico-Syntactic Theory

Lexico-syntactic theory explores the intricate interplay between lexical elements (words) and syntactic structures (sentence formation) in the organization of language. At its core, the theory posits that the choice and arrangement of words in a sentence are interdependent, with syntax governing the rules of word order and grammar, while lexicon enriches communication by providing meaning (Radford, 2009). These two components are crucial in constructing semantically coherent and contextually relevant utterances. In the realm of translation and subtitling, lexico-syntactic analysis becomes a vital tool for assessing linguistic accuracy and semantic fidelity across languages.

The study of lexico-syntactic structures extends beyond theoretical linguistics, delving into practical applications such as translation, language education, and computational linguistics. Researchers have emphasized its importance in understanding cross-linguistic differences and resolving translation challenges (Chomsky, 1965). Given the disparities between languages like Hausa and English in terms of syntax, lexicon, and cultural expressions, lexico-syntactic theory provides a framework to navigate these complexities in audiovisual translation. The theory serves as a foundation for analyzing subtitle errors, enabling researchers to identify patterns and propose solutions to improve subtitle quality.

The principles of syntax revolve around the structural organization of words into phrases and sentences according to specific grammatical rules. Noam Chomsky's generative grammar theory introduced the concept of universal grammar, asserting that all languages share a set of underlying syntactic principles, though their surface structures may vary significantly (Chomsky, 1965). For instance, while English relies on Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order, Hausa employs Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) in certain contexts, creating syntactic challenges for translators (Newman, 2000). Translating between these syntactic systems requires a deep understanding of both languages' structural idiosyncrasies to maintain grammatical accuracy and coherence. Lexical choice, on the other hand, involves selecting words that accurately convey meaning while considering context, register, and cultural nuances. Semantics, the study of meaning in language, plays a pivotal role in lexical choice by ensuring that translations capture the intended message. In subtitling, lexical decisions often involve translating idiomatic expressions, cultural references, and tone, all of which require contextual sensitivity. For example, the Hausa expression "ka ci albasa" (literally "you ate onions") conveys regret or embarrassment, which must be contextually adapted in English subtitles to retain its metaphorical meaning. Together, syntax and lexicon form the backbone of linguistic communication, and their interplay is particularly evident in translation. Errors in either domain—such as mistranslations, incorrect word order, or tense mismatches—can distort meaning and compromise the viewer's understanding of the original content (Nord, 1997). Consequently, linguistic principles offer a structured approach for identifying and correcting such errors in audiovisual translation.

Subtitling is a specialized form of translation that transforms spoken language into written text while adhering to technical constraints such as screen space, reading time, and synchronization. Lexico-syntactic principles are crucial in this context, as they guide translators in creating subtitles that are not only linguistically accurate but also semantically and culturally appropriate. The brevity required in subtitling necessitates the condensation of dialogues, making lexico-syntactic analysis essential for preserving meaning within limited text (Gottlieb, 1992). Lexico-syntactic errors in subtitling often arise from mismatches between the source and target languages' linguistic structures. For instance, in Hausa, modifiers typically follow the noun they describe, whereas in English, modifiers precede the noun. Translating a Hausa phrase such as "mutumin kirki" into English requires rearranging the structure to "a kind man," a process that demands syntactic reorganization while retaining semantic accuracy (Newman, 2000). Similarly, lexical translation must account for polysemy, idiomatic expressions, and culturally specific terms that may lack direct equivalents in English. Translation studies have highlighted the challenges of maintaining semantic fidelity across languages with distinct syntactic systems and cultural contexts (Hatim & Mason, 1997). Venuti's (1995) distinction between domestication and foreignization as translation strategies underscores the translator's dilemma: adapting subtitles for the target audience while preserving the cultural authenticity of the source material. Lexico-syntactic principles facilitate this balancing act by offering a structured methodology for resolving linguistic discrepancies.

Error Analysis Theory (EAT) provides a complementary perspective on lexico-syntactic errors in subtitles. Developed within the field of applied linguistics, EAT focuses on identifying, classifying, and understanding errors made during language use (Corder, 1967). In the context of subtitling, this approach enables researchers to systematically categorize errors based on their lexico-syntactic origins, such as incorrect verb tense, misplaced modifiers, or inappropriate lexical choices. By analyzing the causes of these errors, translators can develop targeted interventions to enhance subtitle quality. For Hausa films subtitled in English, error analysis reveals recurring patterns of lexical mistranslation and syntactic misalignment. For example, literal translations of culturally specific terms, such as "biki" (celebration or festival), may fail to convey the nuanced meanings embedded in the original dialogue. Similarly, syntactic errors such as faulty subject-verb agreement or misplaced adverbs disrupt the grammatical integrity of subtitles. EAT provides a framework for addressing these issues, emphasizing the importance of linguistic competence and contextual awareness in audiovisual translation.

The intersection of cultural linguistics and lexico-syntactic theory underscores the importance of cultural context in translation. Cultural linguistics examines how language reflects and shapes cultural norms, values, and worldviews (Sharifian, 2017). In Hausa cinema, this interplay is evident in the use of proverbs, idiomatic expressions, and honorifics, all of which carry cultural significance that may be lost in translation. Lexico-syntactic analysis bridges this gap by identifying linguistic elements that require cultural adaptation, ensuring that subtitles resonate with both source and target audiences. For example, the Hausa proverb "Ba a magana a kan tuwo mai nama" (literal translation: "One does not speak while eating tuwo with meat") conveys a moral about moderation and respect. Translating such expressions requires not only linguistic expertise but also cultural sensitivity to capture their intended meaning. Lexico-syntactic principles provide a structured approach for addressing these challenges, enabling translators to balance linguistic accuracy with cultural authenticity.

The application of lexico-syntactic theory to Hausa films subtitled in English highlights its practical relevance to audiovisual translation. By analyzing subtitles through the lens of syntax and lexicon, researchers can uncover patterns of linguistic disparity and propose solutions to enhance translation quality. This approach is particularly valuable for addressing the unique challenges posed by Hausa-English translation, such as tonal differences, syntactic reordering, and culturally specific lexicon. Furthermore, lexico-syntactic analysis informs the development of best practices for subtitling, including the use of glossaries, training programs for translators, and standardized translation protocols. By integrating linguistic theory with practical translation strategies, this framework contributes to the broader goals of cultural preservation and cross-cultural communication. Lexico-syntactic theory offers a robust framework for understanding and addressing linguistic challenges in subtitling Hausa films into English. By examining the interplay between syntax and lexicon, this approach provides valuable insights into the sources and implications of subtitle errors. Coupled with principles from translation studies and cultural linguistics, lexico-syntactic analysis enables translators to produce subtitles that are linguistically accurate, semantically coherent, and culturally authentic. As Hausa cinema continues to gain international recognition, applying these theoretical principles will be instrumental in ensuring its accessibility and authenticity for diverse audiences.

Subtitling in African Cinema

Hausa cinema, or "Kannywood," is a vibrant segment of Nigerian and African cinema, reflecting the culture, traditions, and lived experiences of Hausa-speaking communities. Despite its regional specificity, Hausa films have gained increasing recognition beyond Northern Nigeria due to subtitling, which bridges linguistic gaps and facilitates broader audience engagement. However, the process of subtitling Hausa films into English presents numerous challenges that stem from linguistic, cultural, and technical constraints. These challenges manifest in recurring patterns of subtitling errors, impacting both the films' accessibility and cultural representation.

A primary issue in subtitling Hausa films is the lexical and syntactic disparity between Hausa and English. Hausa, a Chadic language, exhibits a unique grammatical structure, including tonal patterns, noun-adjective relationships, and complex verb formations, which often do not have direct equivalents in English (Newman, 2000). For instance, the use of aspect markers in Hausa verbs can be difficult to render accurately in English subtitles without compromising brevity or meaning. Similarly, cultural expressions embedded in idioms and proverbs are frequently mistranslated, leading to a loss of contextual meaning. For example, a common Hausa idiom such as "Komai ya zo da lokaci" ("Everything comes in its time") may lose its nuance if rendered too literally in subtitles.

Another challenge lies in the condensation of content due to time and spatial constraints. Subtitles are limited to a specific number of characters per line, requiring the translator to condense dialogues while preserving meaning. This often results in oversimplified or incomplete translations, where crucial details are omitted. Patterns of omission are particularly noticeable in complex dialogues or culturally rich scenes, where a literal translation fails to capture the essence of the original content (Abdullahi-Idiagbon & Olaniyi, 2011). Moreover, subtitling errors, such as grammatical inaccuracies, typographical mistakes, and inconsistent terminology, are pervasive in Hausa films, further detracting from the viewer's experience.

Cultural nuances in Hausa films present a significant challenge for subtitling, as many elements of the Hausa language are deeply tied to cultural and religious practices. Honorifics, kinship terms, and Islamic references are integral to Hausa communication, yet they often lack direct equivalents in English. For example, the term "Malam" (a title of respect for a learned person) carries connotations that a simple translation like "teacher" or "sir" may fail to capture. Translators must navigate these cultural intricacies by employing creative strategies, such as explanatory subtitles or functional equivalence, to preserve meaning while ensuring readability. In addition to linguistic and cultural challenges, subtitling Hausa films also involves addressing audience expectations and preferences. English-speaking audiences often have limited familiarity with Hausa culture, making it necessary to adapt subtitles for clarity and accessibility. However, this adaptation process risks eroding cultural authenticity, leading to debates about the balance between domestication and foreignization in translation (Venuti, 1995). Effective subtitling requires a nuanced approach that respects the source culture while making the content relatable to the target audience.

Subtitling challenges in Hausa films are emblematic of broader trends in African cinema, where linguistic diversity and cultural specificity complicate the process of translating films for international audiences. Africa is home to thousands of languages, and its cinematic output reflects this linguistic richness. Films from Nollywood, Gollywood, and other African film industries often grapple with similar subtitling issues, such as linguistic mismatches, cultural nuances, and technical

constraints (Diawara, 1992). These challenges underscore the need for innovative subtitling practices tailored to the unique linguistic and cultural contexts of African cinema. One notable trend in African subtitling is the increasing reliance on English and French as bridge languages. As colonial legacies, these languages serve as common mediums for subtitling films intended for wider audiences. While this practice enhances accessibility, it also introduces additional layers of translation, often resulting in semantic shifts or distortions. For instance, translating a Yoruba film into French may involve passing through English as an intermediary, compounding the potential for errors and misinterpretations (Ogunleye, 2003). These challenges highlight the complexities of multilingual translation in African cinema.

Cultural representation is a critical concern in subtitling African films, as subtitled content serves as a lens through which international audiences perceive African cultures. Misrepresentation or oversimplification in subtitles can perpetuate stereotypes or diminish the cultural authenticity of films. For instance, the tendency to omit or generalize culturally specific terms in subtitles often arises from a desire to prioritize clarity over authenticity, inadvertently diluting the richness of the source culture (Thackway, 2003). This issue underscores the need for culturally sensitive subtitling practices that strike a balance between accessibility and authenticity. Efforts to address cultural representation in African cinema have included the development of glossaries, contextual annotations, and collaborative translation practices. These approaches aim to preserve cultural nuances while enhancing audience understanding. For example, subtitling practices in South African cinema often incorporate multilingual subtitles that reflect the linguistic diversity of the region, offering audiences a more authentic viewing experience (Kruger, 2012). Such innovations demonstrate the potential for subtitling to serve as a bridge between cultures, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation.

Technological advances in audiovisual translation have also influenced subtitling trends in African cinema. The use of automated subtitling tools and machine translation has increased, offering time and cost efficiencies. However, these tools often struggle to handle the linguistic complexities and cultural nuances of African languages. For example, automated translation software may produce literal translations that fail to capture the intended meaning or tone of dialogues. While technology can complement human translation, it cannot replace the cultural and linguistic expertise required for accurate subtitling (Georgakopoulou, 2019). The growing availability of digital platforms for African films has further highlighted the importance of high-quality subtitles. Streaming services such as Netflix and Showmax have introduced African cinema to global audiences, raising expectations for professional subtitling standards. This shift has prompted filmmakers and translators to prioritize linguistic accuracy and cultural authenticity, recognizing that subtitles play a pivotal role in shaping international perceptions of African cultures (Ukadike, 2002).

Addressing the challenges of subtitling in Hausa films and African cinema at large requires a multifaceted approach that combines linguistic expertise, cultural sensitivity, and technological innovation. Training programs for translators should emphasize the unique linguistic and cultural features of African languages, equipping them with the skills to produce accurate and culturally authentic subtitles. Collaborative translation practices, involving native speakers and cultural consultants, can further enhance the quality of subtitles by ensuring that they reflect the source culture's nuances.

In addition, the development of standardized subtitling guidelines tailored to African cinema can promote consistency and professionalism in translation practices. These guidelines should account for the linguistic diversity and cultural richness of African languages, offering practical strategies for handling idiomatic expressions, proverbs, and other culturally specific elements. By adopting these measures, the African film industry can enhance the accessibility and authenticity of its cinematic output, fostering greater appreciation and understanding among global audiences.

Subtitling in African cinema, and Hausa films in particular, is a complex process that involves navigating linguistic disparities, cultural nuances, and technical constraints. These challenges are emblematic of broader trends in African cinematic contexts, where multilingualism and cultural diversity present unique translation challenges. While advances in technology and growing international interest in African cinema have raised the stakes for high-quality subtitling, they have also created opportunities for innovation and cross-cultural dialogue. By addressing these challenges through linguistic training, cultural sensitivity, and technological integration, African cinema can continue to thrive as a medium of cultural expression and global storytelling.

Lexical and Syntactic Issues in Translation

Translation is a complex process that involves transferring meaning from one language to another while preserving linguistic accuracy, cultural relevance, and contextual integrity. In translating between languages as structurally distinct as Hausa and English, numerous lexical and syntactic challenges arise. Lexical errors often include mistranslations, inappropriate word

choices, and cultural misrepresentations, while syntactic issues involve word order, grammatical agreement, and sentence structure. These challenges are particularly evident in subtitling, where brevity and timing constraints further complicate the translation process.

Mistranslations are among the most prevalent lexical errors encountered in Hausa-English translation. These errors typically occur when translators fail to account for the multiple meanings of a word or phrase in the source language. For example, the Hausa word "gari" can mean "flour," "town," or "environment," depending on the context. Without proper contextual analysis, a translator might render "gari" inaccurately, leading to confusion or misrepresentation. Such errors are particularly problematic in audiovisual translation, where the visual and auditory context must align with the textual representation (Newman, 2000). Mistranslations can also arise from direct, word-for-word translation strategies that ignore idiomatic expressions. Hausa idioms and proverbs are culturally rich and often carry meanings that cannot be directly translated into English. For instance, the expression "idan kan rago ya yi fari" (literally "when the head of a ram turns white") metaphorically refers to old age and wisdom. A literal translation of this phrase would strip it of its intended meaning, resulting in cultural dissonance for English-speaking audiences.

Inappropriate word choice is another common issue, often stemming from a lack of linguistic and cultural competence. Translators who are not native speakers or who lack in-depth knowledge of the source language may select words that are technically correct but contextually inappropriate. This is particularly relevant in Hausa-English translation, where tonal variations and subtle shifts in meaning can alter the intended message. For example, the Hausa term "mutum" (person) can carry a connotation of respect or neutrality, but if translated simplistically as "man," it risks misrepresenting gender-neutral or culturally significant contexts. Additionally, lexical errors frequently occur when translators overlook register and tone. Films often contain dialogue that varies in formality based on the characters and setting. Translating colloquial or informal Hausa into overly formal English can distort the authenticity of the dialogue. Conversely, using informal English for formal Hausa expressions risks diminishing their intended gravity. Effective translation requires an understanding of both languages' registers to maintain the subtleties of tone and meaning (Nord, 1997).

Cultural misrepresentation in translation arises when translators fail to accurately convey culturally specific concepts, leading to distortions of the source material. Hausa culture is deeply embedded in its language, with expressions that reflect social norms, values, and traditions. Words like "zaman lafiya" (peaceful coexistence) carry cultural weight that extends beyond their literal meanings. Translators unfamiliar with these cultural nuances may produce subtitles that are technically accurate but devoid of cultural authenticity. For example, Islamic terms commonly used in Hausa, such as "alhamdulillah" (praise be to God) or "insha'Allah" (God willing), are often mistranslated or omitted in subtitles, which can dilute the religious and cultural context of the dialogue. Such omissions not only misrepresent the source material but also alienate audiences familiar with Hausa culture. Addressing this challenge requires cultural competence and the use of explanatory subtitles or annotations where necessary (Venuti, 1995).

One of the most significant syntactic challenges in translating Hausa to English is the difference in word order. Hausa sentences often follow a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure, whereas English predominantly uses a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure. Translators must carefully rearrange sentence elements to preserve meaning while adhering to the grammatical conventions of English. For example, the Hausa sentence "Yaro ya karanta littafi" (literally, "The boy the book read") must be rendered as "The boy read the book" in English. Failing to adjust word order can result in awkward or incomprehensible subtitles (Newman, 2000). In addition to sentence-level challenges, word order issues arise in phrases with modifiers. In Hausa, adjectives typically follow the noun they modify, whereas in English, adjectives precede the noun. Translating "mutum mai hankali" as "man sensible" instead of "sensible man" exemplifies a common syntactic error that disrupts the grammatical flow of the target language. Such errors highlight the importance of syntactic reordering in achieving translation accuracy.

Grammatical agreement, including subject-verb and noun-adjective concord, poses another major challenge in Hausa-English translation. In Hausa, nouns are classified into gendered categories, which influence agreement patterns with adjectives and verbs. English lacks such extensive gendered classifications, necessitating adjustments in translation to maintain grammatical consistency. For instance, the Hausa sentence "Mace ta yi kyau" (The woman is beautiful) requires the verb "ta" (she) to agree with the feminine subject "mace" (woman). Translators unfamiliar with these agreement rules may produce grammatically flawed subtitles that undermine the coherence of the target text (Radford, 2009). Moreover, tense and aspect markers in Hausa verbs often differ from their English counterparts. The Hausa continuous aspect,

expressed using auxiliary verbs like "na" or "yana," does not have a direct equivalent in English. Translators must therefore adapt such structures to convey the appropriate tense and aspect in subtitles. For example, "Yana karatu" (He is reading) must be carefully rendered to reflect the progressive aspect in English, ensuring semantic alignment between the source and target languages.

Sentence structure in Hausa and English differs not only in word order but also in complexity. Hausa often employs parataxis, a style that uses short, independent clauses joined by coordinating conjunctions. English, by contrast, frequently relies on hypotaxis, with subordinating conjunctions linking dependent clauses to main clauses. Translating between these two styles requires restructuring sentences to fit the syntactic norms of the target language. For instance, the Hausa sentence "Yaro ya tafi gida kuma ya ci abinci" (The boy went home and ate food) may need to be split into two sentences or rephrased to achieve naturalness in English. In addition, Hausa's reliance on context for meaning can result in ellipses that are challenging to translate. Sentences like "Na tafi" (I went) omit details about the time or destination, which are inferred from context. English subtitles often require these details to ensure clarity for audiences unfamiliar with the original language. Translators must navigate these structural differences while preserving the intended brevity and coherence of the source text (Hatim & Mason, 1997). Lexical and syntactic issues in translation present significant challenges in rendering Hausa content accurately in English. From mistranslations and cultural misrepresentations to word order and grammatical agreement errors, these challenges underscore the complexity of translating between two linguistically and culturally distinct languages. Addressing these issues requires a combination of linguistic expertise, cultural competence, and careful application of translation principles. By analyzing and addressing these common errors, translators can enhance the quality and authenticity of subtitles, fostering greater accessibility and appreciation of Hausa cinema.

Impact of Errors on Audience Understanding

Subtitles play a vital role in facilitating cross-cultural communication and broadening the reach of films to global audiences. However, errors in subtitling—whether lexical, syntactic, or cultural—can significantly affect audience understanding, often leading to confusion, misrepresentation, or misinterpretation of the original content. Drawing from case studies in various languages and contexts, this section examines how subtitling errors impact viewer reception and the cultural implications of poor subtitling practices. By analyzing specific examples and audience feedback, this discussion underscores the importance of linguistic and cultural accuracy in audiovisual translation.

Subtitling errors are not unique to Hausa-English translation; similar issues are observed in other linguistic contexts. For instance, in the Spanish-English translation of the popular series *La Casa de Papel* (Money Heist), mistranslations of culturally specific terms caused significant controversy among viewers. One notable example is the translation of the Spanish phrase "dar palo" (to scold) as "give stick," which led to confusion and a distorted understanding of the dialogue. This mistranslation failed to convey the idiomatic meaning of the original phrase, illustrating the broader challenges of adapting culturally loaded expressions in subtitles (Pérez-González, 2014). Another case involves the subtitling of Japanese anime into English, where translators often struggle with honorifics and culturally specific terms. For example, in *Naruto*, the honorific "sensei" (teacher) is sometimes left untranslated or inconsistently rendered as "Mr." or "Master," leading to a loss of cultural nuance. These examples highlight the need for consistency and cultural sensitivity in subtitling, as errors can undermine the authenticity of the content and alienate viewers who are familiar with the source culture (Díaz-Cintas & Remael, 2014).

Subtitling errors can create cognitive and emotional disconnects for viewers, disrupting their engagement with the film. Mistranslations or poorly structured sentences often force audiences to expend additional cognitive effort to interpret the intended meaning, detracting from their overall viewing experience. For instance, when grammatical errors or awkward phrasing appear in subtitles, viewers may become distracted by the language itself, losing focus on the storyline and emotional impact of the film (Georgakopoulou, 2019). In the context of Hausa films subtitled into English, these issues are particularly pronounced. Subtitles that fail to capture the tone or humor of the original dialogue may diminish the emotional resonance of a scene, leaving audiences with a diluted understanding of the narrative. For example, the mistranslation of a comedic line in a Hausa film may render it unfunny or nonsensical in English, depriving non-Hausa-speaking viewers of the intended humor. This disconnect can alienate international audiences, reducing their enjoyment and appreciation of the film.

Poor subtitling not only affects individual comprehension but also has broader cultural implications. Films are a medium through which cultures are shared and understood, and subtitles serve as a bridge between the source and target cultures.

When subtitles fail to accurately convey culturally specific elements, they risk misrepresenting or oversimplifying the source culture. This issue is particularly pertinent in African cinema, where subtitling errors can perpetuate stereotypes or distort cultural narratives (Thackway, 2003). For example, in Hausa films, expressions rooted in Islamic traditions or regional customs are often mistranslated or omitted entirely, leading to a loss of cultural authenticity. The term “Barka da sallah” (a greeting used during Islamic celebrations) is sometimes simplistically rendered as “Happy holidays,” erasing the religious and cultural specificity of the original phrase. Such misrepresentations not only diminish the authenticity of the film but also hinder cross-cultural understanding, as international audiences receive an incomplete or inaccurate portrayal of Hausa culture.

Audience reactions to subtitling errors often reflect frustration with the perceived lack of professionalism in audiovisual translation. Online forums and social media platforms provide spaces for viewers to share their experiences, with many expressing disappointment over mistranslations that compromise their understanding of the film. For example, in the case of the Chinese film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, English subtitles were criticized for omitting key details from the dialogue, leading to widespread complaints about the film’s accessibility for non-Chinese-speaking audiences (Nornes, 2007). In Hausa cinema, similar criticisms have emerged regarding the quality of English subtitles. Viewers often cite examples of typographical errors, inconsistent terminology, and mistranslations that detract from the overall quality of the film. This feedback underscores the need for rigorous quality control in subtitling, as audience dissatisfaction can negatively impact the reputation of the film and its creators. By addressing these concerns, filmmakers and translators can enhance audience trust and engagement, fostering greater appreciation for Hausa cinema on the global stage.

The impact of subtitling errors extends beyond individual viewer experiences to economic and cultural outcomes. Subtitles play a crucial role in determining a film's marketability, particularly in international contexts where they serve as the primary means of communication for non-native speakers. Poor-quality subtitles can deter distributors and streaming platforms from acquiring a film, limiting its reach and revenue potential (O’Hagan & Mangiron, 2013). For instance, a Hausa film with poorly translated subtitles may struggle to secure a spot on global streaming services like Netflix or Amazon Prime, reducing its exposure to international audiences. Culturally, subtitling errors contribute to the marginalization of African narratives in global cinema. When films fail to resonate with international audiences due to linguistic inaccuracies or cultural misrepresentation, they risk being overlooked or undervalued. This marginalization reinforces existing disparities in global film representation, where African voices are often underrepresented or misinterpreted. High-quality subtitling can counteract these trends by presenting authentic and accessible portrayals of African cultures, fostering greater inclusion and diversity in global cinematic discourse (Diawara, 1992).

To mitigate the impact of subtitling errors on audience understanding, several strategies can be implemented. First, training programs for translators should emphasize linguistic accuracy and cultural competence, equipping professionals with the skills to handle complex linguistic and cultural challenges. Collaborative translation practices, involving native speakers and cultural consultants, can further enhance the quality of subtitles by ensuring that they align with the source culture's nuances (Kruger, 2012). Second, filmmakers and translators should adopt standardized guidelines for subtitling, incorporating best practices for linguistic accuracy, brevity, and synchronization. These guidelines should address common issues such as idiomatic expressions, tone, and register, offering practical solutions for preserving meaning while adhering to technical constraints. Finally, advancements in technology, such as machine-assisted translation tools, can complement human expertise by streamlining the subtitling process and reducing the likelihood of errors. However, these tools must be used judiciously, with human oversight to ensure cultural and linguistic accuracy (Georgakopoulou, 2019).

The impact of subtitling errors on audience understanding is profound, encompassing cognitive, emotional, and cultural dimensions. Case studies from various languages highlight the challenges of achieving linguistic and cultural accuracy in audiovisual translation, while audience feedback underscores the importance of high-quality subtitling for viewer engagement. In Hausa cinema, addressing these issues is essential for enhancing accessibility and cultural representation, ensuring that the rich narratives of Hausa culture reach and resonate with global audiences. By investing in professional subtitling practices and fostering cross-cultural dialogue, filmmakers can elevate the global profile of African cinema, contributing to a more inclusive and authentic representation of diverse cultures.

Technological Tools in Subtitling

Advancements in technology have revolutionized the subtitling process, with artificial intelligence (AI) and software playing an increasingly significant role in enhancing efficiency and accuracy. These tools aim to streamline the workflow

for audiovisual translation, particularly in the subtitling of films across languages. Despite their benefits, technological solutions also present limitations, particularly when applied to linguistically complex and culturally rich languages like Hausa. This section explores the role of AI and subtitling software in reducing linguistic errors, as well as the challenges and limitations these technologies face in handling Hausa-English translations.

AI-driven subtitling tools have emerged as powerful resources for automating the translation and synchronization of subtitles. Leveraging machine learning and natural language processing (NLP), these tools analyze patterns in large datasets to generate translations with speed and precision. Platforms like Google Translate, DeepL, and other AI-based translation services incorporate advanced algorithms to handle a wide range of languages, including Hausa. These tools can produce initial drafts of subtitles, significantly reducing the time and effort required for human translators (Georgakopoulou, 2019). One of the key advantages of AI in subtitling is its ability to identify and correct linguistic errors, such as mistranslations and grammatical inconsistencies. AI tools are equipped to learn from previous translations, gradually improving their accuracy over time. For example, machine translation algorithms can detect common patterns in Hausa-English sentence structures, such as the inversion of modifiers and nouns, and apply appropriate adjustments during translation. Furthermore, AI-powered platforms often include features for real-time spell-checking and grammar correction, minimizing typographical errors in subtitles (Díaz-Cintas & Remael, 2014).

Subtitling software such as Aegisub, Amara, and Subtitle Edit has become indispensable for professional subtitlers, offering a range of functionalities to enhance the quality of subtitles. These tools allow translators to synchronize text with audiovisual content, ensuring that subtitles are displayed at the correct time and pace. Additionally, subtitling software supports multi-language translation, enabling users to work with diverse languages, including Hausa, in a single platform. Advanced features like automated timing, text formatting, and character limit checks help translators adhere to technical constraints while maintaining readability (Pérez-González, 2014). For Hausa-English translations, subtitling software offers functionalities that simplify the handling of complex linguistic structures. For instance, some tools provide automatic segmentation of dialogue into shorter phrases, making it easier to fit translations within the allotted screen space. Additionally, glossaries and translation memories integrated into these platforms allow translators to maintain consistency in terminology and style. These features are particularly useful for films with recurring cultural or religious terms, ensuring that key concepts are accurately represented throughout the subtitles.

Despite their advancements, current AI and subtitling technologies face significant limitations when dealing with Hausa-English translations. One major challenge is the limited availability of high-quality training data for Hausa, a language with relatively fewer digital resources compared to global languages like English or French. AI models rely on extensive datasets to learn and refine translation patterns, and the scarcity of annotated Hausa text corpora hampers their ability to produce accurate translations. Consequently, AI-generated subtitles for Hausa films often contain lexical and syntactic errors that require substantial human intervention (Newman, 2000). Another limitation is the inability of AI tools to fully grasp cultural nuances and contextual meanings. Hausa, like many African languages, is deeply rooted in cultural expressions, proverbs, and idiomatic phrases that are difficult to translate literally. For example, an expression such as "Idan rana ta fito, dole ta haskaka" (When the sun rises, it must shine) carries metaphorical implications that AI systems may fail to interpret correctly. Such errors result in subtitles that lack cultural authenticity and fail to resonate with audiences familiar with the source language (O'Hagan & Mangiron, 2013).

Subtitling technologies also struggle to adapt tone and register appropriately for different contexts. In Hausa films, dialogue often shifts between formal and informal registers depending on the characters and situations. Translating these shifts accurately requires an understanding of social and cultural dynamics, which AI systems lack. For instance, the informal greeting "Sannu" might be appropriately rendered as "Hello" in casual settings, but its formal equivalent "Ina kwana?" requires a more nuanced translation, such as "Good morning" or "How are you?" depending on the context. Current technologies are not equipped to make such distinctions, resulting in subtitles that lack the intended tone or emotional depth (Venuti, 1995). Additionally, AI tools often fail to address the challenges of gendered language and honorifics in Hausa. For example, the use of gender-specific pronouns or titles in Hausa, such as "Uwar gida" (lady of the house), requires careful translation to preserve its cultural significance. Automated systems may produce generic translations that strip these terms of their unique cultural and social connotations. This highlights the need for human translators to supplement AI tools, ensuring that subtitles capture the subtleties of both language and culture.

Technical constraints in subtitling, such as character limits and synchronization, pose additional challenges for Hausa-English translation. While subtitling software provides tools to manage these constraints, AI-generated subtitles often fail to balance brevity with semantic accuracy. For instance, Hausa phrases tend to be longer than their English counterparts due to the language's agglutinative nature, making it difficult to condense content without losing meaning. Automated systems frequently resort to truncating or oversimplifying translations, resulting in incomplete or ambiguous subtitles (Díaz-Cintas & Remael, 2014). Furthermore, the lack of accessibility features in some subtitling technologies limits their usability for translators working with African languages. Many platforms do not support Hausa orthography, including diacritics used to distinguish tone and meaning. For example, the words "karfi" (strength) and "karfi" (power) are distinct in Hausa but may be rendered identically in software that lacks diacritical support. This technical limitation complicates the translation process and increases the likelihood of errors in the final subtitles (Georgakopoulou, 2019).

While AI and subtitling software have significantly improved the efficiency of audiovisual translation, their limitations highlight the need for continued innovation and human oversight in handling Hausa-English translations. Addressing these challenges requires the development of AI models trained on larger and more diverse Hausa datasets, as well as software enhancements that accommodate the linguistic and cultural complexities of African languages. Collaborative efforts between linguists, filmmakers, and technologists can further refine these tools, ensuring that subtitles are not only accurate but also culturally authentic. By leveraging technology alongside human expertise, the subtitling process can better serve the growing global audience for Hausa cinema and other African films.

Technological and Human Challenges in Subtitling Hausa Films

Subtitling Hausa films into English presents a unique set of challenges that arise from both technological limitations and human factors. The process involves not only linguistic translation but also cultural adaptation, synchronization, and technical precision. Hausa, as a Chadic language with distinct tonal and syntactic structures, poses significant difficulties for automated subtitling tools and human translators alike. This section examines the interplay of technological and human challenges in subtitling Hausa films, highlighting the critical need for collaboration between the two to achieve accuracy and authenticity.

One of the primary technological challenges in subtitling Hausa films is the limited support for Hausa in AI-driven subtitling tools and software. While global languages such as English, Spanish, and French benefit from extensive datasets and well-trained AI models, Hausa lacks comparable digital resources. AI-based translation systems like Google Translate and DeepL perform poorly with Hausa-English translations due to insufficient training data and the complexities of Hausa grammar and tone (Newman, 2000). These tools often produce literal translations that fail to capture the nuances and cultural significance of the source language. Additionally, many subtitling platforms lack the technical capability to handle Hausa orthography, including the use of special characters and diacritics that distinguish meaning in the language. For example, the word "karfi" (strength) is distinct from "karfi" (power), but AI systems that ignore diacritics can render both as "karfi," leading to confusion in subtitles. Such technical limitations undermine the reliability of automated subtitling for Hausa films and necessitate human intervention to ensure linguistic accuracy (Georgakopoulou, 2019).

Human translators also face significant challenges in subtitling Hausa films, particularly in balancing linguistic accuracy with cultural authenticity. Hausa is rich in idiomatic expressions, proverbs, and culturally specific terms that are difficult to render in English without losing their intended meaning. Translators must possess a deep understanding of both languages and cultures to effectively navigate these complexities. For instance, the Hausa phrase "Komai ya zo da lokaci" (Everything comes in its time) carries a philosophical undertone that may be lost if translated too literally as "Everything comes with time" (Abdullahi-Idiagbon & Olaniyi, 2011). Moreover, translators often struggle with shifts in tone and register within dialogues. Hausa films frequently alternate between formal and informal speech, reflecting the social dynamics of the characters. Capturing these nuances in English requires sensitivity to both linguistic conventions and cultural context. Translators who lack this expertise risk producing subtitles that are either overly simplistic or culturally inappropriate, compromising the film's authenticity and audience engagement (Venuti, 1995).

Subtitling involves not only linguistic translation but also the technical task of synchronizing text with audiovisual content. This process is particularly challenging for Hausa films due to differences in speech tempo and sentence structure between Hausa and English. Hausa phrases tend to be longer and more descriptive than their English counterparts, making it difficult to condense content into subtitles that fit within the allotted screen space. For example, the phrase "Yaro ya shiga cikin gida domin ya dauko littafi" (The boy entered the house to fetch the book) may need to be shortened to "The boy entered to fetch

a book," potentially losing some semantic detail. Timing constraints further exacerbate these challenges, as subtitles must appear and disappear in sync with the dialogue. Translators often face pressure to prioritize brevity over accuracy, resulting in omissions or oversimplifications that affect the audience's understanding. These constraints highlight the importance of specialized training and tools to support synchronization and timing in Hausa-English subtitling (Díaz-Cintas & Remael, 2014).

Cultural adaptation is another critical aspect of subtitling Hausa films, as international audiences may lack familiarity with Hausa customs, values, and religious practices. Translators must decide whether to retain cultural specificity or adapt the content for broader accessibility, a dilemma described by Venuti (1995) as the tension between domestication and foreignization. For example, translating "Barka da sallah" as "Happy holidays" might make the subtitle more accessible to non-Hausa audiences but diminishes its cultural significance as an Islamic greeting. Viewers' expectations also influence subtitling practices. International audiences often expect subtitles to be grammatically correct, semantically coherent, and culturally informative. Failing to meet these expectations can lead to criticism and diminished interest in Hausa films. Translators must strike a delicate balance between maintaining the authenticity of the source material and meeting the linguistic and cultural preferences of diverse audiences (Thackway, 2003).

The lack of formal training and standardized guidelines for subtitling in Hausa-English translation further compounds the challenges faced by human translators. Many subtitlers working in the Hausa film industry are self-taught or have limited access to professional development opportunities. This often results in inconsistent quality and a reliance on ad hoc strategies that fail to address the complexities of audiovisual translation (Kruger, 2012). Establishing professional standards and training programs tailored to African languages like Hausa can help address these issues. Such programs should focus on developing linguistic competence, cultural sensitivity, and technical proficiency in subtitling software. Additionally, collaborative initiatives involving linguists, filmmakers, and translators can enhance the quality of subtitles by promoting best practices and sharing resources (Pérez-González, 2014).

Overcoming the technological and human challenges in subtitling Hausa films requires a collaborative approach that combines AI innovation with human expertise. Technological advancements, such as AI models trained on Hausa-specific datasets, can complement human translators by automating repetitive tasks and providing initial translations. However, human translators remain essential for refining these outputs and ensuring cultural authenticity. Collaborative efforts between technologists, linguists, and cultural experts can bridge the gap between automation and human creativity, producing subtitles that are both accurate and meaningful (Georgakopoulou, 2019). Moreover, the integration of advanced subtitling tools with user-friendly interfaces can empower translators to work more efficiently while maintaining high standards of quality. For example, software platforms that support Hausa orthography and provide real-time feedback on linguistic accuracy can significantly reduce errors and improve the subtitling process. These innovations, combined with targeted training and professional development, can elevate the global profile of Hausa cinema and ensure its accessibility to diverse audiences.

Subtitling Hausa films into English involves navigating a complex landscape of technological and human challenges, from limited AI support and linguistic expertise to synchronization and cultural adaptation. Addressing these issues requires a multifaceted approach that leverages technological innovation, professional training, and collaborative practices. By investing in the development of AI tools tailored to Hausa and fostering partnerships between translators, linguists, and filmmakers, the subtitling process can achieve greater accuracy and authenticity. Such efforts are essential for enhancing the global reach and cultural representation of Hausa cinema, ensuring its continued relevance in an increasingly interconnected world.

Comparative insights on subtitling issues in Hausa films versus global contexts

Subtitling plays a critical role in bridging cultural and linguistic divides, allowing films to transcend regional boundaries. However, subtitling challenges vary significantly across linguistic and cultural contexts, reflecting the unique characteristics of each language and the social norms embedded within them. Hausa films, like those produced in many African or non-Western contexts, face distinct subtitling issues that underscore broader global trends in audiovisual translation. By comparing these challenges to those encountered in other regions, valuable insights can be gained for advancing linguistic and cultural studies. This section examines these comparative subtitling issues and explores their implications for understanding cultural representation and cross-linguistic communication.

Subtitling challenges in Hausa films mirror those faced by other African languages and non-Western linguistic contexts. A major shared challenge is the limited availability of high-quality linguistic resources for automated translation and subtitling tools. African languages, including Hausa, are often underrepresented in digital corpora, which limits the ability of AI systems to handle them effectively. Similarly, languages like Zulu, Swahili, and Yoruba face similar constraints, leading to mistranslations and syntactic errors when automated tools are used (Kruger, 2012). In contrast, languages with well-documented resources, such as Japanese or Chinese, benefit from robust AI-driven subtitling systems. However, even these languages face unique challenges, such as capturing tone, honorifics, and cultural nuances. For instance, in Japanese, translating the formal suffix "-san" or the humble verb forms requires nuanced decisions that are difficult for machines to automate. This highlights the universal struggle of balancing linguistic accuracy with cultural representation, a challenge that is intensified for underrepresented languages like Hausa due to their limited digital presence (Díaz-Cintas & Remael, 2014).

Hausa films are deeply rooted in the cultural and religious traditions of Northern Nigeria, with frequent use of idiomatic expressions, proverbs, and Islamic references. This cultural specificity poses significant challenges in subtitling, as these elements often lack direct equivalents in English. Similar issues arise in subtitling other African languages, such as the incorporation of proverbs in Swahili or the cultural symbolism in Igbo films, where translators must employ creative strategies to convey meaning without diluting the original context (Ogunleye, 2003). These challenges parallel subtitling issues in non-Western contexts such as Indian cinema, where Bollywood films often use Hindi idioms and cultural references that defy direct translation. For example, phrases like "Achhe din aane wale hain" ("Good days are coming") carry cultural and political connotations that are difficult to encapsulate in English subtitles. The commonality of these issues across diverse linguistic landscapes underscores the need for subtitling practices that prioritize cultural competence alongside linguistic accuracy (Venuti, 1995).

Technical constraints in subtitling, such as character limits and synchronization, present universal challenges but vary in intensity depending on the language and cultural context. In Hausa films, where sentences tend to be longer and more descriptive than their English counterparts, condensing content without losing meaning is particularly difficult. Similarly, in Arabic films, the language's script direction (right-to-left) and longer word constructions create unique challenges for subtitling software, often requiring adjustments to timing and formatting (Georgakopoulou, 2019). Audience expectations further complicate the subtitling process. International viewers of Hausa films may prioritize readability and simplicity, while local audiences may seek cultural authenticity and linguistic fidelity. This dichotomy is also evident in subtitled Korean dramas, where Western audiences often criticize over-simplified subtitles that omit cultural details for the sake of brevity. These examples highlight the global tension between accessibility and authenticity in audiovisual translation, emphasizing the need for subtitlers to balance these competing demands (Pérez-González, 2014).

Economic factors play a significant role in shaping subtitling practices in Hausa cinema and other non-Western film industries. Budget constraints often limit the ability to hire skilled translators or invest in high-quality subtitling software, resulting in lower-quality outputs. This issue is prevalent across African cinema, where limited funding for post-production processes affects the overall quality of subtitles (Diawara, 1992). In contrast, well-funded industries like Hollywood or European cinema benefit from established subtitling standards and professional expertise. For instance, the European Union supports audiovisual translation through initiatives that fund language accessibility in films, ensuring high-quality subtitles for a wide range of languages. These disparities in resources highlight the systemic challenges faced by Hausa filmmakers and other non-Western producers in achieving global accessibility and recognition (O'Hagan & Mangiron, 2013).

The comparative analysis of subtitling challenges in Hausa films and global contexts offers valuable insights for linguistic and cultural studies. First, it underscores the importance of understanding language as a cultural artifact, reflecting the unique values, norms, and worldviews of its speakers. Subtitling errors that distort these elements reveal the limitations of purely linguistic approaches to translation, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary methods that integrate cultural studies with linguistics. Second, these insights contribute to discussions on linguistic inequality and representation in global media. The underrepresentation of African languages like Hausa in digital and academic resources mirrors broader patterns of marginalization in cultural production. Addressing these disparities requires collaborative efforts to document and digitize African languages, fostering greater inclusion and diversity in global audiovisual translation (Thackway, 2003).

Subtitling Hausa films within the global context reveals both shared and unique challenges that reflect the linguistic and cultural diversity of the world's film industries. From resource limitations and idiomatic complexities to technical

constraints and economic disparities, these issues highlight the multifaceted nature of audiovisual translation. By comparing Hausa cinema to other African and non-Western contexts, this analysis underscores the critical role of subtitling in preserving linguistic and cultural authenticity while promoting global accessibility. Addressing these challenges requires investment in linguistic resources, professional training, and cross-disciplinary collaboration, ensuring that the richness of diverse cultures is faithfully represented in the global cinematic landscape.

3. CONCLUSION

Subtitling Hausa films into English is a complex process that intersects linguistic precision, cultural representation, and technological innovation. This review has highlighted the critical challenges associated with lexico-syntactic errors, including mistranslations, grammatical inconsistencies, and omissions that distort meaning and compromise cultural authenticity. Comparisons with other African and global subtitling contexts reveal shared struggles, such as limited digital resources and cultural nuances that defy straightforward translation. These challenges emphasize the dual importance of linguistic expertise and cultural competence in producing subtitles that are both accurate and engaging for diverse audiences.

The need for lexico-syntactic precision in subtitling cannot be overstated. Errors in lexical choice and syntax can disrupt audience comprehension, erode cultural integrity, and diminish the global appeal of Hausa cinema. As this review has demonstrated, addressing these issues requires integrating linguistic knowledge with technological advancements and a deep understanding of cultural context. By prioritizing precision in both language and meaning, subtitling can become a tool not only for accessibility but also for fostering cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation.

Stakeholders in the subtitling process have a crucial role to play in overcoming these challenges. Linguists should collaborate with filmmakers to document and digitize African languages like Hausa, creating resources that support accurate translation. Filmmakers must prioritize professional subtitling standards in post-production, recognizing the importance of high-quality subtitles for international accessibility. Technology developers should invest in AI-driven tools tailored to underrepresented languages, incorporating features that address cultural nuances and orthographic complexities. By working together, these stakeholders can enhance the quality and reach of Hausa films, ensuring their rightful place in the global cinematic landscape.

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