



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Data in Brief

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/dib



Data Article

Personal name in Igbo Culture: A dataset on randomly selected personal names and their statistical analysis

Hilary I. Okagbue^{a,*}, Abiodun A. Opanuga^a,
Muminu O. Adamu^{a,b}, Paulinus O. Ugwoke^{c,d},
Emmanuela C.M. Obasi^e, Grace A. Eze^{a,f}

^a Department of Mathematics, Covenant University, Canaanland, Ota, Nigeria

^b Department of Mathematics, University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos, Nigeria

^c Department of Computer Science, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

^d Digital Bridge Institute, International Centre for Information & Communications Technology Studies, Abuja, Nigeria

^e Computer Science and Informatics Programme, Department of Mathematics, Computing & Physical Sciences, Federal University Otuoke, Otuoke, Nigeria

^f African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Cameroon

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 28 April 2017

Received in revised form

28 July 2017

Accepted 29 August 2017

Available online 1 September 2017

Keywords:

Igbo name

Personal name

Statistics

Distribution

Linguistics

Onomastics

ABSTRACT

This data article contains the statistical analysis of Igbo personal names and a sample of randomly selected of such names. This was presented as the following: 1). A simple random sampling of some Igbo personal names and their respective gender associated with each name. 2). The distribution of the vowels, consonants and letters of alphabets of the personal names. 3). The distribution of name length. 4). The distribution of initial and terminal letters of Igbo personal names. The significance of the data was discussed.

© 2017 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: hilary.okagbue@covenantuniversity.edu.ng (H.I. Okagbue).

Specifications Table

Subject area	Decision sciences
More specific subject area	Computational Linguistics, pattern analysis in naming
Type of data	Table and MS Excel
How data was acquired	The data was obtained from freely available textbooks, online baby name websites, oral interview, published articles and online discussion forum.
Data format	Raw, partial analyzed
Experimental factors	Simple random sampling of some selected Igbo personal names. The alphabets were presented in their written form (the way they are written in English).
Experimental features	Statistical analysis of the distribution of the following: characters for each name, consonants, vowels, initial letters, terminal letters and total or word length. Comparative ranking of frequency of occurrence.
Data source location	N/A
Data accessibility	All the data are in this data article

Value of the data

- The datasets can serve as a reference for Igbo baby names.
- Similar statistical analysis can be applied to other identified names in other languages.
- The dataset can be helpful to the following fields, linguistics, Igbo language studies and lexicology, Anthroponymy, Onomastics, etymology, Igbo name neologism, semantics and morphology of identified Igbo names and so on. See [1] and [2] for research on patterns of writing language texts.
- The data can be used to study the effects of God called “Chi” or “Chukwu” in Igbo personal naming. This can be achieved by studying the occurrence of such names compared with others.
- The data can provide insight on the effect of Christianity and Pentecostalism in Igbo personal naming.
- The reference section can serve as useful resources for researchers in this area.

1. Data

The data contained in this article are listed as follows. The dataset of randomly selected Igbo personal names and their respective gender associated with each name, and the distribution of the name length. This data can be assessed as [Supplementary data 1](#). Secondly, the distribution of the vowels, consonants and alphabets of the Igbo personal names was included in this data article.

This data can be assessed as [Supplementary data 2](#). Lastly, this data article contains the distribution of initial and terminal letters of Igbo personal names. In addition, tables showing the statistical analysis of the above listed datasets were also included.

1.1. Detailed data description

Personal names can be classified as given name, first name, middle name, forename, Christian name, local name or adopted name. These are opposite of last name, surname, family name or clan name. Igbo is one of the major tribes in Nigeria and the language is spoken by over 25 million and characterized by dialects. The Igbo people are originally from the eastern part of Nigeria but can be found in virtually every country of the world. Similar to any other ethnic groups in Africa, naming in Igbo is premeditated venture that is designed to speak to the future of the newly born child. Igbo people are not careless in naming because of their belief that names are tied to destinies and as such have religious, philosophical, psychological, historical, social and linguistic interpretations. Personal

names in Igbo land are characterized by the following: 1). Names are clustered along the lines of dialects, largely because of geographical proximity, migration and historical ties. 2). Sentential names are heavily been replaced with Pentecostal names. 3). The influence of God called “Chi” or “Chukwu” is very strong in Igbo personal names. 4). Superstitious beliefs also influence the naming system. 5). Sociological effects such as procreation and the importance of children over barrenness, wealth, status, riches for example “Nwako”, caste system like “Osu”, “Umeh”, traditional post or monarchical lineage, for example; “Adaeze”, “Ezedinobi”, innuendo or response to mockery, childlessness or taunting for example “Iroahushi”, superiority of their siblings, clan or kingship or kinsmen over others, or their wealth, beauty, riches, sexual or intellectual abilities for example “Akubuilu”, “Ofunneka”. 6). Igbo personal names are gender sensitive because of the patriarchal nature of Igbo people. The males are often named based on issues such as: gods or deities, physical and spiritual objects, intellectual prowess and dexterity in trade or agriculture, natural or mysterious phenomena, sportsmanship and craftsmanship, animals and so on. On the other hand, female names are often associated with good lineage, fruitfulness, beauty and intelligent, moral responsibility, favor, good luck and tidings, joy, happiness, wealth, purity and so on. 7). Maternal lineage or descent can influence the personal names given to Igbo people. 8). Historical or geographical events for example waterfall, market days, birth of prince or princess, disease outbreak, war, famine, draught, great harvest, fruitful period and so on. Numerous investigators have worked on various aspects of personal names and naming in Igbo but the actual distribution and frequency of the alphabets that made up each name have not been reported to the best of the knowledge of the authors.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

This research was as a result of rigorous research gaps observed from the works of numerous authors. Few of which are listed [3–48].

2.1. The random sample of Igbo personal names

The limitations of accessing the target population is compensated with a well-defined sample which must be a true representative of the studied population. See [49–67] for some selected survey research done to study some observed population attributes. Simple random sampling of some selected Igbo personal names yielded 965 names which are subsets of larger population. The samples were collected in such a way as to reflect the dialectal classification of Igbo people. The data was obtained from freely available textbooks, online baby name websites, oral interview, published articles and online discussion forums.

Table 1
Summary statistics of the distribution of word length of Igbo personal names.

Statistic	Value
Mean	8.34
Median	8
Mode	8
Standard deviation	2.39
Range	17
Minimum	3
Maximum	20
Skewness	0.699
Kurtosis	0.834

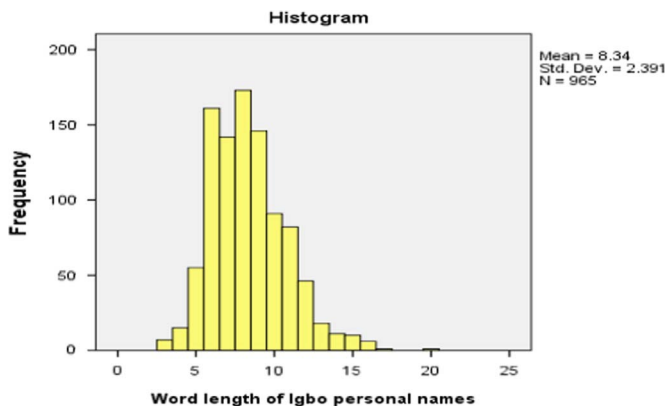


Fig. 1. The distribution of Igbo personal name length.

Table 2

Lower case letters of the alphabets of Igbo language.

a, b, ch, d, e, f, g, gb, gh, gw, h, i, j, k, kp, kw, l, m, n, ñ, nw, ny, o, o, p, r, s, sh, t, u, u, v, w, y, z

Table 3

Lower case letters used for this article (written form in English form).

a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, ñ, o, p, r, s, t, u, v, w, y, z

Table 4

Distribution of letters and their corresponding ranks.

Letter	Frequency	Rank	Letter	Frequency	Rank	Letter	Frequency	Rank
a	914	1	j	58	21	s	87	19
b	216	13	k	514	7	t	59	20
c	457	9	l	155	15	u	808	2
d	231	12	m	406	10	v	0	25
e	766	4	n	565	6	w	324	11
f	56	22	ñ	4	24	y	100	18
g	129	17	O	572	5	z	137	16
h	494	8	P	28	23			
i	801	3	R	168	14			

Surprisingly none of the 965 names contain the letter "v".

2.2. Distribution of name length of Igbo personal names

Statistical analysis of the personal name (word) length of Igbo people are summarized in Table 1. This was done using simple statistical tools.

On the average, a randomly selected Igbo personal name will have a word length of eight. The description can be done using histogram as shown in Fig. 1.

It is most likely that the word length will be greater than eight as seen in the histogram (skewness).

Table 5
Lower case letters of double letter Igbo consonants.

ch, gb, gh, gw, kp, kw, nw, ny, sh

Table 6
Distribution of double letters consonants and their corresponding ranks.

Consonant	Frequency	Rank
ch	457	1
gb	27	5
gh	1	8
gw	18	7
kp	20	6
kw	182	2
nw	99	3
ny	75	4
sh	1	8

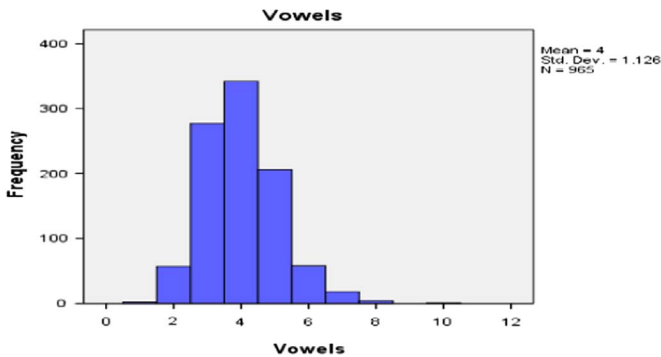


Fig. 2. The distribution of vowels in Igbo personal name.

2.3. Distribution of letters of alphabets and their comparative ranking in Igbo personal names

Igbo language is made up of 36 letters of the alphabets comprising of 8 vowels and 28 consonants. This is shown in [Table 2](#).

The research was restricted to 25 letters of the alphabets of the written form of Igbo language (Anglo-Igbo) version which is currently used in child registry, school registration, international passport and national identification and so on. The form is shown in [Table 3](#).

Excel command was used to determine the frequency of letters of alphabets of Igbo personal names. The command is: =SUMPRODUCT(LEN(A2) – LEN(SUBSTITUTE(A2, "letter", ""))). The result was presented along with their corresponding comparative ranks. This is shown in [Table 4](#). The rank is from the most frequent to the least.

2.4. Distribution of double letter consonants in Igbo personal names

Igbo language comprises of nine double letter consonants. These are shown in [Table 5](#).

Excel command was used to determine the frequency of double letter consonants of alphabets of Igbo personal names. The command is: =SUMPRODUCT(LEN(A2) – LEN(SUBSTITUTE(A2, "letters", "")))/2. The result was presented along with their corresponding comparative ranks. This is shown in [Table 6](#).

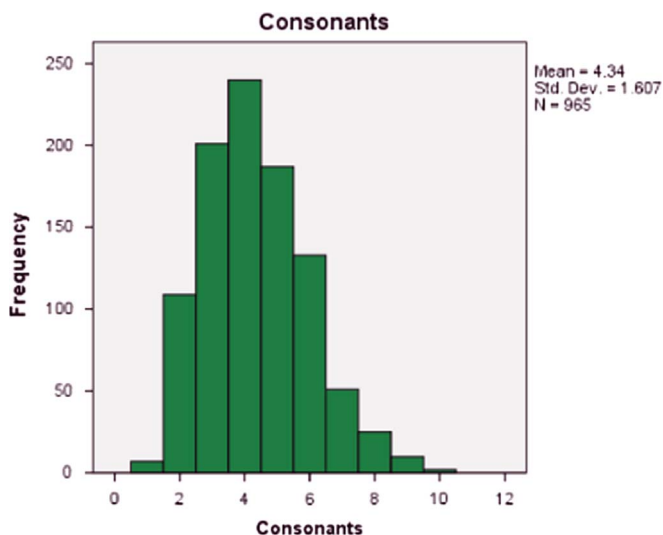


Fig. 3. The distribution of consonants in Igbo personal name.

Table 7
Vowels and consonants composition and their percentages.

Vowels	Consonants	Total
3861	4188	8049
48%	52%	100%

Table 8
Distribution of initial and terminal letters and their corresponding ranks.

Letter	Initial	Rank	Terminal	Rank	Letter	Initial	Rank	Terminal	Rank
A	117	3	288	1	n	117	3	1	9
B	2	18.5	0	17.5	ñ	0	23.5	0	17.5
C	219	1	0	17.5	o	176	2	81	5
D	10	12	0	17.5	p	0	23.5	0	17.5
E	67	7	175	3	r	2	18.5	8	7
F	1	20.5	0	17.5	s	14	10	0	17.5
G	3	16.5	0	17.5	t	4	14	0	17.5
H	0	23.5	3	8	u	80	5	201	2
I	72	6	149	4	v	0	23.5	0	17.5
J	4	14	0	17.5	w	1	20.5	0	17.5
K	26	9	0	17.5	y	3	16.5	0	17.5
L	4	14	0	17.5	z	11	11	0	17.5
M	32	8	58	6					

The high frequency of occurrence of “ch” is a pointer to the influence of God in the naming systems of Igbo people. This is because of the presence of “Chi”, Chukwu, Chuku in almost 50% of Igbo personal names.

2.5. Distribution of consonants and vowels in Igbo personal names

It should be observed from Table 4 that the 5 vowels are ranked first to fifth and the consonants are ranked after that. However this can be clearly seen in the histogram. The histogram of the

distributions of consonants and vowels of 965 randomly selected Igbo personal names are shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

The total number of vowels and consonant and their respective percentages were shown in Table 7. There are a total of 8049 letters. On the average any random selection of Igbo personal name would likely comprised of 48% vowel and 52% consonant.

2.6. Distribution of initial and terminal letters in Igbo personal names and their comparative ranking

Initial and terminal letters constitute a major component of the study of words, nouns, proper nouns and personal names. Excel command was used to determine the frequency of initial and terminal letters of Igbo personal names. The command for the initial letter is: =COUNTIF(A2: A966, "letter*"). The command for the terminal letter is: =COUNTIF(A2: A966, "*letter"). The result was presented along with their corresponding comparative ranks. This is shown in Table 8.

Areas of similarity and differences and relationship of the initial and terminal letters can be obtained by further analysis and use of statistical methods like correlation and chi-square.

Acknowledgements

The research was sponsored by Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Development, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

Transparency document. Supplementary material

Transparency document associated with this article can be found in the online version at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2017.08.045>.

Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2017.08.045>.

References

- [1] T. Zerrouki, A. Balla, Tashkeela: novel corpus of Arabic vocalized texts, data for auto diacritization systems, *Data Brief* 11 (2017) 147–151.
- [2] M. Biswas, R. Islam, G.K. Shom, M. Shopon, N. Mohammed, S. Momen, A. Abedin, Bangla Lekha-isolated: a multi-purpose comprehensive dataset of handwritten Bangla isolated characters, *Data Brief* 12 (2017) 103–107.
- [3] C.P. Bourne, D.F. Ford, A study of the statistics of letters in English words, *Inf. Control* 4 (1) (1961) 48–67.
- [4] D.W. Fokker, M.F. Lynch, Application of the variety-generator approach to searches of personal names in bibliographic data bases – Part 1. Microstructure of personal authors' names, *Inf. Technol. Libr.* 7 (2) (1974) 105–118.
- [5] N.S. Anderson, Word associations to individual letters, *J. Verbal Learn. Verbal Behav.* 4 (6) (1965) 541–545.
- [6] D.C. Rubin, Word–initial and word–final n gram frequencies, *J. Lit. Res.* 10 (2) (1978) 171–183.
- [7] S. Greenfield, Adults' letter predictions and the statistics of letters in English, *J. Commun. Disorders* 5 (3) (1972) 240–246.
- [8] A. Ebeogu, Igbo proper names in Nigerian literature written in English, *Int. Folk Rev.* 7 (1990) 46–53.
- [9] A. Ebeogu, Onomastics and the Igbo tradition of politics, *Afr. Lang. Cult.* 6 (2) (1993) 133–146.
- [10] A. Odebunmi, Names in Chinua Achebe's anthills of the savannah, *Marang, J. Lang. Lit.* 18 (1) (2008) 49–67.
- [11] A. Oluchukwu, S.F. Nzuanke, The case of Igbo→ English translation of Chi names, *Lwati: J. Contemp. Res.* 11 (3) (2014) 122–140.
- [12] A.E. Afigbo, Traditions of Igbo origins: a comment, *Hist. Afr.* 10 (1983) 1–11.
- [13] A.E. Arua, Marital naming in the Ohafia Igbo Society, *Women Lang.* 15 (2) (1992) 8.
- [14] C. Achebe, *Chi in Igbo Cosmology: Morning Yet on Creation Day*, Heinemann, London, 1975.
- [15] C. Azuonye, The image of the Igbo in African-American and Caribbean studies: an analysis of Igbo personal names in an early, in: *Proceedings of the 19th century slave-roll from the Martinique islands*, 9th Ibadan Annual Afr. Lit. Conference, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 1990.

- [16] C. Obi, The Igbo Child: Naming Ceremony and Baptism (Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 1972.
- [17] C. Okpomesihine, Traditional birthing practices in Igbo land, Nigeria, *Int. J. Interdiscip. Soc. Sci.* 6 (2) (2011) 193–197.
- [18] C.M.A. Nwoye, An ethnographic study of Igbo naming ceremony (Iba nwa afa), *Int. J. Sociol. Anthropol.* 6 (10) (2014) 276–295.
- [19] C.U. Ogbulogo, Names as discourse: a study of Igbo female names, *J. Cult. Stud.* 1 (1999) 61–68.
- [20] D. Osuamadi, Choice and Meaning of Personal Names in Igboland of Nigeria: Ausz (Doctoral dissertation), 1985.
- [21] E. Ubahakwe, Igbo Names: Their Structure and Their Meanings, Daystar Press, Ibadan, 1981.
- [22] E.J. Ifesieh, The concept of Chineke as reflected in Igbo names and proverbs, *Communio. Viat. Praha* 26 (3) (1983) 109–127.
- [23] E.O. Mensah, Frog, where are you?: the ethnopragmatics of Ibibio death prevention names, *J. Afr. Cult. Stud.* 27 (2) (2015) 115–132.
- [24] F.N. Ibemesi, A. Okeome-Ochilozua, An analysis of the concept of assumed names in Igbo society, *Afr. Marburgensia* 21 (1) (1988) 18–35.
- [25] G. Madagwu, Igbo personal names: a morpho-semantic study, *Lang. Matters Stud. Lang. Afr.* 41 (2) (2010) 315–324.
- [26] G.L. Udechukwu, N.M. Nnyigide, The religious and socio-cultural implication of African names: igbo naming system as a paradigm, *Afrrev IJAH* 5 (3) (2016) 89–103.
- [27] H. Wieschoff, The social significance of names among the Igbo of Nigeria, *Am. Anthropol.* 43 (1941) 212–222.
- [28] I. Chiluwa, Ethno-pragmatics of Oñunwa performance of the Igbo of Nigeria, *J. Multicult. Discourses* 4 (3) (2009) 279–295.
- [29] I. Madubuike, Decolonization of African names, *Présence Afr.* 98 (1976) 39–49.
- [30] J.E.E. Njoku, The Igbos of Nigeria: Ancient Rites, Changes, and Survival, 14, Edwin Mellen Press, New York, 1990.
- [31] J.E.E. Njoku, A Dictionary of Igbo Names, Culture and Proverbs, University Press of America, Washington, 1978.
- [32] J.O.J. Nwaehukwu-Agbada, Aliases among the Anambra-Igbo: the proverbial dimension, *Names* 39 (2) (1991) 81–94.
- [33] L. Amadi, J.E. Agena, Globalization, culture mutation and new identity: implications for the Igbo cultural heritage, *Afr. J. Hist. Cult.* 7 (1) (2015) 16–27.
- [34] M. Iwundu, Igbo anthroponyms: linguistic perspectivism in Omenuko, *Kiabàrà* 3 (2) (1980) 55–79.
- [35] M.A. Uwalaka, A Semantico-syntactic, analysis of Igbo personal names, *Rev. Engl. Lit. Stud.* 1 (1) (1993) 62–80.
- [36] M.C. Mbabuike, The cosmology of Igbo anthroponyms: life continuum and liturgy of culture, *Dialect. Anthropol.* 21 (1) (1996) 47–65.
- [37] M.C. Onukawa, An anthropological study of Igbo market-day anthroponyms, *J. Afr. Cult. Stud.* 11 (1) (1998) 73–83.
- [38] M.C. Onukawa, Kwe-names and the complementary dual concepts in Igbo, *Anthropos. Freibg.* 93 (1998) 202–208.
- [39] M.C. Onukawa, The Chi concept in Igbo gender naming, *Africa* 70 (1) (2000) 107–117.
- [40] M.C. Onukawa, The significance of the verb Kwe in Igbo personal names, *Anthropol. Ling.* 41 (1) (1999) 107–119.
- [41] M.J.C. Echeruo, A Matter of Identity: Aha m Efula, Ahiajoku Lecture Series, Ministry of Information and Culture, Owerri, 1979.
- [42] M.S. Agbo, Causativity in Igbo personal Names, *J. Univers. Lang.* 15 (2) (2014) 1–33.
- [43] N. Anyachonkeya, Naming in Igbo land: a linguistic and cultural study, *Mediterr. J. Soc. Sci.* 5 (17) (2014) 113–122.
- [44] N. Umera-Okeke, Language and self-identity: making a case for indigenous Igbo names in Nigeria's ESL situation, *Afrrev Laligns* 2 (2016) 25–35.
- [45] O. Onuoha, The morphotology of Igbo proper names (Unpublished M.A Thesis), University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 1986.
- [46] R.C. Okafor, L.N. Emeka, T. Inyiyama, Igbo Personal and Title Names, New Generation Books, Enugu, 2008.
- [47] S. Jell-Bahlsen, Names and naming: instances from the Oru-Igbo, *Dialect. Anthropol.* 13 (2) (1988) 199–207.
- [48] S.N. Ezeanya, A Handbook of Igbo Christian Names, C.M.S Press. Survey, Port Harcourt, 1967.
- [49] M.R. Ibrahim, A dataset of housing market and self-attitudes towards housing location choices in Alexandria, Egypt, *Data Brief* 11 (2017) 543–545.
- [50] O. Jridi, F.Z. Nouri, Survey of socio-economic and contextual factors of households' energy consumption, *Data Brief* 5 (2015) 327–332.
- [51] H.I. Okagbue, A.A. Opanuga, P.E. Oguntude, P.O. Ugwoke, Random number datasets generated from statistical analysis of randomly sampled GSM recharge cards, *Data Brief* 10 (2017) 269–276.
- [52] S. Sanfo, M.W. Fonta, I. Boubacar, P.A.J. Lamers, Survey data on key climate and environmental drivers of farmers' migration in Burkina Faso, West Africa, *Data Brief* 9 (2016) 1013–1019.
- [53] S.A. Bishop, E.A. Owoloko, H.I. Okagbue, P.E. Oguntunde, O.A. Odetunmbi, A.A. Opanuga, Survey datasets on the externalizing behaviors of primary school pupils and secondary school students in some selected schools in Ogun State, Nigeria, *Data Brief* 13 (2017) 469–479.
- [54] E. Dimara, E. Manganari, D. Skuras, Survey data on factors influencing participation in towel reuse programs, *Data Brief* 10 (2017) 26–29.
- [55] Q.H. Vuong, Survey data on entrepreneurs' subjective plan and perceptions of the likelihood of success, *Data Brief* 6 (2016) 858–864.
- [56] H.I. Okagbue, M.O. Adamu, S.A. Iyase, E.A. Owoloko, On the motivations and challenges faced by commuters using BRT in Lagos, Nigeria, *Soc. Sci.* 10 (6) (2015) 696–701.
- [57] T. Akinyemiju, J.X. Moore, Data on burden of comorbidities in the United States and Medicaid expansion, *Data Brief* 8 (2016) 120–122.
- [58] H.I. Okagbue, M.O. Adamu, S.A. Iyase, S.O. Edeki, A.A. Opanuga, P.O. Ugwoke, On the uniqueness and non-commutative nature of coefficients of variables and interactions in hierarchical moderated multiple regression of masked survey data, *Mediterr. J. Soc. Sci.* 6 (4 S3) (2015) 408–417.
- [59] G. Giannoccaro, Survey data of stated farmer's preferences and willingness to supply straw, *Data Brief* 11 (2017) 12–14.
- [60] H.I. Okagbue, M.O. Adamu, A.A. Opanuga, Z.O. Omogbadegun, E.C.M. Obasi, Popularity and gender differences in solving sudoku game among some sampled secondary school students in Lagos, Nigeria, *Int. J. Soft Comput.* 10 (6) (2015) 405–407.

- [61] C. Van Landingham, W. Fuller, G. Mariano, K. Marano, G. Curtin, S.I. Sulsky, Data on cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases among smokers of menthol and non-menthol cigarettes compiled from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), 1999–2012, *Data Brief 12* (2017) 386–399.
- [62] J.I. Waid, J.R. Bogard, S.H. Thilsted, S. Gabrysch, Estimates of energy requirements in Bangladesh: adult male equivalent values for use in analyzing household consumption and expenditure surveys, *Data Brief 14* (2017) 101–106.
- [63] H.I. Okagbue, M.O. Adamu, S.O. Edeki, A.A. Opanuga, On the use of some selected estimators in the computation of interactions in a moderated multiple regression of a masked survey data, *Int. Bus. Manag.* 10 (4) (2016) 352–356.
- [64] R. Canesi, G. Marella, Residential construction cost: an Italian survey, *Data Brief 11* (2017) 231–235.
- [65] L.M. Martinez, D. Estrada, Street vending and informal economy: survey data from Cali, Colombia, *Data Brief 14* (2017) 132–137.
- [66] C.O. Iroham, H.I. Okagbue, O.A. Ogunkoya, J.D. Owolabi, Survey data on factors affecting negotiation of professional fees between estate valuers and their clients when the mortgage is financed by bank loan: a case study of mortgage valuations in Ikeja, Lagos state, Nigeria, *Data Brief 12* (2017) 447–452.
- [67] J.R. Joeng, S.L. Turner, E.Y. Kim, S.A. Choi, J.K. Kim, Y.J. Lee, Data for Korean college students' anxious and avoidant attachment, self-compassion, anxiety and depression, *Data Brief 13* (2017) 316–319.