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Perception of Lagos-Based Journalists on Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for News Reporting

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Abstract: This study examined the perception of Lagos-based journalists on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for news reporting. The study was motivated by the growing influence of generative AI tools in journalism practice. The study was anchored on the Technological Acceptance Model (TAM) and Mediamorphosis Theory, which provided the theoretical foundation for understanding journalists' attitudes toward technological integration in the newsroom. A total of 374 Lagos-based journalists were purposively selected from the registered members of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos Chapter. The study employed a survey method, with a structured questionnaire used as the primary data collection instrument. Data collected were analysed using frequency tables, simple percentages, and criterion mean analysis, with responses at or above the 2.50 threshold accepted. Findings revealed that the majority of Lagos-based journalists (85.3% of respondents) have adopted AI tools for various aspects of news production, including idea generation, transcription, grammar checks, and writing from press releases. However, while journalists demonstrate a positive perception of AI's usefulness, many remain cautious about the credibility, ethical implications, and accuracy of AI-generated content. The study concludes that while AI offers opportunities for efficiency in journalism, Lagos-based journalists still face challenges in its usage, including high subscription costs and limited internet access. The study further identified key challenges, such as high subscription costs of AI tools, inadequate access to reliable internet, and limited technical expertise. However, responsible adoption of AI tools is necessary to safeguard the credibility of news reporting and journalism practise. Based on these findings, the researcher recommends that media owners, journalism unions, and civil society organisations invest in capacity building, provide subsidised access to AI tools, and develop ethical guidelines to ensure the effective and responsible use of AI in journalism in Nigeria. The researcher also recommends that journalists must ensure that AI-generated content undergoes additional layers of human verification and vetting before being published.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence (AI), Journalism, News Reporting, Human Verification.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

➢ *Background to the Study*

It is common knowledge that technology has impacted every stratum of society, including the mass media. Technology has influenced the way and manner in which members of society do things, communicate with each other, access information, and carry out daily activities. It has transformed various sectors in society, including the media, by introducing faster, efficient and creative methods for doing things. In the field of mass communication, technology has shaped and reshaped how mass media messages are designed, produced, packaged, and distributed to the audience. Before the advent of modern technology, the mass media used traditional methods to disseminate messages to their audience. Radio was mostly live with minor editing and tapes that required manual splicing; television was analog with limited channels and fixed broadcast schedules, and newspapers used manual typesetting and paste-up layouts. In a bid to accommodate the growing technology trends, the mass media accommodates some of the features of the new media, which scholars refer to as media convergence. This involves blending traditional and digital platforms to enhance content delivery and audience engagement. Radio stations now stream online, newspapers publish digital editions, and television integrates social media streaming for live interaction with their viewers. Technology has enhanced the products created by the mass media for the benefit of the public.

One of the most important products created by the mass media is news. Asemah (2011) opines that news is the live wire of mass communication industries while Agbese (2008) believes that news is finding out and publishing the things people do not want others to know, and second, anything that will make people talk. Members of the society rely on the

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mass media to provide them with information about the happenings in their immediate society or around the world.

Journalists actively investigate situations and trends, attend events, and interview sources to gather accurate and timely information to meet the demands of society and their profession. In the production of news, both for print and broadcast media, journalists use technological devices to enhance their work. They use smartphones, digital recorders, and cameras to record interviews and reports, while laptops and desktops enable them to write, edit, and design stories properly. The emergence of the internet, a product of technological advancement, introduced new tools for journalists and provided a platform for real-time communication. Through the instrumentality of the internet, journalists can now report events in Borno and instantly send the video or text format story to the media organisation's headquarters in Abuja. Asemah (2011) argues that the internet has destroyed time, space, and geography. In the pre-Internet days, it could have taken many hours or days before a journalist based in Borno sent his or her stories to the publishing house in Lagos. As technology improves, the speed, accuracy, and ease with which news is gathered, processed, and disseminated continue to increase, enabling journalists to meet the demands of a fast-paced, information-driven society.

In the last decade, technological tools driven by artificial intelligence (AI) have started springing up. According to Okocha and Ola-Akuma (2022), AI is software or an application designed and programmed with codes that enable it to make independent decisions and perform activities that mirror human intellect. These AI-driven tools have been incorporated into professional activities, including journalism practice. Talabi et al (2024) opine that the media environment is changing dramatically as a result of AI disrupting traditional journalistic practices. The Thomas Reuters Foundation (TRT) Insight Report of 2025 says that AI rapidly reshapes numerous industries, and journalism is no exception. The advent of AI has significantly improved how news is written, packaged, and distributed to the audience. Globally, Journalists have continued to incorporate AI into news production.

According to Broussard et al. (2019), cited in Umeora (2025), the integration of AI in journalism holds substantial promise to boost news reporting efficiency and accuracy and improve news quality. There is no doubt that the incorporation of AI into journalism practice has shaped journalism practice. AI is starting to reshape how news is researched, produced, and consumed, TRT Insights Report (2025).

In addition, the launch of generative AI tools within the AI space has also disrupted journalism practice. Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence technology that can create new content, such as text, images, audio, video, or other media, based on the data it has been trained on and according to written prompts provided by users (Diakopoulos 2024 et al). Examples of the generative AI tools are ChatGPT, Bard, DALL-E, Deepseeker AI, among others. Since the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, the public, especially the news industry, has been captured by the imagination of generative AI to upend how people create and consume media (Diakopoulos et al (2024). Journalists now use ChatGPT and other generative AI tools to write stories and create graphical images by imputing certain prompts. These generative AI tools help journalists to convert routine press statements to basic news stories. The invaluable time that would have been spent on writing basic stories can be expended on important investigative reports. Media organisations have started incorporating the use of AI tools into their operations, especially in news production. Bylines bearing "AI-assisted or written by AI" have started appearing on the websites of news platforms. News stories are now being automated since the adoption of AI into news production, in what it is referred to as automated or robot journalism, Okocha & Ola-Akuma (2022).

Despite the inherent benefits of AI in news production, there are some tangible concerns about these AI tools among journalists globally, including those in Nigeria.

- *Capturing these Concerns, TRT Insights Report 2025 Notes that:*

Driven by new generative AI technologies, we may be witnessing the start of a new era of efficiency, creativity, and innovation in newsrooms. However, for all these potential benefits, the AI-age also presents significant challenges for journalists, particularly in areas such as ethics, equity, and access to digital technology.

Since AI disrupted the traditional journalism models, there have been some ethical concerns about incorporating AI into the news production that once involved 100% human input. Erosion of journalistic ethics, privacy, intellectual property rights due to the lack of professional news gatekeeping and ethics, bias, and inaccuracies in contents are some of the serious ethical concerns associated with the use of AI in news production (Chen et al 2024, Karnavati University, 2015). The perceived bias of AI remains a significant concern in journalism, as the algorithms used to train these tools may carry embedded stereotypes or prejudices related to race and gender. Machine learning algorithms are trained on datasets that can depict biases which amplify existing social inequities and perpetuate stereotypes (Uche, Obiora, Nwabudike, 2025).

Beyond the ethical concerns, there are some perceived threats that AI tools will replace journalists, leading to unemployment. News organisations that have incorporated AI tools into their operations have had to tell their staff that the technology will not take away their jobs. For instance: Associated Press's guidelines for AI use states that the organisation does not see AI as a replacement for journalists. These concerns can serve as limiting factors to the use of AI in news production.

Numerous studies have been conducted to measure AI awareness among Nigerian journalists but a very few have explored the perception of journalists towards the use of AI tools for news writing, reporting, and editing. The study seeks

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to fill that knowledge gap by ascertaining the perception of Lagos-based journalists towards the use of AI tools for news reporting.

➢ *Statement of the Problem*

Although the adoption of AI into news production is changing the course of journalism practice, its disruptive tendencies cannot be overlooked. News production is one of the core elements of journalism practice. Incorporating AI to such a core element will surely raise some questions and concerns from journalists. The emergence of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Deepseeker AI, and Gemini has made it possible to produce news stories by simply providing specific prompts.

Journalists can write news stories from routine press statements. They can now focus on other serious journalism ventures. Umeora (2025) opines that most journalists have optimistic views about AI but reservations exist due to their worries regarding job loss alongside doubts about daily ethical duties and complicated AI procedural guidelines.

This trend of AI adoption has sparked debates, questions, and concerns over issues of authenticity, credibility, plagiarism, and originality of AI-assisted news content. Beyond these questions, there are also the fears of job loss among journalists. These concerns are relevant because the introduction of a new technology usually elicits certain concerns. Chen et al (2024) argues that human beings have not always greeted the emergence of new technologies with unreserved enthusiasm.

Several studies have explored the awareness, opportunities, and ethical dilemma of the AI adoption in journalism practice. However, there is paucity of studies on the perception of Lagos-based journalists, considering that the state is the commercial and even media hub of the country. This study was conceived to ascertain the feelings, attitudes, and behaviour of Lagos-based journalists towards the use of AI for news reporting.

➢ *Objectives of the Study*

The objectives of this study are to:

- Determine the extent of the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by Lagos-based journalists for news reporting.
- Ascertain the perception of Lagos-based journalists towards the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for news reporting.
- Examine the challenges of Lagos-based journalists in the use of AI tools for news reporting.
- Identify the ethical concerns of Lagos-based journalists in the use of AI tools for news reporting.
- Ascertain whether Lagos-based journalists perceive AI as a job replacement or complementary tool.

II. OVERVIEW OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has not only permeated various sectors of society but has also transformed the way things are done, significantly increasing the speed and efficiency of human activities. AI systems are changing the way services are delivered and decisions are made. The incorporation of AI into various sectors of society shows the growing adoption of modern technologies. Several scholars have defined the concept of AI. Haenlein and Kaplan (2019) define AI as a system's ability to interpret external data correctly, to learn from such data, and to use those learnings to achieve specific goals and tasks through flexible adaptation while Boden (2016), cited in Chen et al. (2024), refers to AI as a computer's capacity to perform various information processing tasks, such as perception, association, prediction, planning, and motor control, by imitating human brain functions.

Okocha and Ola-Akuma (2022) opine that AI is a software or application that is designed and keyed with codes that will lead it to make independent decisions and perform activities that mirror human intellect, such as generation of data, analysis, problem solving, language comprehension, and sound and visual recognition.

One of the most prominent elements in the definitions is that AI systems are designed to replicate or simulate human intelligence. AI tools are designed to act and think like a human brain. They perform basic functions of the human brain. These cognitive activities include reasoning, perception, and learning, which are typically associated with human mental capabilities. Whether it is the execution of complex tasks or the ability to interpret language and visual data, AI was designed to mimic the ways humans think and act. Both Haenlein and Kaplan (2019) and Boden (2016) depict AI's capacity to evolve through experience, with data serving as the foundation for predictive modelling and informed decision-making. This capacity for machine learning enables AI systems not only to improve performance over time but also to function with a degree of independence. Russell and Norvig (2022) argue that AI is concerned not only with understanding but also with building intelligent entities — machines that can compute how to act effectively and safely in a wide variety of novel situations.

Engel et al (2021) enumerated four distinct characteristics of AI, which are experimental character, context sensitivity, black box character, and learning requirements. According to them, experimental character refers to AI outcomes being non-deterministic but rather probabilistic; context sensitivity refers to AI solutions being only as good as the data their context provides to reflect and predict the latter; black box character refers to AI systems, especially in the field of deep learning, facing challenges in delivering explanations to humans on what happens between data input and AI output; and learning requirements refer to AI solutions constituting entities that just like humans need

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to learn and develop experience to eventually improve their performance over time.

Scholars may define AI in different ways, their definitions converge on key themes: the simulation of human intelligence, the capacity for data-driven learning and adaptation, and the ability to operate autonomously in pursuit of defined goals. As AI technologies continue to evolve, their societal impact will deepen with attendant challenges.

➢ *Artificial Intelligence and Journalism Practice*

AI has been incorporated into many professions as it helps professionals work faster and smarter to improve productivity. Journalism is not left out of the moving train of AI adoption. According to Guanah et al (2020), Journalism has already adopted AI into its creation process. AI is gradually spreading across multiple creative spheres, including journalism, which has already been impacted, especially in light of persistent economic disruption and digital transformation (Ali & Hassoun, 2019). Journalists now use AI tools to write and edit their reports, generate headlines, spotlight creative angles, and detect errors, among others, to make their work faster with greater accuracy. AI tools can assist practitioners with content production by automating tasks such as new media ideation, which involves generating ideas for social media posts, thumbnail photos, and titles (Uche et al., 2025).

- *Highlighting the Impact of AI in Journalism Practice, Guanah et al (2020) Note that:*

The use of AI in journalism has tremendously helped to rapidly expand coverage. Through AI, media organisations can now gather, process, and disseminate information on local and global issues more easily, thereby expanding the scope of civic duty beyond a specific community or nation. AI has changed the way we communicate and the procedure for news reporting. This has become achievable because when journalists combine the use of AI alongside their manual ability, the process of news gathering and reporting will be sped up, and the journalists will have more time for higher-level tasks to deliver content faster, with less cost.

AI is playing a disruptive role in journalism practice as it relates to how news is gathered, written, edited, or distributed. With the aid of AI tools, journalists can generate 'AI-produced' news reports and images or even engage in data analysis after feeding the systems with specific prompts and data. The adoption of AI in journalism has given rise to new forms of journalism, including automated journalism, algorithmic journalism, robot journalism, and metrics-driven journalism (Okocha & Ola-Akuma, 2022; Loosen, 2018). According to Al Mazrouei (2024), automated reporting tools, driven by natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning (ML), are becoming central to media organisations, enabling them to produce articles, summaries, and analyses with remarkable speed and efficiency.

International media organisations, such as The Washington Post, The Associated Press, and Reuters, have adopted automation journalism. In Western nations, many newsrooms have incorporated AI tools into their journalism practice. In July 2023, Associated Press signed a partnership deal with OpenAI, the American company that created ChatGPT. According to AP, the partnership arrangement will see OpenAI licensing part of AP's text archive, while AP will leverage OpenAI's technology and product expertise. In Nigeria, many newsrooms have started experimenting with the use of AI tools. In May 2014, Television Continental (TVC) News, a Nigerian national television, launched AI news anchors in multiple local languages. Talabi (2024 opines that the adoption of AI in Nigerian mass media is still in its early stages.

It is imperative to note that the advent of ChatGPT and others popularised the adoption of AI in journalism practice. Before the advent of generative AI tools, journalists had begun using AI tools like Grammarly for proofreading and Otter AI for transcription. According to the TRT Insight Report (2025), AI has been used by newsrooms for more than a decade. However, with the advent of generative AI tools, the momentum for adopting new technologies in journalism practice has increased. Journalism is witnessing the start of a new era of efficiency, creativity, and innovation in newsrooms, which is driven by new generative AI technologies (TRT Insight Report, 2025).

Due to the adoption of generative AI tools in journalism practice, journalists can now spend more time on doing serious fieldwork instead of routine tasks. Although concerns have been raised about the use of AI in journalism practice, these concerns will be addressed in subsequent outlines.

➢ *Generative AI Tools for News Writing and Reporting*

Mu'azu & Moses (2023) define generative AI as the intelligence demonstrated by machines or software, which can generate textual, visual, and auditory content with minimal to no human involvement. Before the advent of generative AI tools, the entire process of news production, from gathering information to writing, editing, and publishing, was handled by journalists and editors with the aid of some information and communication technologies (ICTs) and other non-generative AI tools, such as Grammarly and Otter AI. With the introduction of ChatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) in 2022 and other generative AI tools, news production has witnessed a shift from traditional news writing to image generation. Gutiérrez-Caneda et al (2023) argue that generative AI tools have disruptive effects on the organization of media companies and journalistic practices. Mu'azu & Moses (2023) opine that ChatGPT is shaping how news is produced, disseminated and how the media audience consumes it. According to Umeora (2025), the immense promises of ChatGPT have not gone unnoticed among journalism practitioners and scholars, with many believing that it will play a significant role in the trajectory the profession assumes going forward.

These tools use machine learning models to generate coherent and contextually relevant text, allowing journalists to produce drafts, summaries, headlines, and even full-length articles within seconds. AI-driven platforms like ChatGPT, DeepSeeker AI, Chat Journo, Gemini, and Writesonic are now being utilised to streamline newsroom operations by

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automating repetitive writing tasks and generating basic reports from structured data and routine press releases. Highlighting the innovativeness of generative AI in Mu'azu & Moses (2023) note that:

The innovation in Generative Als is changing the narratives on how news is gathered, processed, and reported by journalists and chatbots. This is so because, with GenAI, robots can write real news, and AI algorithms can convert papers considered complicated to simple news stories that can be understood by media audiences. While the landscape of Generative Al is novel and evolving, the major players which are OpenA, NVIDIA, Google, Microsoft, Meta, IBM etc. have developed their chatbots capable of producing human-like text.

In the area of news reporting, generative AI enhances productivity and creativity by assisting with idea generation, research, and content structuring. Journalists can input raw facts, interview notes, or datasets, and the AI will help organise the information into readable narratives. This enables reporters to focus more on investigative work, analysis, and storytelling, while AI handles routine reporting tasks (Ali & Hassoun, 2019). Additionally, AI tools can adapt writing styles to suit different platforms, whether it's social media, web articles, or print, making content more accessible and engaging for varied audiences.

However, the use of generative AI in journalism also raises important ethical and professional considerations. While these tools offer speed and efficiency, they must be used responsibly to avoid the spread of misinformation, bias, or plagiarism. Human oversight remains crucial in fact-checking, editing, and ensuring that journalistic integrity is maintained.

- *AI Awareness and Adoption Among Nigerian Journalists*

Artificial intelligence (AI), algorithms, robots, and other technologies are today an integral part of the new media ecosystem (Ali & Hassoun, 2019). The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought impactful changes to journalism practice across the world, and Nigeria is no exception. Several studies have shown that Nigerian journalists are aware of AI tools and they have adopted them in their journalism practice.

Okocha and Ola-Akuma (2022) conducted a study on the adoption of robot journalism in Nigeria. Data were collected from 389 journalists selected across the six geopolitical zones in the country. The research findings revealed that 53% of journalists were aware of the concept of robot journalism. However, a majority, 52.2%, believed that the adoption of robot journalism would result in job losses for human journalists.

Bello et al (2023), in a study conducted to ascertain the perception of Nigerian journalists in Lagos and Kwara states towards adopting AI in journalism practice, observed that most of the respondents, who were journalists, strongly agreed that they are well aware of the potential benefits of artificial intelligence in journalism, indicating readiness to accept and integrate its use in their operations. For the study, data were collected from 376 journalists in Lagos and Kwara states using a structured questionnaire as the research instrument. Most respondents strongly believe that the adoption of artificial intelligence poses a threat to the industry, as it has the potential to displace many journalists from their jobs.

Oladosu et al (2024) conducted a study to examine the level of awareness, usage, and perception of artificial intelligence among journalists in Kwara state. The respondents, who are journalists, exhibited varying degrees of awareness, with some showing a high level of enthusiasm and early adoption of AI, while others fell within the early majority or late majority categories. The study observed that AI has made inroads into journalism practice in Kwara state, with respondents using AI tools to streamline tasks and enhance their productivity. The researchers noted that the adoption of AI among journalists in Kwara state follows a predictable pattern, with innovators and early adopters leading the way.

A study by Talabi et al (2024) on the adoption of artificial intelligence in news gathering and reporting within the Nigerian mass media revealed that, although Nigerian journalists are aware of AI technologies, there is limited practical integration and use of AI tools in their day-to-day activities. Talabi et al (2024) observe that AI adoption in Nigerian journalism is still in its early phases. The study highlighted that the availability and quality of data pose significant challenges, as poorly structured or low-quality data can lead to incomplete or inaccurate outputs from AI algorithms.

In another study, Umeora (2025) examined the current state of AI awareness and adoption by Nigerian journalists. The researcher conducted 21 interviews with journalists from diverse media outlets to understand AI integration patterns in Nigerian newsrooms. The study showed that Nigerian journalists recognise AI technologies but their practical adoption remains constrained because of multiple structural barriers. The study found out that the adoption of AI technology in Nigerian newsrooms faces challenges from insufficient technological framework combined with budget constraints and workforce skill shortages as well as regulatory ambiguities.

Based on the foregoing, it is evident that Nigerian journalists are aware of AI tools and have significantly adopted AI into their journalism practice. However, studies have shown that Nigerian journalists have shown certain concerns about the use of AI.

III. ETHICAL CONCERNS OF AI USE IN JOURNALISM PRACTICE

The adoption of AI in journalism has raised several ethical concerns among journalists, which must be addressed to enable the full and responsible integration of these emerging technologies. Umeora (2025) argues that although journalists maintain optimistic views about AI, reservations

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persist due to their worries regarding job loss together with their doubts about daily ethical duties. Journalists have raised several ethical concerns regarding the use of AI, particularly generative AI tools. These concerns include plagiarism, bias and prejudice in content generation, lack of transparency and accountability, dissemination of inaccurate information, intellectual property and copyright violations, data exploitation, potential job displacement, privacy breaches, and the gradual erosion of traditional journalistic ethics (Bello et al, 2023, Diakopoulos, 2024, Okocha and Ola-Akuma, 2022, Oladosu et al, 2024, Talabi et al, 2024, Umeora, 2025).

➢ *Plagiarism and Copyright Issues:*

Plagiarism is one of the major concerns raised by journalists regarding the adoption and use of AI tools, particularly generative AI. The Code of Ethics handbook for Nigerian Journalists has provisions for plagiarism and copyright. The plagiarism provision emphasises that "*A journalist should not copy, wholesale or in part, other people's work without attribution and/or consent"*, while the copyright provision states that *"Where a journalist reproduces a work, be it in print, broadcast, art work or design, proper a be should be accorded the author. A journalist should abide by all rules of copyright, established by national and international laws and conventions*". These provisions indicate the need for originality and respect for intellectual property in journalism, which are particularly relevant in the adoption of AI in journalism practice. AI tools, especially generative AI tools, often generate content by drawing from vast datasets, including existing journalistic works which are available on the internet, without clear attribution to original sources. AI tools are programmed through the creation of algorithms to comprehend and write faster than humans and to simultaneously produce scores of news pieces in a matter of seconds (Ali and Hassoun, 2019). Since AI tools produce news articles in a matter of seconds, they often copy and reproduce other people's works without proper citation or attribution, raising questions about originality and authorship. For journalists, whose work relies on credibility and integrity, the unintentional reproduction of someone else's ideas or language through AI-generated text poses a serious threat to professional standards. Moreover, the use of AI without proper citation mechanisms can undermine the trust between journalists and their audiences, making it essential to develop guidelines that ensure transparency and uphold intellectual honesty in AI-assisted reporting.

➢ *Bias and Prejudice*

Bias and prejudice are another major ethical concern in the adoption and use of AI in journalism practice. Although AI tools do not think or possess the human capacities to reason, the data input into them by humans can show bias, prejudice, or stereotypes. Gross (2023) argues that, although AI models do not possess beliefs, consciousness, intentions, or emotions of their own, they can still reproduce, amplify, or even reinforce biases in the way various groups or events are represented. According to Guo et al. (2023), AI models are guided by human reviewers who provide feedback to align the models with four key categories: ethics and morality, bias, toxicity, and truthfulness. This human input helps determine which outputs are appropriate for specific tasks. Uche, Obiora, & Nwabudike (2025) opine that machine learning algorithms are trained on datasets that can depict biases which amplify existing social inequities and perpetuate stereotypes. Algorithmic bias issues might lead to discriminatory practices, which may stem past disparities in the data used to train these algorithms, or from decisions made in the design process by developers who may not have taken into consideration the wider societal effects (O'Neil, 2016 & Nazer et al., 2023). Ali & Hassoun (2019) opine that AI algorithms are not free of human influence, implying that they are inherently influenced by the values of their designers.

Journalism as a profession is built on the hallmark of fairness. AI models for news production can portray journalists as biased if human reviews are not done. For instance, if an AI tool is trained with datasets that are biased towards a particular ethnic group, race, or gender, the system will produce content that is biased or stereotypical. Some scholars have argued that the problem of bias in AI is inherent in the datasets used for the training of the models. Anagba et al (2025) argue that biases in AI systems may disproportionately affect specific demographic groups, perpetuating existing imbalances. AI-driven tools can produce biased or unreliable information due to accidental errors in the data they are trained on, potentially leading to inaccurate or unethical reporting (Talabi et al., 2024). Gonzalez, (2022) opines that ChatGPT can unintentionally replicate societal biases inherent in its training data, leading to twisted representations in AI-generated analyses. The potential for AI systems to perpetuate biases, if unchecked, can undermine journalistic integrity. The TRT Insight Report (2025) describes AI as an instigator, interlocutor, and interpreter of bias. The report advised journalists to understand the strengths and weaknesses of AI tools, and how to navigate these factors if they are to ensure that their reporting stays fair and accurate.

- *Arguing in Support of AI Amid Bias Concerns, Haenlein & Kaplan (2019) Note that:*

Although AI is in its essence objective and without prejudice, it does not mean that systems based on AI cannot be biased. In fact, due to its very nature, any bias present in the input data used to train an AI system persists and may even be amplified. Research has, for example, shown that the sensors used in self-driving cars are better at detecting lighter skin tones than darker ones (due to the type of pictures used to train such algorithms) or that decision-support systems used by judges may be racially biased (since they are based on the analysis of past rulings).

➢ *Lack of Transparency and Accountability*

Transparency and accountability issues surrounding the adoption and use of AI in journalism are major concerns that continue to raise ethical and professional questions within the industry. The 'black box' nature of algorithmic decision-making in AI has raised several questions in the journalism profession (Sonni et al., 2024). In this context, the black box can be seen as a scenario in which the internal workings of a

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system are not visible or understandable to users, even though its inputs and outputs are known. This scenario mirrors the workings of AI. Users can see the prompts they input and the responses generated by the AI tool, but they often have no insight into the nature or composition of the data used to train the model. This lack of transparency becomes problematic in journalism, where credibility and trust are fundamental in the ability to explain sources, methods, and editorial choices. When journalists use AI-generated content without understanding its underlying processes, they may unknowingly disseminate misleading or biased information. Talabi et al., (2024) note that concerns about transparency and accountability owing to the opaque nature of AI algorithms, and skill gaps and cultural resistance among journalists who may see AI as a threat to their expertise.

Sonni et al (2024) raise a fundamental question on the lack of transparency of AI in journalism practice, which is, "how can news organisations ensure AI systems make decisions aligning with journalistic ethical principles?" Owing to the nature of journalism, journalists are expected to be accountable to the readers or viewers about the methodology of their reports. Diakopoulos (2019) notes that journalists have an ethical obligation to be accountable for their work and to allow the public to understand how news is created and disseminated.

Transparency is one of the hallmarks in journalism practice. It is crucial to ensuring reader confidence, which would mean making the underlying data public and allowing people to engage with it (Bello et al., 2023).

When it comes to accountability, a key concern among many journalists is the question: "Who should be held responsible for the errors, mistakes, or misinformation produced by AI tools?" The absence of clear accountability frameworks raises serious legal and ethical implications. In cases where AI-generated content spreads misinformation or defames individuals, questions arise about who is legally responsible. Without defined roles and accountability structures, it becomes challenging to assign blame or correct errors. This gap in responsibility can not only damage the reputation of media organisations but also erode public confidence in journalism. To address this, media institutions must adopt robust AI governance policies, promote algorithmic transparency, and ensure that human oversight remains central in all AI-assisted reporting processes.

➢ *Potential Job Displacement*

Every new technological advancement is often accompanied by the widespread fear that it will lead to job displacement for humans. AI tools are not excluded from this trend of job displacement. As AI tools, especially generative AI tools, become increasingly capable of performing tasks such as news writing and reporting, and other journalism activities, there is growing anxiety among journalists that these tools could render certain roles obsolete. According to Okocha & Ola-Akuma (2022), there are fears that news automation would obviate the need for journalists.

- *Commenting on Verma (2024) Opines that:*

Another significant concern is the potential for job displacement due to the rapid advancement of AI in journalism. As AI systems grow increasingly capable of undertaking complex tasks, fears mount that they might supplant human journalists, especially in areas like routine reporting and data analysis. This technological shift poses a threat not only to employment but also to the intrinsic value of human journalistic skills and insights, which could be diminished in the face of automated processes.

A study conducted by Bello et al., (2023) observed that most registered journalists in Lagos and Kwara are of the strong opinion that the adoption of artificial intelligence is a threat to the industry as it has the potential to push many journalists out of their jobs. Another study by Guanah, Agbanu and Obi (2020) observed most of the journalists feel threatened that the utilization of AI-driven media applications can lead to their job loss.

It is important to note that there is a risk that media organisations may adopt these technologies primarily as cost-cutting measures, reducing the need for human reporters, editors, and technical staff.

IV. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study was premised on the principles of technology acceptance model (TAM) and mediamorphosis theory.

➢ *Technological Acceptance Model (TAM)*

The theoretical underpinning of this study was technology acceptance model (TAM). The model was developed by Fred Davis and Richard Bagozzi in 1989 and was an improvement on the theory action, which was propounded by Fishbein & Azjen in 1975. The model explains the acceptance and utilisation of new technologies. TAM provides the intellectual framework to ascertain the level of acceptance of technologies. The model also explains the factors that determine the adoption of new technologies by individuals or groups (Venkatesh et al., 2003). Ma and Liu (2005) describe the model as the most widely applied model of user acceptance and usage. The model posits that the actual usage of technology is the ultimate endpoint, while behavioral intention plays a pivotal role in leading individuals to adopt and employ the technology (Oladosu et al., 2024).

The proponents of the model identified two elements that explains the usage and adoption of new technologies, which are perceived ease of use (PEOU) and perceived usefulness (PU). Perceived usefulness explains the extent to which an individual perceives a new technology to be useful for their intended activities while perceived ease of use depicts the extent to which an individual perceives a particular technology to be easy to use. This presupposes that an individual is likely to adopt a new technology if they perceive the tool of being useful and easy to operate.

The relevance of this model to this study rests on the fact that it helps to understand the adoption of AI tools by Lagos-based journalists for news reporting alongside their

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behavioural intentions and attitudes. The two major elements of the model – perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use – explain the degree to which Lagos-based journalists perceive AI as tools for new reporting. The model is relevant to this study in the sense that it provides the appropriate insight on Lagos-based journalists perceive and intend to use AI for news reporting. It explains the concerns and difficulty encountered by journalists in the adoption of AI for news reporting.

➢ *Mediamorphosis Theory*

The term 'mediamorphosis' was coined by Roger Fidler in 1990 but was propounded as a theory by him in 1997. The term was used to explain how new media evolved to update and upgrade old or traditional media due to certain factors like social and technological advancements. Fidler argues that mediamorphosis shows the importance of viewing the communication system as a whole, noting that new media do not emerge suddenly or independently, but rather evolve gradually through the transformation of existing media systems (Bantigue 2016). According to Ekeli & Enobakhare (2013), the thrust of Fidler's position is that as the new media forms evolve, and develop, they influence overtime and to varying degrees, the development of other existing media such that rather than the emergent media displacing the existing one, the existing one converges with it to enhance its operations.

The theory posits that media constantly evolve and change in response to technological advancements. This presupposes that new media forms emerge gradually from the mediamorphosis of traditional media systems. The theory also highlights the coexistence and coevolution of media forms, that is AI tools and traditional media platforms can coexist within the journalism profession.

This theory is suitable for this study because it explains that the traditional way of news reporting is not being replaced or repealed by AI tools, rather it is being enhanced by adoption of AI, especially generative AI tools. The theory also explains how news reporting processes have been modified owing to incorporation of AI tools into journalism practice. The study seeks to ascertain the perception of Lagos-based journalists about the modification and the adoption of AI tools in news reporting.

➢ *Research Method*

This study adopted the survey research method to ascertain the perception of Lagos-based journalists to adoption of AI tools for news reporting.

➢ *Population of the Study*

The population of this study is the total number of registered journalists in Lagos state. According to the data obtained from the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos state chapter, there are 5,945 registered journalists in Lagos as of 2023. The main population of this study is 5,945 registered journalists. The population is considered appropriate because the study seeks to ascertain the perception of Lagos-based journalists on use of AI for news reporting. Hence, the total population of registered journalists in Lagos is the population of this study. Registered journalists in Lagos are considered appropriate because they are most likely to be aware of AI tools for journalism practice.

➢ *Sample Size*

A sample size is a subset of a population which is usually representative of the entire population. The sample size for this study will be drawn from the population of registered journalists in Lagos.

Hence, the sample of this study constituted 375 respondents selected from the total population of 5,840 registered journalists in Lagos. This sample size was derived using Taro Yamane's statistical formula. This is the calculation:

Formular = $n=N/1+ (e)^2$

n = sample size, N = population size, e=sampling error (usually .10, .05 and .01 acceptable error) and ^ = raised to the power of.

$n=N/1+ (e)^2$

$n=5,840/1+5,840(0.05)^2$

$n=5,840/1+5,840 (0.0025)$

$n=5,840/1+14.6$

$n=5,840/15.6$

$n= 374.3589$

Approximately, n = 374

➢ *Sampling Technique*

This study adopted the purposive sampling technique to choose the respondents from the population. Respondents were selected from newsrooms of major media organisations in Lagos to select the respondents. The researcher selected its respondents from journalists working with Punch, Vanguard, The Nation, The Guardian newspapers, Channels Television, Lagos Television, Television Continental and Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). The researcher believes that journalists from these major newsrooms must have been exposed to the use of AI for news reporting. The questionnaire was distributed to 374 respondents, who are Lagos-based journalists.

➢ *Data Analysis and Presentation*

Mean scores will be used to calculate each of the items from the questionnaire based on the 4-point Likert scale of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD). This enabled the researcher to infer the acceptance and rejection of the items with direct bearing on the research questions posed for this study. The criterion mean score for this study was 2.50. In essence, any item which was calculated to the range of 2.50 and below was rejected while those that fell on 2.50 and above were deemed acceptable.

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V. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 1 Details of Questionnaire Items Distributed

Details	Frequency (Percentage)
Number of Questionnaire distributed (N)	374 (100%)
Number of Questionnaire retrieved (n)	366 (97.86%)
Number of Valid Questionnaire (n)	360 (96.26%)

Table 1 shows that 374 questionnaire items were distributed to respondents, who were journalists, to elicit responses to provide answers to the research questions. 366 questionnaire items, representing 97.86% of the total questionnaire items distributed, were retrieved, while 360 questionnaire items, representing 96.26%, were valid, as some of the respondents, who filled out the hard copies of questionnaire items, did not answer some of the questions.

Table 2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Gender:		
Male	183	50.83%
Female	177	49.17
Total	**360**	**100%**
Age:		
18-25	26	7.2%
26-35	141	39.17%
36-45	118	32.7%
46 and above	75	20.83%
Total	**360**	**100**
Academic qualification:		
OND/ND/NCE	91	25.27%
Bachelor's degree	162	45%
Post graduate	107	29.72%
Total	**360**	**100%**
Media Affiliation:		
Print (Hard Copy)	131	36.4%
Online	109	30.3%
Radio	60	16.6%
Television	45	12.5%
Magazine	15	4.2%
Total:	**360**	**100%**

Table 2 depicts the demographic characteristics of the respondents who filled out the questionnaire items for the study. The demographic details include gender, age, academic qualification, and media affiliation. Out of the 360 respondents, there are 183 males, representing 50.83%, while 177 females, representing 49.17%. For the age grade of respondents, 26 respondents, representing 7.2%, were within the age bracket of 18 – 25, 141 respondents, representing 39.1%, were within the age bracket of 26–35, 118 respondents, representing 32.7%, were within the age bracket of 36-45, while 75 respondents, representing 20.83%, were within the age bracket of 46 and above. The academic qualification of respondents shows that 91 respondents, representing 25.27%, are Ordinary National Diploma (OND) or National Diploma (ND) or Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) holders, 162 respondents, representing 45%, possess a bachelor's degree, while 107 respondents, representing 29.72%, have postgraduate degrees. The media affiliation category shows that 131 respondents, representing 36.4%, work in print media platforms, 109 respondents, representing 30.3%, work in online media organisations, 60 respondents, representing 16.6%, work in radio stations, 45 respondents, representing 12.5% are affiliated to television stations, and 15 respondents, representing 4.2%, work in magazine outfits.

Table 3 Usage of AI for News Reporting

Usage of AI for News Reporting	Frequency (Percentage)
Yes	307 (85.3%)
No	53 (14.7%)
Total	360 (100%)

Data on table 2 shows that 307 (85.3%) respondents use artificial intelligence (AI) tools for news reporting, while 53 (14.7%) respondents indicated that they do not use AI tools for news reporting.

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Table 4 Frequency of Usage of AI for News Reporting

Variables	Frequency (Percentage)
Very Frequently	99 (27.5%)
Frequently	112 (31.1%)
Occasionally	96 (26.7)
Rarely	53 (14.7%)
Total	360 (100%)

Data on table 3 shows that 99 (27.5%) respondents indicated that they use AI very frequently for news reporting, 112 respondents (31.1%) frequently use AI for news reporting, 96 (26.7%) respondents occasionally use AI for news reporting, while 53 (14.7%) respondents rarely use AI for news reporting. Since 53 respondents indicated that they do not use AI for news reporting, their responses were excluded. It is impossible to ascertain the perception of a journalist who does not use AI for news reporting on the subject matter.

Table 5 Aspects of News Reporting

Details	Frequency (Percentage)
Ideas Generation	53 (17.3%)
Transcription	56 (18.2%)
Image Generation	-
Writing News Stories	26 (8.5%)
Grammar Check	56 (18.2%)
All of the above	116 (37.7%)
Total	307 (100%)

Table 4 shows that 53 (17.3%) respondents indicated that they use AI for idea generation, 56 (18.2%) respondents make use of AI for transcription, none of the respondents indicated that they use AI for image generation, 26 (8.5%) respondents make use of AI for writing news stories, 56 (18.2%) respondents make use of AI for grammar check, while 116 (37.7%) respondents indicated all of the above.

Table 6 Subscription of Respondents' Media Affiliation to AI Tools

Subscription to AI tools	Frequency (Percentage)
Yes	74 (24.1%)
No	140 (45.6%)
I am not sure	93 (30.3%)
Total	307 (100%)

Data from table 5 shows that 74 (24.1%) respondents indicated that their media organisations subscribe to AI tools for news reporting, 140 (45.6%) respondents stated that their media organisations do not subscribe to AI tools for news reporting, while 93 (30.3%) respondents indicated that they are not sure if their media organisation subscribe to AI tools.

Table 7 Perception of Respondents to AI Use for News Reporting

Details	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
Values	4	3	2	1			
I am comfortable using AI tools for news reporting	75 300 24.2%	106 318 34.5%	61 122 19.8%	65 65 21.2%	307 805÷307 100%	2.62	Accepted
AI makes news reporting easier and faster	86 344 28%	102 306 33.2%	55 110 17.9%	64 64 20.8%	307 824÷307 100%	2.68	Accepted
AI tools reduce the workload of journalists	87 348 28.3%	101 303 32.8%	54 108 17.6%	65 65 21.2%	307 824÷307 100%	2.68	Accepted
AI tools improve the speed and efficiency of journalists	73 292 23.8%	188 564 61.2%	22 44 7.2%	24 24 7.8%p	307 924÷307	3.01	Accepted
AI-generated news content has the same accuracy as content written by human journalists	26 104 8.5%	52 156 16.9%	152 304 49.5%	77 77 25%	307 641÷307 100%	2.08	Rejected

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Using AI for news reporting reduces the credibility of journalism	51 204 24.12%	61 244 25.63%	104 208 26.63%	91 91 23.62%	307 747÷307 100%	2.43	Rejected

Data from Table 6 show respondents' perceptions of the use of AI tools for news reporting. A total of 181 respondents, representing 58.7%, indicated that they either strongly agree or agree that they feel comfortable using AI for news reporting, while 126 respondents indicated that they either strongly disagree or disagree with feeling comfortable using AI for news reporting. The criterion mean score obtained from the perception parameter on whether respondents are comfortable using AI for news writing is 2.62, which is above the 2.50 threshold for a 4-point Likert scale. This means that the parameter was accepted.

On the parameter of whether AI makes news reporting easier and faster, majority of the respondents, representing 65%, indicated either strongly agree or agree that AI tools make news reporting easier and faster, while 119 respondents, representing 38.7%, indicated either strongly disagree or disagree. The criterion mean score obtained is 2.68, which is above 2.50 threshold. The parameter was accepted.

On the parameter of whether AI tools reduce the workload of journalists, the majority of the respondents, representing 61.1%, responded that they either strongly agree or agree that AI tools reduce the workload of journalists, while 119 respondents, representing 38.8%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree. The criterion mean score is 2.68, which is above 2.50 threshold. The parameter was accepted.

On whether AI tools improve the speed and efficiency of journalists, an overwhelming majority of the respondents, representing 85%, responded that they either strongly agree or agree, while 15% of the respondents indicated that they either strongly agree or disagree. The criterion mean score is 3.01, which is above 2.50 threshold. The parameter was also accepted.

In addition, the majority of the respondents, representing 74.5%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree that AI-generated news content has the same accuracy as content written by human journalists, while 78 respondents, representing 25.4%, indicated either strongly agree or agree. The criterion mean score is 2.08, which is below 2.50 threshold. The parameter was accepted.

On the question of whether the usage of AI for news reporting reduces the credibility of journalism, the majority of the respondents, representing 50.25%, indicated that they either strongly disagree or disagree that usage of AI for news reporting reduces the credibility of journalism, while 112 respondents, representing 49.75%, responded that they either strongly agree or agree.

Table 8 Challenges of Respondents to Use of AI for News Reporting

Details	**SA**	**A**	**D**	**SD**	**Total**	**X**	**Decision**
Values	4	3	2	1			
High cost of AI tools' subscription limits your use for news reporting	71 284 23.1%	90 270 29.3%	86 172 28%	60 60 19.5%	307 786÷307 100%	2.56	Accepted
Inadequate technical skills limit your adoption of AI for news reporting	59 236 19.2%	95 285 30.9%	87 174 28.3%	66 66 21.5%	307 761÷307 100%	2.47	Rejected
Limited access to reliable internet and digital infrastructure hinders the effective use of AI for news reporting	76 304 24.8%	101 303 32.8%	73 146 23.7%	57 57 18.5%	307 810÷307 100%	2.64	Accepted

Data on table 8 depicts the challenges of respondents to the use of AI for news reporting. A total of 161 respondents, representing 52.4%, indicated that they either strongly agree or agree that the high cost of AI tools' subscription limits their use for news reporting, while 146 respondents, representing 47.5%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree. The criterion mean score is 2.56, which is slightly above the 2.50 threshold. Hence, the detail was accepted.

On whether inadequate technical skills limit respondents' adoption of AI for news reporting, 154 respondents, representing 50.1%, responded they either strongly agree or agree to the notion that inadequate technical skills limit their adoption of AI for news reporting, while 153 respondents, representing 49.8%, indicated either strongly disagree or disagree.

In addition, 187 respondents, representing 57.6%, responded that they strongly agree or agree that limited access to reliable internet and digital infrastructure hinders the effective use of AI for news reporting, while 130 respondents, representing 42.2, indicated that they strongly disagree or disagree. The criterion mean score is 2.64, which is above the 2.50 threshold. Hence, the detail was accepted.

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Table 9 Ethical Concerns of Respondents on Use of AI for News Reporting

Details	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
Values	4	3	2	1			
AI tools are prone to plagiarism and hallucination when used for news reporting	87 348 28.3%	86 258 28%	78 156 25.4%	56 56 18.2%	307 818÷307 100%	2.67	Accepted
AI tools can compromise the ethical standards of news reporting	82 348 26.7%	99 297 32.2%	73 146 23.7%	53 53 17.3%	307 844÷307 100%	2.75	Accepted
AI news content can erode the credibility and integrity of journalists	75 300 24.4%	96 288 31.3%	80 160 26.1%	56 56 18.2%	307 804 ÷307 100%	2.62	Accepted
AI tools can exhibit bias, which may be reflected in the news content they generate	77 308 25.1%	93 279 30.3%	83 166 27%	54 54 17.6%	307 807÷307 100%	2.63	Accepted

Table 9 shows that 173 respondents, representing 56.3%, either strongly agree or agree that AI tools are prone to plagiarism and hallucination in news reporting, while 133 respondents, representing 43.6%, indicated they either strongly disagree or disagree. The criterion mean score is 2.64, which is above the 2.50 threshold. Hence, the detail was accepted.

On the question of whether AI tools can compromise the ethical standards of news reporting, 181 respondents, representing 58.9%, indicated that they either strongly agree or agree with the statement, while 126 respondents, representing 41%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree with the notion. The criterion mean score is 2.75, which is above the 2.50 threshold. The idea was accepted.

A total of 171 respondents, representing 55.7%, indicated that they either strongly agree or agree that AI news content can erode the credibility and integrity of journalists, while 136 respondents, representing 44.3%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree with the notion. The criterion mean score is 2.62, which is above the threshold of 2.50. The notion was accepted.

In addition, a total of 170 respondents, representing 55.4%, responded that they either strongly agree or agree that AI tools can exhibit bias, which may be reflected in the news content they generate, while 137 respondents, representing 44.6%, indicated that they either strongly disagree or disagree.

Table 10 Respondents' Views on Whether AI Tools Will Replace Journalists

Details	SA	A	D	SD	Total	X	Decision
Values	4	3	2	1			
AI tools can replace you in your current role as a journalist	52 208 16.9%	69 207 22.5%	97 194 31.6%	89 89 28.9%	307 698÷307 100%	2.27	Rejected
AI tools are mere complementary tools.	77 308 25.1%	111 333 36.2%	65 130 21.2%	54 54 17.5%	307 825÷307 100%	2.68	Accepted
AI tool can't displace journalists	59 236 19.2%	82 246 26.7%	89 178 28.9	77 77 25.1%	307 737 ÷307	2.40	Rejected

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Data on table 10 depicts that 186 respondents, representing 60.5%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree with the notion that AI tools can replace them, while 121 respondents, representing 39.4, either strongly agree or agree that AI tools can replace them. The criterion mean score is 2.27, which is below the threshold of 2.50. The idea was rejected.

A total of 188 respondents, representing 61.3%, indicated that they either strongly agree or agree that AI tools are mere complementary tools, while 119 respondents, representing 38.7%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree with the notion. The criterion media score is 2.68, hence, the assumption was accepted.

In addition, 166 respondents, representing 54%, responded that they either strongly disagree or disagree that AI tools can't displace journalists, while 141 respondents, representing 45.9%, indicated that they either strongly agree or agree with the notion.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In order to ensure that the aims of this study were achieved, the five research questions posed for the study were

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answered with the aid of the data generated from the questionnaire.. This discussion is based on the answers to the research questions, collected and collated from respondents' responses to the questionnaire items.

- *RQ1: To what Extent have Lagos-Based Journalists Adopted Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for News Reporting?*

Data analysed in tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide answers to this research question. The findings show a high level of adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) tools among Lagos-based journalists for news reporting. Out of 360 respondents, 307 (representing 85.3%) reported that they use AI tools for news reporting, while only 53 (14.7%) stated that they do not. This shows that the majority of journalists in Lagos have adopted AI tools for news reporting.

In terms of frequency of usage, 99 respondents (27.5%) reported using AI tools very frequently, 112 (31.1%) use them frequently, 96 (26.7%) use them occasionally, and 53 (14.7%) use them rarely. This shows that while most Lagos-based journalists use AI, the frequency of usage varies.

Regarding the specific areas of application, AI tools are mostly used for multiple purposes. Among the 307 journalists who use AI: 53 (17.3%) use it for idea generation, 56 (18.2%) for transcription, 26 (8.5%) for writing news stories, 56 (18.2%) for grammar checks, and 116 (37.7%) indicated that they use AI for all of the above purposes.

In addition, the results suggest that Lagos-based journalists have adopted AI tools for various stages of the news production process.

The findings corroborate the assumption of Technological Acceptance Model (TAM). Majority of Lagos-based journalists have adopted the use of AI tools for news reporting. This aligns with the assumptions of TAM as Lagos-based journalists adopt AI tools for news reporting due to the perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. The usage of the AI tools for news reporting determines the perception of Lagos-based journalists.

The findings also support the studies of Diakopoulos (2016), Talabi (2024), and Oladosu et al (2024) that journalists now increasing adopt AI in news production. The use of AI tools for news reporting suggests that these technologies have now integrated with traditional media systems, indicating a growing coexistence between AI tools and conventional journalism practices within the profession. This aligns with the assumptions of mediamorphosis theory.

- *RQ2: What are the Perceptions of Lagos-Based Journalists Towards the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for Reporting?*

The findings from the data analysed in table 7 reveal that Lagos-based journalists generally have positive perceptions towards the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for news reporting. A majority of the respondents agreed that AI contributes positively to the process of news reporting. A mean score of 2.62 indicates that most respondents are comfortable using AI for news reporting. Respondents agreed that AI makes news reporting easier and faster (mean = 2.68). The majority of journalists also agreed that AI tools reduce their workload (mean = 2.68), and enhance the speed and efficiency of news reporting.

However, perceptions of Lagos-based journalists regarding the accuracy and credibility of AI-generated content were slightly different. The statement that AI-generated news content has the same accuracy as content written by human journalists was rejected (mean = 2.08), indicating scepticism about AI's ability to match human accuracy. In addition, the claim that using AI reduces the credibility of journalism was rejected (mean = 2.43), suggesting that most journalists do not believe AI undermines credibility.

This finding is consistent with the studies Bello et al (2023) and Guanah et al (2020) that journalists in Edo, Lagos, Kwara states have positive perception to the use of AI for journalism practice.

- *RQ3: What Challenges do Lagos-Based Journalists Face in the use of AI Tools for News Reporting?*

The finding reveals that Lagos-based journalists encounter several challenges in using artificial intelligence (AI) tools for news reporting, owing to the high cost of AI tool subscriptions and inadequate technical skills. With a mean score of 2.56, the factor of high cost of AI subscriptions was accepted as a major challenge. Many journalists indicated that the high subscription fees for AI tools limit their ability to use them consistently in news reporting. The finding finds out that unstable internet connectivity and inadequate technological infrastructure hinder the effective use of AI tools in journalism. Although some respondents acknowledged the factor of inadequate technical skills, it recorded a mean score of 2.47, leading to the rejection of the statement. This implies that most Lagos-based journalists possess a fair level of digital literacy and are not significantly constrained by a lack of technical know-how.

The finding corroborates the study of Umeora (2025) that journalists face structural challenges in the adoption of AI for news reporting, which include technological infrastructure, financial constraints, skills gap, organisational culture, and ethical consideration.

- *RQ4: What Ethical Concerns do Lagos-Based Journalists have Regarding the use of AI Tools for News Reporting?*

The results from table 9 indicate that Lagos-based journalists have some ethical concerns about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in news reporting. The data shows that respondents generally agree that AI poses several ethical risks that could affect journalistic standards and credibility. With a mean score of 2.67, plagiarism and hallucination were accepted as a major concern. Respondents believe that AI tools are prone to generating plagiarized or fabricated information, which can compromise the authenticity of news reports. Respondents believe that AI tools have the potential to compromise journalistic ethics and undermine the credibility and integrity of journalists if not

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properly verified or edited. Respondents also recognise the risk of algorithmic bias, which may result in unbalanced news reporting.

This result is consistent with the studies of Anagba et al (2025), Umeora (2025), Uche et al (2025), Obiora et al (2025), and Ogunsola et al (2025) that observed that journalists face some ethical considerations in the adoption of AI tools in journalism practice.

- *RQ5: Do Lagos-Based Journalists Perceive AI Tools as a Job Replacement or Complementary Tools to their Work?*

The results from table 10 reveal that Lagos-based journalists perceive AI tools as complementary rather than as a replacement for their jobs. The statement "AI tools can replace you in your current role as a journalist" was rejected, with a mean score of 2.27, indicating that most respondents do not believe AI can take over their roles. Similarly, the statement "AI tools can't displace journalists" was also rejected (mean = 2.40), showing that while journalists acknowledge AI's growing influence, they still consider the human role in journalism essential.

In addition, the statement "AI tools are mere complementary tools" received the highest mean score of 2.68 and was accepted, suggesting that journalists see AI as an aid that supports and enhances their work rather than replacing it.

The finding aligns with the assertion of Hassoun & Ali (2019) that AI tools are considered as the added value of journalism in the digital age, which cannot completely replace journalists but rather enhance journalists' work.

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the data collected and analysed, the study concludes that Lagos-based journalists have adopted the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for news reporting. The findings reveal that AI has become a valuable aid for tasks such as idea generation, transcription, grammar checking, and transforming press statements into news stories. Despite the growing adoption, journalists remain cautious about the credibility and accuracy of AI-generated content.

The study further concludes that while AI offers opportunities for efficiency and innovation in journalism, Lagos-based journalists still face significant challenges in its utilisation, including high subscription costs and limited internet access. Ethical concerns also persist, as many journalists believe that excessive reliance on AI could undermine journalistic integrity and professional standards.

From the foregoing, the study observes that journalists in Lagos view AI not as a replacement tool but as a complementary tool that can enhance the quality and speed of news production.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- *In Line with the Findings of this Study, the Researcher Makes the Following Recommendations:*

- Media owners and civil society organisations should devote time and resources to train journalists on the effective use of AI tools for quality journalism practice.
- Owing to the high cost of AI tools subscription, media owners, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and civil society organisations should engage with big tech owners to provide subsidised access to AI tools for journalists.
- Regulatory bodies and organisations, such as the Nigerian Press Council (NPC), the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), the NUJ, and other media stakeholders, should develop ethical guidelines and policies for the responsible use of AI in the media.
- Media organisations must ensure that AI-generated content undergoes additional layers of human verification and vetting before being published to the wider audience.
- Regulatory bodies in Nigerian tertiary institutions must ensure that AI education is incorporated into journalism and media studies curricula to train future journalists in the use of AI in journalism.

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