# ABSTRACT

Some factors have been found to influence lip print patterns in individuals. The aim of this study is to evaluate the relationship between lip print pattern and season of birth in a Nigerian population.

A total 764 adults were purposively selected from a two closely related tribe in the north central geopolitical zone of Nigeria. There lip prints were obtained by applying lip gloss and print on a glass slide. Each lip was divided into 6 quadrants and studied under magnifying lens. Lip print patterns were grouped using Hassan Fahmy (1977) classification. Statistical analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 23). Lip print types were expressed as frequency and proportion for each lip quadrant. Correlations between male and female lip print pattern and their season of birth was done using Chi-square test. The confidence level was set as 95% while statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

Result showed a consistent prevalence of type III and IV in the entire upper and lower quadrant, while the least expressed were type I' and II. Qualitative analysis of association between season of birth and lip print pattern showed no significant distributional difference between those born during wet and dry season in the entire upper and lower quadrant. These finding has provided further fact to prove that cheiloscopy is a reliable tool for personal identification.

Keywords: Lip prints, Cheiloscopy, Season of Birth, Nigeria

## **INTRODUCTION**

The use of finger print technique in forensic investigation has gained such a huge awareness that criminals are now quite conscious to avoid leaving their finger prints on crime scenes (Kumaran et al. 2017). Though there are other common methods for resolving identity disputes such as DNA comparison, dental structures etc. there is still the need to find a more accessible tool for crime scene investigation. Lip print also known as Cheiloscopy is one of such tools. It was first recommended in 1932 as evidence in court by Edmond Locard in France (Syndar, 1950). and ever since, it has come under strong consideration over the years as a much reliable method for personal identification just like finger prints (Singh et al. 2011).

Lip prints were first described by Fischer as the lines that forms furrows or grooves on the sulci labiorum (red part) at the transition zone (vermillion border) of the human lips (Singh et al. 2011). It was Tsuchihashi and Suzuki, two Japanese scientists in the period 1968-71, that later established that the arrangement of these lines are unique to each person after examining 1364 individuals (Tsuchihashi, 1974; Suzuki & Tsuchiahashi, 1971). There have also been more recent studies across different population to establish the uniqueness of lip print as a tool for personal identification (Kapoor & Badiye, 2017; Naik et al. 2017; Bindal et al. 2009), sex determination (Vahanwala, 2005; Sharma et al. 2009; Gondivkar et al. 2009; Kenneth et al. 2018), ethnic differentiation among others (Jeergal et al. 2016; Oladipo et al. 2018; Alabi et al. 2019).

Although lip prints are unique to individuals and does not change from the sixth week of intrauterine life till death (Alabi et al. 2019), they show few or no similarity between parents and children and even siblings (Saad et al. 2005; Ghalant et al. 2013). However, some factors have been found to correlate with lip print pattern like individual temperament (Abidullah et al. 2015) and finger prints (Negi, 2016; Kumaran et al. 2017). However, the effect of environmental factors on lip print patterns is not yet fully understood.

Pre and perinatal exposure to certain environmental factors can influence the developmental outcomes in an individual (Waldie et al. 2000; Singh 2005). What has not been fully verified is if the climatic season of conception and birth of an individual plays a significant role in the types of lip print pattern they bear. Only a few literatures are available especially in Nigeria in this regard (Alabi et al. 2019; Adamu et al. 2013). The aim of this study is to determine the influence of season of birth on the prevalence of lip print pattern in a Nigerian population

### METHODOLOGY

### **Study Population**

The study was conducted in ten different local governments in Niger state for a period of three weeks. Niger state is located in north central, Nigeria. According to 2006 national population census, Niger state population had been projected to be 3,954,772 by 2016, with the Nupe tribe numbering up to 1,759,874 and Gbagyi. 1,198,318 (National Population Commission, 2006).

## Sample Size

Sample size was determined using Fishers formulae (Fisher, 1935). $SS = \frac{Z^2 \times p \times q}{d^2}$ 

## For the Nupe tribe,

Z = 1.96

P = 0.445 (proportion of Nupe)

 $P = \frac{Nupe\ Ethnic\ group}{Population\ of\ Niger\ State} = \frac{1,759,874}{3,954,772} = \ 0.445$ 

q = 1 - p = 1 - 0.445 = 0.555

d = 0.05 (tolerance level of 0.05)

Therefore,

Sample size (SS) =  $\frac{1.96^2 \times 0.445 \times 0.555}{0.05^2} = 380$ 

Adding 10% attrition rate of the sample size determined =  $0.1 \times 380 = 38$ 

Total sample size = 380+38 = 418

## For Gbagyi tribe,

Z = 1.96P = 0.303 (proportion of the ethnic group)

 $P = \frac{Gbagyi \ ethnoc \ group}{Population \ of \ Niger \ State} = \frac{1,198,318}{3,954,772} = 0.303$ q = 1 - p = 1 - 0.303 = 0.697 $d = 0.05 \ (tolerance \ level \ of \ 0.05)$ 

Therefore, *Sample size* (*SS*) =  $\frac{1.96^2 \times 0.303 \times 0.697}{0.05^2} = 324$ 

Adding 10% attrition rate of the sample size determined =  $0.1 \times 324 = 32.4$ Total sample size= 324+32 = 356

Therefore, total working sample for the two ethnic groups is= 356+418=774.

# **Inclusion Criteria**

All subjects had to be indigenes of Nupe or Gbagyi tribe from both parents up to the second generation. All subjects had to be between the ages of 18 and 64 years. All subjects were confirmed to be healthy and free from any deformity, congenital anomaly of the lips, inflammation of the lips or history of any craniofacial surgery.

# Sampling Technique

Informed consent was obtained from study cohorts who met the inclusion criteria, after which a structured questionnaire was administered by trained research assistants. Literate subjects were asked to fill the required information while subjects who could not write were assisted.

The following procedures were then followed to obtain their lip prints;

- The subjects were made to stand in an anatomical position while their lips were cleaned. Females with lip stick used facial wipes.
- Lip gloss was applied once in a single motion
- Glass slide was placed on the lip and removed in a single motion for print collection.
- Carbon fine powder was sprinkled on the lip print to preserve the print.
- Cello tape was used to attach the well-developed lip-print to the space provided for it on the questionnaire.



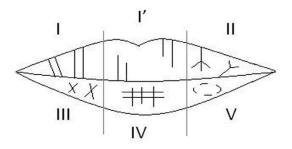
Figure 1. Process of picking lip prints from subjects on glass slide

# **Determination of Season of birth**

Month of birth was used to divide the subjects into dry and wet season of birth. The season of birth was defined as wet season from April to October and dry season from November to March.

# **Data Analysis**

Analysis commenced by dividing both upper and lower lips into compartments as follows, Upper Right Quadrant (URQ), Upper Middle Quadrant (UMQ), Upper Left Quadrant (ULQ), Lower Right Quadrant (LRQ), Lower Middle Quadrant (LMQ), Lower Left Quadrant (LLQ).



# Figure 2. Types of grooves according to Suzuki & Tsuchihashi (1971).

The prints were then identified into types as proposed by Hassan & Fahmy (1977). They classified lip prints into six and differentiated the branched type (type II) into proximal (a) and distal (b). Hassan and Fahmy classification of lip grooves is as follows;

Type I	Complete vertical
Type I'	Incomplete vertical
Type IIa	Branched proximal
Type IIb	Branched distal
Type III	Intersected
Type IV	Reticular pattern
Type V	Unknown

# Statistical analysis

The data were analysed using SPSS version 23.0. Descriptive statistics were used to categorize demographic frequency and distribution patterns. Lip print types were expressed as frequency and proportion for each lip quadrant. Correlations between male and female lip print pattern and their season of birth was done using Chi-square test. The confidence level was set as 95% while statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

# RESULT

In Table 1, Type III was seen predominantly in the upper right quadrant of 312(40.8%) of the total population understudy in both wet and dry season while Type I' was the least expressed 25(3.2%). There was no significant distributional difference in the print pattern of the population born in dry and the ones born in wet seasons (Male;  $\chi^2$ =8.406, p=0.21, Female;  $\chi^2$ =10.667, p=0.099, Total; $\chi^2$ = 6.987; p=0.322).

In Table 2, Type III was seen predominantly in the upper middle quadrant of 299(39.1%) of the total population understudy in both wet and dry season while Type IIb was the least expressed 12(1.6%). There were no significant distributional differences in the print pattern of the population born in dry and the ones born in wet seasons (Male;  $\chi^2 = 5.72$ , p=0.455, Female;  $\chi^2 = 10.935$ , p=0.09, Total; $\chi^2 = 4.341$ ; p=0.63).

In Table 3, Type III was seen predominantly in the upper left quadrant of 313(41%) of the total population understudy in both wet and dry season while Type IIb was the least expressed 16(2.1%). There were no significant distributional differences in the print pattern of the population born in dry and the ones born in wet seasons (Male;  $\chi^2 = 7.792$ , p=0.254, Female;  $\chi^2 = 11.304$ , p=0.079, Total; $\chi^2 = 4.921$ ; p=0.554)

In Table 4, Type III was seen predominantly in the lower right quadrant of 372(48.7%) of the total population studied in both wet and dry season while Type I' was the least expressed 10(1.3%). There were no significant distributional differences in the print pattern of the population born in dry and the ones born in wet seasons (Male;  $\chi^2$ = 4.591, p=0.597, Female;  $\chi^2$ = 3.564, p=0.735, Total; $\chi^2$ = 4.574; p=0.599)

In Table 5, Type III was expressed predominantly in the lower middle quadrant of 322(42.1%) of the total population born both during wet and dry season while Type I' was the least expressed 9(1.2%). There were no significant distributional differences in the print pattern of the population born during dry and the ones born during wet seasons (Male;  $\chi^2 = 7.627$ , p=0.267, Female;  $\chi^2 = 5.910$ , p=0.433, Total; $\chi^2 = 6.054$ ; p=0.417)

In Table 6, Type III was expressed predominantly in the lower left quadrant of 378(49.5%) of the total population born both during wet and dry season while Type I' was the least expressed 9(1.2%). There were no significant distributional differences in the print pattern of the population born during dry and the ones born during wet seasons (Male;  $\chi^2 = 4.456$ , p=0.615, Female;  $\chi^2 = 4.602$ , p=0.596, Total; $\chi^2 = 4.213$ ; p=0.648)

## Discussion

The effectiveness of cheiloscopy in personal identification seems to be gaining much approval with reports from several population establishing sexual dimorphism and ethnic differentiation (Sharma et al. 2014; Moshfeghi et al. 2016). In Nigeria, there is still a gap in the availability of data from the various ethnic groups in the country.

In this study, the analysis of qualitative cheiloscopy using the Hassan and Famhy characterisation revealed consistency in the prevalence of intersected (type III)and reticular (type IV) pattern in all the upper and lower lip quadrant of both sex, while there was scarcity of incomplete vertical (Type I') and branched distal (Type IIb) patterns. These findings are contrary to the report of (Alabi et al. 2019) in Ilorin and (Oladipo et al. 2018) among Igbos where type I and II were the predominant patterns. It was also established from our study that no two individual have identical pattern of lip prints.

However, because lip prints are formed during intrauterine life at about 6weeks of gestation (Oladipo et al. 2018), The patterns that eventually stays with an individual can be genetically altered if exposed to mutants or certain environmental factors (Singh, 2005). This study evaluated the possible effect of the season of birth as an environmental factor on lip print patterns.

The qualitative analysis of association between cheiloscopy and season of birth carried out on each lip compartment according to Suzuki & Tsuchilashi (1971) lip partitioning did not show significant distributional correlation in any of the upper or lower lip quadrants. A test of association in the *URQ* showed  $\chi^2$ value of 6.987 and p = 0.322 in the total population. In the females'*UMQ*, there was a slightly high difference in the pattern distribution of those born during wet and dry season( $\chi^2$ = 10.935) but not significant(p=0.09). Similar pattern was seen in the females *ULQ* as well with $\chi^2$ =11.304 &p=0.07. These are the highest odds in our result. Throughout the lower quadrants there was no significant difference in the *LMQ* of males (P=0.267).

Although, Weber and his colleagues had proven that height of an individual has a significant correlation to their month of birth (Weber et al. 1998), and Waldie et al. 2000 reported the effect of prenatal and postnatal exposure to sunlight as slightly impactful on human growth, there has not been any prior evidence from literature that season of birth have a significant influence on the predominance of any type of lip print pattern. The two major Nigerian studies in this regard "Sharma et al. 2014 and Adamu et al. 2013" reported no tangible association. The findings from this study have further corroborated these claims.

## Conclusion

It has been further established from this study that no two individuals have the same lip print pattern, it was established that season of birth has no significant influence on the lip print distribution among the study population.

### Acknowledgement

Special thanks to the Department of Anatomy for their backing and ethical approval throughout the period of study. Our appreciation goes to the Nupe and Gbagyi community chiefs who gave us approval to work within their communities and also we acknowledge the study cohorts who volunteered to be part of the study.

## **Ethical Approval**

Ethical clearance was sort and obtained from the Department of Anatomy Ethical Review Committee of the University of Ilorin, Ilorin. The ethical approval no was 15/46KA034/09/2018

### **Competing Interest**

There was no conflict of interest declared by any party.

### **Availability of Data and Materials**

The raw samples of lip prints are still available as well as the instrument used for the study.

Funding: The research was fully funded by the researchers.

					URQ				Chi-so	quare analysis	
Season	Sex	TYPE I	TYPE I'	TYPE IIa	TYPE IIb	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE V	$\chi^2$ -value	P-value	Inf
	Dry	32 16.7%	12 6.3%	14 7.3%	7 3.6%	53 27.6%	60 31.3%	14 7.3%	9.400	0.21	NS
Male	Wet	40 21.1%	4 2.1%	10 5.3%	6 3.2%	59 31.1%	64 33.7%	7 3.7%	8.406	0.21	
Т	Total	72 18.8%	16 4.2%	24 6.3%	13 3.4%	112 29.3%	124 32.5%	21 5.5%			
	Dry	7 3.6%	1 0.5%	13 6.6%	2 1.0%	105 53.6%	56 28.6%	12 6.1%	10 (77	0.000	NG
Female	Wet	13 7.0%	8 4.3%	6 3.2%	1 0.5%	95 51.1%	53 28.5%	10 5.4%	10.667	0.099	NS
	Total	20 5.2%	9 2.4%	19 5.0%	3 0.8%	200 52.4%	109 28.5%	22 5.8%			
	Dry	39 10.1%	13 3.4%	27 7.0%	9 2.3%	158 40.7%	116 29.9%	26 6.7%	6 0 97	0.222	NC
Total	Wet	53 14.1%	12 3.2%	16 4.3%	7 1.9%	154 41.0%	117 31.1%	17 4.5%	6.987	0.322	NS
	Total	92 12.0%	25 3.3%	43 5.6%	16 2.1%	312 40.8%	233 30.5%	43 5.6%			

**Table 1:** Chi-square test of association in lip print distribution at the upper right quadrant between males and females stratified by season

**Table 2:** Chi-square test of association in lip print distribution at the upper middle quadrant between males and females stratified by season

		UMQ							Chi-se	quare analysis	
Season	Sex	TYPE I	TYPE I'	TYPE IIa	TYPE IIb	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE V	$\chi^2$ -value	P-value	Inf
	Dry	32 16.7%	10 5.2%	9 4.7%	2 1.0%	51 26.6%	75 39.1%	13 6.8%	5.72	0.455	NC
Male	Wet	32 16.8%	5 2.6%	10 5.3%	7 3.7%	57 30.0%	70 36.8%	9 4.7%	5.72	0.455	NS
То	Total	64 16.8%	15 3.9%	19 5.0%	9 2.4%	108 28.3%	145 38.0%	22 5.8%			
	Dry	6 3.1%	1 0.5%	9 4.6%	2 1.0%	102 52.0%	64 32.7%	12 6.1%			
Female	Wet	13 7.0%	8 4.3%	6 3.2%	1 0.5%	89 47.8%	62 33.3%	7 3.8%	10.935	0.09	NS
Т	Total	19 5.0%	9 2.4%	15 3.9%	3 0.8%	191 50.0%	126 33.0%	19 5.0%			
	Dry	38 9.8%	11 2.8%	18 4.6%	4 1.0%	153 39.4%	139 35.8%	25 6.4%	4 2 4 1	0.62	NG
Total	Wet	45 12.0%	13 3.5%	16 4.3%	8 2.1%	146 38.8%	132 35.1%	16 4.3%	4.341	0.63	NS
	Total	83 10.9%	24 3.1%	34 4.5%	12 1.6%	299 39.1%	271 35.5%	41 5.4%			

					ULQ				Chi-so	quare analysis	
Season	Sex	TYPE I	TYPE I'	TYPE IIa	TYPE IIb	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE V	$\chi^2$ -value	P-value	Inf
	Dry	31 16.1%	13 6.8%	15 7.8%	5 2.6%	51 26.6%	64 33.3%	13 6.8%	7 702	0.254	NC
Male	Wet	32 16.8%	4 2.1%	10 5.3%	8 4.2%	57 30.0%	70 36.8%	9 4.7%	7.792	0.254	NS
Total	Total	63 16.5%	17 4.5%	25 6.5%	13 3.4%	108 28.3%	134 35.1%	22 5.8%			
	Dry	5 2.6%	1 0.5%	10 5.1%	2 1.0%	110 56.1%	56 28.6%	12 6.1%	11 204	0.070	NG
Female	Wet	12 6.5%	8 4.3%	6 3.2%	1 0.5%	95 51.1%	56 30.1%	8 4.3%	11.304	0.079	NS
	Total	17 4.5%	9 2.4%	16 4.2%	3 0.8%	205 53.7%	112 29.3%	20 5.2%			
	Dry	36 9.3%	14 3.6%	25 6.4%	7 1.8%	161 41.5%	120 30.9%	25 6.4%	4 0 0 1	0.554	NG
Total	Wet	44 11.7%	12 3.2%	16 4.3%	9 2.4%	152 40.4%	126 33.5%	17 4.5%	4.921	0.554	NS
	Total	80 10.5%	26 3.4%	41 5.4%	16 2.1%	313 41.0%	246 32.2%	42 5.5%			

**Table 3:** Chi-square test of association in lip print distribution at the upper left quadrant between males and females stratified by season

**Table 4:** Chi-square test of association in lip print distribution at the lower right quadrant between males and females stratified by season

		5			LRQ				Chi-so	quare analysis	
Season	Sex	TYPE I	TYPE I'	TYPE IIa	TYPE IIb	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE V	$\chi^2$ -value	P-value	Inf
	Dry	22	4	14	14	74	53	11			
	DIy	11.5%	2.1%	7.3%	7.3%	38.5%	27.6%	5.7%	4.591	0.597	NS
Male	Wet	30	1	10	11	69	59	10	4.391		145
Mat	wet	15.8%	0.5%	5.3%	5.8%	36.3%	31.1%	5.3%			
	Total	52	5	24	25	143	112	21			
	Total	13.6%	1.3%	6.3%	6.5%	37.4%	29.3%	5.5%			
	Dry	4	2	10	2	114	54	10			
	Diy	2.0%	1.0%	5.1%	1.0%	58.2%	27.6%	5.1%	3.564	0.735	NS
Female	Wet	4	3	5	3	115	51	5	01001		110
1 0111010		2.2%	1.6%	2.7%	1.6%	61.8%	27.4%	2.7%			
	Total	8	5	15	5	229	105	15			
	1 otur	2.1%	1.3%	3.9%	1.3%	59.9%	27.5%	3.9%			
	Dry	26	6	24	16	188	107	21			
	DI	6.7%	1.5%	6.2%	4.1%	48.5%	27.6%	5.4%	4.574	0.599	NS
Total	Wet	34	4	15	14	184	110	15	4.574	0.399	140
Total	Wet	9.0%	1.1%	4.0%	3.7%	48.9%	29.3%	4.0%			
		60	10	39	30	372	217	36			
	Total	7.9%	1.3%	5.1%	3.9%	48.7%	28.4%	4.7%			

					LMQ				Chi-se	quare analysis	
Season	Sex	TYPE I	TYPE I'	TYPE IIa	TYPE IIb	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE V	$\chi^2$ -value	P-value	Inf
	Dry	30 15.6%	3 1.6%	6 3.1%	9 4.7%	61 31.8%	73 38.0%	10 5.2%	5 (25	0.077	NG
Male	Wet	31 16.3%	1 0.5%	6 3.2%	1 0.5%	62 32.6%	78 41.1%	11 5.8%	7.627	0.267	NS
Total	Total	61 16.0%	4 1.0%	12 3.1%	10 2.6%	123 32.2%	151 39.5%	21 5.5%			
	Dry	5 2.6%	2 1.0%	6 3.1%	3 1.5%	103 52.6%	67 34.2%	10 5.1%		0.4000	
Female	Wet	9 4.8%	3 1.6%	1 0.5%	3 1.6%	96 51.6%	68 36.6%	6 3.2%	5.910	0.4333	NS
	Total	14 3.7%	5 1.3%	7 1.8%	6 1.6%	199 52.1%	135 35.3%	16 4.2%			
	Dry	35 9.0%	5 1.3%	12 3.1%	12 3.1%	164 42.3%	140 36.1%	20 5.2%		0.445	
Total	Wet	40 10.6%	4 1.1%	7 1.9%	4 1.1%	158 42.0%	146 38.8%	17 4.5%	6.054	0.417	NS
	Total	75 9.8%	9 1.2%	19 2.5%	16 2.1%	322 42.1%	286 37.4%	37 4.8%			

**Table 5:** Chi-square test of association in lip print distribution at the lower middle quadrant between males and females stratified by season

**Table 6:** Chi-square test of association in lip print distribution at the lower left quadrant between males and females stratified by season

					LLQ				Chi-so	quare analysis	
Season	Sex	TYPE I	TYPE I'	TYPE IIa	TYPE IIb	TYPE III	TYPE IV	TYPE V	$\chi^2$ -value	P-value	Inf
	Dave	24	4	9	13	75	55	12			
	Dry	12.5%	2.1%	4.7%	6.8%	39.1%	28.6%	6.3%	4.456	0.615	NS
Male	Wet	25	1	8	8	70	67	11	4.430		113
wrate	wei	13.2%	0.5%	4.2%	4.2%	36.8%	35.3%	5.8%			
	Total	49	5	17	21	145	122	23			
	Total	12.8%	1.3%	4.5%	5.5%	38.0%	31.9%	6.0%			
	Dry	2	2	7	2	120	53	10	4.602	0.596	
		1.0%	1.0%	3.6%	1.0%	61.2%	27.0%	5.1%			NS
Female	Wet	4	2	2	4	113	54	7			145
remate		2.2%	1.1%	1.1%	2.2%	60.8%	29.0%	3.8%			
	Total	6	4	9	6	233	107	17			
	Total	1.6%	1.0%	2.4%	1.6%	61.0%	28.0%	4.5%			
	Dwy	26	6	16	15	195	108	22			
	Dry	6.7%	1.5%	4.1%	3.9%	50.3%	27.8%	5.7%	4 0 1 2	0.649	NC
		29	3	10	12	183	121	18	4.213	0.648	NS
Total	Wet	7.7%	0.8%	2.7%	3.2%	48.7%	32.2%	4.8%			
		55	9	26	27	378	229	40			
	Total	7.2%	1.2%	3.4%	3.5%	49.5%	30.0%	5.2%			

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