

THE IMPACT OF THE USE OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN OGBA, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

As a result, Nigerians were unhappy and misunderstood before the adoption of the English language by the Western world, which led to the country's diverse indigenous languages. One of the goals of the research was to determine if the English language can serve as both a unifying force in Nigeria and a doorway to other cultures and opportunities, and whether or not it can also be utilized to create jobs in Nigeria. The theoretical basis of this study was based on Bandura's (1963) social learning theory and Chomsky's (1964) mentalist theory (1959). A descriptive approach was used in this investigation. A nine-item questionnaire was created using the Likert scale method. A total of 370 people from the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area were given this. As a result of the study's descriptive approach to data analysis, the findings were presented in the form of percentages. In Nigeria, research reveals that English serve as a unifying force. According to this research, study findings show that English is a bridge between Nigeria and other parts of the world. Additionally, the study found that English is a powerful instrument for promoting economic growth in the UK. Finally, we should appreciate the English language because of its social significance and the degree to which it has permeated our society.

Keywords: English language, multilingual, Nigeria, communication, Ogba

1. INTRODUCTION

A true communication tool in most European-colonized African countries, Nigeria included. Thus, people tend to utilize their native language for both internal and external communication. When it comes to communicating with residents and keeping track of government affairs, English is the official language. Our educational institutions frequently employ this language as a medium of instruction, which lends it the title of "educational language."

Nigerians are exposed to English-language media, including print and internet periodicals. In terms of bilateral relationships with other English-speaking nations, the research explores how English has helped Nigeria's unity, the opportunities for work to be created, and the growth of Nigerian society.

Given the country's tribes and ethnicity from all across the world, finding a suitable meeting location for meetings and gatherings was a major worry for Nigerians. As a result, Nigeria is dealing with a variety of challenges, including dissatisfaction, anger, resentment, and a lack of trust, to mention a few. Because Nigerians cannot connect with individuals from other countries, language barriers have hampered progress. Nigeria's multilingualism served as a barrier to communication throughout the world at that time.

Nigeria is a country with several languages, with people fluent in a wide range of languages. Uwajeh (2012) claims that it is a "multilingual country with hundreds of languages." According to them (Nwala & Obisike, 2014, p.8), Nigeria is a "heterogeneous state with approximately 400 ethnic groups and traditions."

As a result of the country's different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, the issue of intelligibility has emerged. Because of the country's ethnic strife and a lack of a common language, Nigeria is now unable to find a lasting solution. Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo are the three most prominent ethnic groups in Nigeria, with other minorities vying for power. In Nigeria, English is the official language, and it is widely spoken and understood. In the media, commercial transactions, politics, advertising, the courts, science and technology, as well as in official responsibilities and education, English is the predominate language.

It is estimated that around 250 indigenous languages are present in Nigeria, many of which are still spoken by diverse tribes. There's no better way to put it than this: In order to remove the curse and give the country leverage, English was authorized as a second language when a communication gap was detected among Nigeria's cultural groupings. Europeans originally landed on the coast of West Africa for commercial objectives, and the language

was born as a result of this. Umera-Okeke and Ahaotu (2018), p.53 When the worlds of business and education come together, During the 12th century in Africa, this "flourished" (Agi 2007, p12). As a result, English has been declared as Nigeria's official language ever since.

One of the most important aspects of a fair trial is that it covers a number of other fundamental rights, all of which are designed to ensure that a defendant is treated fairly in the criminal justice system and prevent the state from abusing its power. However, there are other aspects of this promise that are directly related to language. Right to a Fair Trial under the Law: The Issue of Linguistic Differing It is most common in criminal situations where the accused individual has a language barrier, and where the right to linguistic interpretation is inevitably invoked by the courts. (205). As a rule, English is the predominant language of communication at most religious meetings in Nigeria. People from diverse Nigerian tribes have come together for religious reasons because of the English language. Darquennes (2011) provides a synthesis of sociolinguistic studies on the development of language and religion (Darquennes, 2011). Because they pushed English on the country and were heaped with adulation, the Europeans are now adored by Nigeria's educated elite. According to them, it's a solid and lucrative business. They believe that the emergence of the language in Nigeria provided a unifying force among Nigeria's many cultures that indigenous languages could not. Furthermore, Nigerians value the fact that English has provided them with access to the rest of the world. There are so many new avenues to explore. According to the speakers, this act has assisted many Nigerians in both the past and current eras. The researcher was at a village gathering in Omoku, in the Rivers State's Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area, when he came across these educated members of his community.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

These sections will look at the following subheadings: In Nigeria, English is a unifying factor, as well as a gateway to the rest of the globe and a tool for job creation and growth. The theoretical frameworks employed include the theory of mentalists and the theory of social learning.

English is a unifying force in Nigeria, where it is widely spoken.

The English language is held in much higher regard in Nigerian culture due to its unique position. It is seen as a uniting factor, a common thread that connects Nigeria's different tribes for the sake of communication. "The English language has served to connect Nigerians," According to Umera-Okeke and Ahaotu (2018), p70, allowing individuals to speak freely and "learn about each other's culture and history." Because of this, despite the fact that English is a widely spoken language and has a colonial heritage, it has "grown beyond being a simple residue of colonialism," according to (Egya, 2012, p.3). She remarks, "It has been embedded in our social environment," which means the English language has evolved and established itself in our social activities. According to Okoh (1995), Nigerians, who speak 400 different indigenous languages, have long acknowledged the language's centrality and unity. (Umera-Okeke and

Ahaotu, 2018, p.71). He recognized English as the lingua franca in Commonwealth countries, including Pakistan, Ghana, India, and Nigeria. In this sense, despite cultural differences, English serves as a stimulant of unity. According to Azikiwe (2017), English is a tool that should not be disregarded. He saw it first and foremost as a means of interacting with people who worked in certain occupations. He did, however, perceive it as one of the avenues for personal engagement with Nigerians in a variety of contexts. Nigeria's multilingualism has been highlighted throughout this period. It's plausible to suppose that the Nigeria we see today, unlike before colonialism, is a linguistic community known as Ikotun (2013). Thanks to the evolution of English, we can now communicate and understand one another regardless of our ethnic backgrounds. A linguistic community is described as "a group of people who can communicate with each other and comprehend each other" (Longe 1995, p22). According to Bamgbose (1971), English is the only feasible means for Nigerians of varied linguistic origins to communicate. As a result, all national activities have to be done in English.

English is a window to the world for Nigerians, who use it to communicate with the outside world.

Nigerians have gained a new viewpoint as a result of the extensive usage of English in the country. Because it is a worldwide language, many Nigerians are offered to Nigerians in many spheres of life. Because of their grasp of the English language, many Nigerians, for example, are able to study overseas. In a blog post (Umera-Okeke and Ahaotu, 2018), Professor Olumide Abimbola, a blogger, reiterated his point of view.

In the perfect situation, no colonization would occur at all. As a follow-up, I'd like to add that the advantages of having English as the major language cannot be emphasized enough. The country's official language You'll be able to explore a whole new realm of possibilities. Migration, learning abroad, outsourcing, and other similar concepts spring to mind. This implies that after you have mastered speaking and understanding English as a Nigerian, you will have options in those English-speaking countries, both in terms of the English language and any lucrative occupation. Nigerians should make it a habit to study English in order to take advantage of unequaled global opportunities. This is why, according to Swartz and Leach (2006), English as a window to the world "is considered the greatest technique for achieving economic, social, and political success."

Through international trade, the English language has been instrumental in propelling Nigeria's economy to new heights. According to Cooker (1991, p.104), adopting a second language may be driven by the necessity to conduct business with foreign countries. Without further ado, English is the link that connects Nigeria to global markets, therefore improving the country's economic standing. According to (Eb, 1979) (Wakea, 2006), the English language has a substantial impact on Nigeria's economic strength. It has been revealed that Nigeria's economy, in particular, is "driven to a great extent by the use of the English language." These examples highlight the importance of English in Nigeria's relations with the

rest of the globe and in the economy, specifically. Economic and social integration can only be achieved if the mobility of goods, services, capital, and people is at the core of the global economic process. However, African nations continue to play a minor role in the globalization of capital, mostly as a source of low-cost labor and raw materials for the wealthy. Current economic or linguistic orientations, according to Adgbite (2020), focus on industrialized nations and emphasize the significance of language as a determinant of labor income or economic incentives as the primary predictor of language choices.

English as a Method of jobs Creation and Generation in Nigeria.

The English language has been utilized to produce and generate jobs since its inception in Nigeria. Throughout the early missionary voyages, people were employed as translators, according to Akindele and Adegbite (1999, p. 60). Other indigenous people were persuaded to study English in order to improve their situation. (Amadi, 2012) emphasized the attractiveness and viability of English-medium commercial options for Nigerian youths. Prospective job prospects include fish farming, poultry farming, piggery, grass-cutting farming, and so on. Unemployment and low living standards, he claims, would be erased if work potential were completely exploited. As a result, English should not be abandoned as a means of communication in Nigeria, as it is used to identify and advertise job possibilities.

In the same way, English is the only language used for job applications and interviews. To promote awareness, On June 14, 2019, "The Tide" published a list of available positions at Rivers State University. I am encouraging adequately qualified people to apply in English. According to Wokea (2006), many certificates presented for employment are written in English, although there are some certifications written in languages other than English. Among them are Arabic, French, and other languages. English continues to be the most widely spoken language on the planet.

Theoretical framework

Mentalist theory and social learning theory will be combined in this investigation for maximum precision and precision.

Theory of Social Learning

Albert Bandura, according to reports, proposed this idea in 1963. (Nkenchor, 2016). (2016, Adiele) According to this approach, learning is a process of observation and imitation. Ordu refers to "modeling" as the act of imitating the behavior of another person (2018: 1). This definition of observation from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary differs slightly from the one provided by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, which describes it as "the act of purposefully watching someone or something for a period of time, especially in order to learn something." According to social learning theories, a child's development is influenced by the interactions he or she has with others in his or her environment. As a result, children may imitate and be influenced by what they see in society, resulting to addictive behaviors that can either

benefit or harm society. Consequently, the Nigerian people are said to learn English (a foreign culture) through imitation and observation, resulting in the right kinds of learning for the users.

Theory of Mentalist (1959)

It wasn't until 1959 that Noam Chomsky first coined the term "mentalist." According to this theory, infants are born with the aptitude to acquire new languages. How can children figure out which phrases are possible in their own language, given the grammatical constraints? (Chukueggu, 2019). For Nigerians who speak English, it is evident that this idea holds true. Analysis and evaluation of English language expressions is a skill that they possess. Every person has an inborn capacity that allows them to naturally mature and learn a language, not because they are subjected to the same conditioning mechanism as everyone else (D.A. Wilkings, 1972, p168). The term "language acquisition device" was used by Chomsky to denote this inherent or innate knowledge. He also stated that every normal human being is born into a culture that has a Language Acquisition Device, which absorbs the essence and structure of human language into their culture.

Statement of the study. The study looks at how English has influenced Nigerian culture, which is distinguished by a variety of indigenous languages known as "mother tongues." Ogba is a case study in Nigeria's Rivers state.

Statement of Objective

With these objectives in mind, this research aims to examine the impact of English on Nigerian society. Look at how English has impacted Nigerian society as a whole, with the study's main goal being:

1. Determine if English is employed as Nigeria's uniting force
2. Determine whether or not English serves as a bridge between Nigeria and the rest of the world.
3. Find out if English can be utilized to build and generate jobs in Nigeria.

3. METHODOLOGY

To better understand the Ogba people, we'll employ a descriptive research approach. The ability to communicate with people and get them to respond is critical. When gathering information for this research, questionnaires will be utilized to make sure that it is legitimate. The data received will be evaluated and analyzed based on a certain percentage of respondents' viewpoints. An important part of this descriptive interpretation is the table. A total of 370 people were selected at random to participate in the study.

4. RESULTS

Using a simple percentage-based statistical procedure, the replies to the instrument's questions were collated and assessed.

Research Question 1: To what extent does English serve as a unifying factor in Nigeria?

Table 1 reveals that 97% of respondents strongly agree and 3% disagree that Nigeria is made up of numerous

languages for item No. 1. According to the survey, the vast majority of participants feel that Nigeria is a bilingual nation. Nigeria is, as Uwajeh (2012) asserted, a multilingual nation with hundreds of dialects of those who strongly agree with the second part of the question, 81% are Nigerians, while only 19% are not. Many Nigerians, the survey found, believe that English is a language that unites the country. There is no doubt in my mind that English is the common language that Nigerians use to communicate and learn about one another's cultures and histories. With regard to point number three, 76% strongly agree, 6% agree, and 7% strongly disagree. 22% strongly disagree. According to this data, individuals who supported the proposal outnumbered those who opposed it. As a consequence, many tribes now communicate with each other in English. As Azikiwe (2007) and Bamgbose (2007a) have shown, authorities in Nigeria have endorsed English as a medium of communication for people of diverse linguistic backgrounds (1971).

Table 1 Percentage of Respondents' opinion of English as a unifying force in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Sa		A		D		Sd		Total
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
1	People in Nigeria speak a wide diversity of languages.	360	97	10	3	-	-	-	-	370
2	Nigerians speak English as a second language.	300	81	70	19	-	-	-	-	370
3	A common language helps people from different ethnic groups to communicate with one other.	280	76	59	16	25	7	6	2	370

Research Question 2: For Nigeria, what is the degree of English used as a gateway to the world?

Table 2 Percentage of respondents who believe English is Nigeria's gateway to the rest of the world

S/N	Items	Sa		A		D		Sd		Total
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
4	Nigerians who are fluent in English have access to international opportunities.	210	57	105	28	55	15	-	-	370
5	Nigeria's global economy has grown as a result of the country's reliance on the English language.	105	28	203	55	52	14	10	3	370
6	The ability to communicate in English is vital for both social and political success.	90	24	120	32	72	20	88	24	370

According to the above table 2, a total of 57% strongly agreed, 28% agreed, and 15% disagreed with item No. 4. Nigerians who speak English are more likely to have better possibilities in other countries. Olumide Abimbola's claim that English is Nigeria's "vast world of possibilities" (2018, Umera-Okeke and Ahaotu) is consistent with this attitude. According to the data, 28% of respondents strongly agree, 55% agree, 14% disagree, and 3% strongly disagree with the list's fifth item, all of which were asked. Overall, those who agree with the statement tend to outnumber those who disagree. This is a conclusion that Ebo would concur with (1979). He asserted that Nigeria's economy has developed greatly as a result of the use of foreign languages such as English. When asked if English

is a useful tool for achieving social and political success, just 24% of those polled said yes (see table 2), whereas 32% said no, 20% said no, and 24% said no because they strongly disagreed (see table 2). Survey respondents believe that English is a great tool for social and political achievement. In the end, both Svartvik and Leech (2006) agreed. When it comes to business, society, and politics, they believe that English is an essential tool.

Research Question 3: In Nigeria, how much of a role does English play in creating and sustaining new jobs?

Table 3 Percentage of Nigerians who believe that English is a viable technique of creating and retaining jobs

S/N	Items	Sa		A		D		Sd		Total
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
7	English is the language of choice for job listings.	150	41	98	26	57	15	65	18	370
8	English is a good medium for finding employment chances.	150	41	71	19	47	13	102	28	370
9	The usage of English leads to career prospects for the people of the country.	67	18	205	55	44	12	54	15	370

Table 3 shows that the majority of respondents believe that job openings are advertised in English. At least 41% of those polled feel this is correct; 26% feel the same way; 15% disagree; and 18% are highly opposed. On July 14, 2019, "The Tide" published a list of job openings in English in an effort to attract a broader audience. According to item 8, 41% strongly agree, whereas just 19% strongly disagree. However, 13 percent of those polled disagreed, with 28 percent of those polled expressing severe disagreement. As a result, English as a medium of communication appears to be a viable option for employment. Amadi (2012), a Nigerian youth advocate, was overjoyed to learn that English is the best medium of communication for young people in Nigeria. 8 percent strongly agree and 55 percent agree, as indicated in item 9. In contrast, just 12 percent of those polled believe that English creates employment, with 15 percent of those polled strongly disagreeing. Because it creates jobs for its citizens, it is widely said that most people voted in favor of English. The early missionary trips in Nigeria, according to Akindele and Adegbite's study, used interpreters (1999).

5. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDING

The descriptive findings of the data analysis are shown in the table below: The first study topic was to find out how often English is used in Nigeria to bring people together. There were only three questions to which the responders had to respond: There are several languages spoken in Nigeria; English is one of them. Using it, Nigerians may converse with each other across the country's numerous ethnic groups. To the study question, a large majority of respondents agreed with the findings that Nigeria is an ethnically diverse country with numerous languages, and English is a common language through which many of the country's many tribes can communicate. Uwajeh (2012), Umera-Okeke and Ahaotu (2018), and Azikiwe (2019) have all stated that English is the driving force behind Nigerian unity in order to fraternize with one another's culture and history, respectively. The findings

corroborated these claims, as well as those made by Umera-Okeke and Ahaotu.

6. CONCLUSION

Finally, the study examined the influence of English as a Second Language on Nigerian culture. Responses were obtained from respondents using a descriptive method. The findings indicate that English serves as a unifying element in Nigeria (a multilingual country), and that it will continue to be a tool for employment development and growth in the country. As a result, Nigerians should not take English for granted just for its linguistic origins, but also for its sociological significance. It has existed for a lengthy period of time.

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