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**JOURNAL OF NEW TRENDS IN TEACHER EDUCATION
(JONTTE)**

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EDITORIAL STATEMENT

In September of 2017, the Delta State College of Education, Mosogar, organized its Second National Conference on Teacher Education. The Theme of this conference was, The College of Education System in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future. During the Conference three renowned Professors of Education delivered one Keynote address and two lead papers respectively. In addition to these presentations, several other conferees presented paper on different aspects of College of Education System in Nigeria.

This Conference was motivated by the desire of the College to play its part in the quest by concern educators to continuously search for ways and means of improving the quality of teachers education as this is a fundamental requirement towards ensuring that Nigerian education is endowed with the quality teachers it needs to achieve its goals.

This edition of this journal is a product of the forgoing conference. It was deemed necessary to select and peer-review some of the presentations for the purpose of sharing with scholars, practitioners and the general public the several issues and perspectives on The College of Education System in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future. It is our hope that the contributions by the conferees as published in this journal would have provided useful insight and perspectives on this very important subject matter.

Prof. Emmanuel Ojeme

Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL POLICY/GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

Journal of New trends in Teachers Education (JONTTE) is Interdisciplinary and accepts both empirical and theoretical articles for publication.

Manuscripts for publication should meet the following guidelines:

- I. One paragraph abstract of not more than 200 words.
- ii. The American Psychology Association (APA) 6th edition format should be used throughout the manuscript.
- iii. The first page of each manuscript should contain the title of the article, author's name and affiliation, (including phone number, and email address).
- iv. The manuscripts should be typed double space with a 15 inch margin and 12pt font size.
- v. Manuscript should not exceed 12 pages in length, including tables, figures and references. The body of the manuscripts should not contain any information identifying the author(s).
- vi. The journal is published annually and from papers presented at the annual conference on Education organised by the Delta State College of Physical Education, Mosogar. The evaluation of manuscripts is by a blind review process. Authors are notified as to the position of their manuscripts as soon as all reviews are completed. All submission should be by e-mail or soft copy in Microsoft word. Send articles to the two e-mails address ogudeesther@yahoo.com and copemconference@gmail.com

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LANGUAGE AS A TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE CASE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

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Abstract

Language plays a crucial role in the coexistence and interactions of humans, English language is an essential communication tool that integrates a multilingual nation like Nigeria together. It plays prominent roles in the education, administration, communication, economic and commercial sectors of the nation. English occupies a significant position in the nation education sector, as an important subject and a medium of instruction in school; especially in colleges of education. English is also used as a yardstick for evaluating a learner's school performance. This paper identifies English language as key to achieving quality education and sustainable development in the nation. Proficiency in English language gives access to good jobs and prestigious position in the society. It recommends that problems associated with the teaching and learning of English language be addressed thoroughly and efforts should be made towards early learning and sound acquisition of English language at the levels of primary, secondary, college of education and other tertiary institutions. An improved student - teacher relationship should be pursued in the colleges of education, since this aim of tertiary institution is the bed rock of the Nigeria educational system because it focuses on the primary and- post primary sectors. It concludes that sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generation and development that allows the future generation to meet their needs, and English language is at the forefront of this development.

KEY WORDS: Language, English Language, Education, Sustainable, Development, Nigeria.

Introduction

Language plays a crucial role in the coexistence and interactions of humans. It is the means by which they communicate with one another. The importance of the relationship between language and society cannot be overemphasized in the growth and development of a community.

Language is an essential tool in the development of a nation especially a developing nation like Nigeria. Language can be seen as a lubricant that makes activities in a society flow smoothly. Akindele and Adegbite (1999) assert that an individual uses language to communicate his thoughts inner feelings and psychological

experience. Also, in order to establish social relationship, language is essential. It is a tool with which people express their ideas and feelings, thereby achieving effective communication. A society that needs to be developed needs to have a means of communication that is a language that is generally accepted and understood by the majority in the society (Brown, 1987).

Theoretical Assumption

The theoretical assumption guiding this work is the theory of Community Language Learning (CLL) developed by Charles Curran in 1972. Community Language Learning is an approach based on counseling techniques. This theory advocates that the usual teacher - student relationship in the classroom be replaced with the counselor - client relationship. This is done with the intent of removing any form of challenge from the client which theoretically would help him or her to learn a second language without difficulty. In other words, this approach tries to erase anxiety, threat and other kinds of personal challenges an individual may encounter in the process of learning a new language.

This CLL theory was inspired by Carl Roger's view of education: that all human beings are motivated to live up to their potentials, but they are hindered by personal challenges and by their environment. Once these difficulties are removed, each person can develop his or her full potentials. The relevance of this CLL theory to this paper is that when the difficulties to the learning of English are removed, learners in Nigeria will learn it with ease and be able to develop their full potentials as individuals to influence the society positively. This method reinforces the use of effective communication in teaching and learning language in the classroom. It views the relationship between

the teacher and learner as interactive whereby the learners are free to interact with the teacher as a result reducing anxiety. This paper strongly suggests that the CLL approach be used in teaching and learning English as second language in Nigerian schools especially in the colleges of education. This will greatly help to improve the learning and using of English language in the larger society.

The Nature of Language

Although language is symbolic, yet its symbols are arranged in a particular system. All languages have their system of arrangements. Though symbols in each human language are finite, they can be arranged infinitely; that is to say, we can produce an infinite set of sentences by a finite set of symbols. All languages have phonological and grammatical systems, and within a system there are several sub-systems. For example, within the grammatical system we have morphological and syntactic systems, and within these two sub-systems we have several other systems such as those of plural, of mood, of aspect, of tense, and so on. The language that human beings use consists of two sub-systems, that is, sounds and meaning.

Language is God's special gift to mankind. Without language human civilization, as we know it today, would have remained impossible. Language serves as a means of expressing one's feelings and ideas, and a means of achieving plans and aims. It is through language that basic needs of human interaction at both individual and collective levels are satisfied.

Without language man would have remained only a dumb animal. This is because it is our ability to communicate through words that makes us different from animals. According

to Nwobia (2015), language is the key that is capable of bringing about the development of a people. This development can translate in the form of technology, economic, social; political and educational developments. Langer (1953) opined that language is a symbol of human feelings. As a weapon of development, language is employed to express government policies. However, the degree of acceptance of any government policy is a function of the language through which the message is conveyed to the citizens. The same goes for political participation, in any democratic setting, the role and involvement of the people is dependent on the essential ingredient of what is communicated to the people. This is because participation implies that broad decisions are made by the people. The implication of this is that issues on which decisions are made should be presented in a language that the people understand. The crux of participation, as far as language is concerned, is the need for the people to be able to receive information and share their views in their own language.

Nigeria Language Situation

Since there are over four hundred languages in Nigeria, choosing a general language for communication becomes difficult. Due to this multilingual situation, there was the need to adopt a foreign language to be used as a general language in order for easy communication among the numerous ethnic groups in the country. English came in handy since it is the language of Nigeria's colonizers, the British. Adopting English language as the official language in Nigeria settles ethnic conflicts since people from different ethnic backgrounds now have a common language as a means of communication.

Akindele and Adegbite (1999) argue that the Nigerian government assigned English language to play two major roles in the national language policy. The first is the role it plays in the constitution of the country. The second is the role it plays in education. According to Akindele and Adegbite (1999: 106), Section 51 of the 1979, 1989 Nigerian constitution states that:

"The business of the National Assembly shall be conducted in English, and Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba when adequate arrangements have been made."

Furthermore, it states that

"The business of the State House of Assembly shall be conducted in English but the House may in addition to English conduct the business of the House in one or more other languages in the state as the House by resolution approve".

The policies above show the important roles assigned the English language in the constitution of the nation and in education. This indicates that the official business of the government, administration, law, justice, trade and commerce and instruction in the education sector should be carried out in English language.

Jowitt (1991) argues that the issue of national language in Nigeria is a very sensitive and controversial one. There have always been arguments about the choice of indigenous languages for national purposes because the use of English language as a national language does not give us the root of national pride since it is a colonial language. Nigerians would have preferred the choice of one of their indigenous languages as a national language. However, Akindele and Adegbite (1999) assert that it is very difficult choosing from among the four hundred

languages; because choosing one stirs up strife from the other ethnic groups that are not considered. No ethnic group wants to be seen as lower than another ethnic group because the choice of one of the indigenous languages indicates the promotion of the ethnic group using that language. The choice of an indigenous language for a national language seems to be far reached. Therefore, the English language has come to stay in Nigeria as the language of communication and connection among the various ethnic groups in the nation.

Language acquisition vs. language learning

There is an important distinction made by linguists between language, acquisition and language learning. Children acquire language through a subconscious process during which they are unaware of grammatical rules. This is similar to the way they acquire their first language. They get a feel for what is and what isn't correct. In order to acquire language, the learner needs a source of natural communication. The emphasis is on the text of the communication and not on the form. Students in colleges of education who are in the process of acquiring English face a lot of challenges, such as, understanding grammatical rules and pronunciation of certain English words which have been influenced by their mother tongue.

Language learning, on the other hand, is not communicative. It is the result of direct instruction in the rules of language. And it certainly is not an age-appropriate activity for young learners. In language learning, students have conscious knowledge of the new language and can talk about that knowledge. They can fill in the blanks on a grammar page. Research has shown, however, that knowing grammar rules does

not necessarily result in good speaking or writing. A student who has memorized the rules of the language may be able to succeed: on a standardized test of English language but may not be able to speak or write correctly (Haynes, 2005).

Sustainable Development

Chambers 21st century Dictionary (2002) defines development as "becoming transformed from a simple structure to a much more complex one". It further explains that development is "to have something and increasing amount of it". On the other hand, the Free Wikipedia Encyclopedia identified one of the most common definitions of sustainable development as "the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It focuses on the development that embraces all aspects of the country including its economic development, social development and environmental protection. In a broader sense, sustainable development can be seen as a systematic move to growth and development and to manage natural, produced, and social capital for their own welfare and those of the future generations (Hanna, 2008). Development as a concept has to do with improving the wellbeing of a people, ensuring the freedom and an increased economic power of a people. According to Agwu, (2016) it is a means of providing qualitative improvement in the lives of people or providing greater quality of lives for humans. Therefore, for any meaningful development to take place in a multi-lingual and multi-ethnic environment like Nigeria the medium of language must be employed for communication and willful participation. Agwu (2016) also asserts that language can make useful contribution in providing the skills needed for local community development projects as well as

other aspects of life in a modern society. Some or such local community development project could include, building a town hall, offering social services and participation in politics. The Free Wikipedia Encyclopedia further explains that the term sustainable development incorporates issues on land development and human development such as education, public health and standard of living. In all areas of sustainable development, language is key and English language plays a significant role.

The Role of English Language in Education

Education is the best legacy a nation can give to her citizens because the development of any nation depends largely on the quality of education it has (Basil, 2007). Education is also a means for self actualization and realization. The true development of a nation commences with the development of its human resources. Formal education therefore is a veritable tool for economic, social, and educational development of a nation. In other words, a nation's development is tied to her educational development. Nigeria as a developing nation has benefited immensely from the introduction of Western education into the country. The introduction of Western education brought with it western civilization which has contributed to the nation's development. Through education, Nigeria is able to gain access to global advances in science and technology. As many Nigerians that sought to be educated have opportunities of getting good jobs, prestigious positions in the society and fulfilling political pursuits.

English language occupies a prominent place in Nigeria's educational system especially in the colleges of education, as the language of education. Akindele and

Adegbite (1999) note that the National policy on education states that in the first three years of a child's primary school, the indigenous language will be used to teach the child. All academic activities in the rest of child's life in primary, secondary and tertiary institution, including college of education, are to be done in the English language. The acquisition of education in Nigeria is not complete without a sound acquisition of the English language. English language is a language of prestige and it gives assurance of climbing the educational ladder in Nigeria. It is not only the medium of instruction in school but also an important subject in the school curriculum. Hence, a student cannot be admitted into the higher institution such as the college of education without credit in five subjects including English and Mathematics.

The Role in English Language in Economic Growth

Both at the national and international levels, good acquisition of English language helps individuals achieve success. A good command of English language in Nigeria makes an individual economically empowered. Various business categories in Nigeria including the health services, banking industries, technology and vocational enterprises such as the carpentry and electrician require their employees to have good English language skills. It is recognized in Nigeria that English language is essential in business communication and in attracting new investments. Since both the public and private owned organizations are in need of workers that are proficient in the use of English, individuals are motivated to learn English language in order to have good job opportunities in standard organizations in the country. At the international level, English is crucial for economic growth. Nigeria can do businesses and other forms of

transaction because it has English as an official language. With this language Nigeria is able to interact internationally and advance in global science and technology. The language helps in enhancing the economic condition of individuals and the country as a whole, English language therefore is an essential tool for sustaining development in Nigeria (Hanna,2008).

The Role of English Language in Nigerian Citizenship

During British colonial rule in Nigeria, the concept of Nigerian citizenship did not exist. The various territories now comprising Nigeria, being possession of the British crown, were under the Suzerainty of the United Kingdom of Great British and Northern Ireland. During this time, persons were either British subjects in the colony of Lagos or British protected persons in any other part of the territories that made up the protectorate of Nigeria. With the enactment of the British Nationality Act in 1948, Nigeria by an imperial order in council became recognized as British Citizens. This Act also imposed the culture and language of the British nationality on Nigeria (Obuasi, 2006). So the independence of Nigeria in 1960 which led to the promulgation of the Nigeria constitution and the official adopting of English as the official language of its citizenry set the stage for a language acculturation and language learning Bamgbose (1991)'assert that it was this independence constitution that created for the first time a Nigeria citizenship. It is worth noting that the Nigerian constitution prescribed: three modes of acquiring Nigerian citizenship namely by birth, by registration and by naturalization. The focus will be on the third mode of acquiring Nigerian citizenship which is naturalization. Under this type of citizenship, a person is required to learn the language of the new

country which is different from the language of the person's birth. For instance, if an Ivorian (a French speaker) intends to take citizenry of Nigeria by naturalization, he is expected to learn the English language as the official language in order to communicate effectively as well as contribute meaningfully to the society. In essence, the acquisition of English language will enable such a person in his business and other forms of interaction and add socially, economically and politically to the development of the Nigeria project.

The Role of English Language in National Unity

The Nigeria state is multi-tribal and multi-cultural in nature with different ethnic and cultural differences from one community to another. In most cases, people grouped as sharing the same ethnic coloration do not understand themselves and therefore find: it extremely difficult to communicate; as a result English language becomes the language for easy communication among these various ethnic groups. In view of this, English language serves as a key to national unity and a tool for sustainable development in Nigeria. In the midst of tribal crises in the southern and northern regions of the nation, English language stands as a tool for interaction, conflict resolution and a means of building the gaps that exist among people with different ethnic background. Most of the time, activities that are conducted with the use of indigenous languages are viewed as being tribal because by using a particular local language, the understanding and participation of people who are from other ethnic' backgrounds have been cut off. Hence, political activities that are meant for the general public have to be in English language. Right from the colonial era and the first Republic, political parties were formed in English language, though they may have

regional bases, they were named in English in order to indicate their national unity. The Action Group (AG), which controlled the Western Region, the Northern People's Congress (NPC), which controlled the Northern Region and the National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC), which controlled the eastern and Midwestern regions were formed to integrate all citizens in Nigeria and give them a sense of belonging. This trend of forming political parties in English language is still practiced till date.

English language is a language of oneness and unity in the nation because it is a language everyone can understand, interact together, build relationships and achieve common goals. English language is also a weapon for nationalist struggle. Nationalist 'such as Nnamdi Azikiwe, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Herbert Macaulay, and Obafemi Awolowo used English language as a tool for fighting national struggle. English language is also used in the armed force that is the Navy, Army, Air force and Police Force in their struggle for the safety and peaceful co-existence of the citizens in the nation.

English language is used to design Nigerian's national monuments such as the National flag, the National Anthem, the National Independence Day, 'National Associations and other national emblems. All these national emblems point to the fact that English is a foundational tool with which the various ethnic groups can come together to project a nation that is united. Adebayo (1985) asserts that without the presence of English language, the peace and unity of the nation would have been hampered by the subtle linguistic hostility that exists among various ethnic groups.

Problems of Teaching and Learning English Language in Nigeria

There are a lot of problems language teachers and learners encounter; at all levels of education including the college of education, in their attempt .at improving the: teaching and learning of English language. Some of these challenges include: inadequate; training of teachers on knowledge of current trends in the teaching and learning of second language, non-availability of instructional aid for teaching language, unserious attitudes and psychological problems of learners inconsistencies in language policy of Government on education and lack of professional teachers in teaching the subject.

Each of these problems needs to be addressed thoroughly in order to achieve good success in English language education. To start with, English language needs to be handled by professionals in the language not just by any graduate in the teaching profession. Again, teachers need to be exposed to regular training on current trends in language teaching. They should also be exposed to all kinds of skills and knowledge that will enhance their teaching techniques English language effectively in schools. In addition, government needs to provide the needed resources for the teaching of language in our schools including the colleges of education. Resources such as textbooks, tape recorders, language laboratories and so on, will be very helpful not only to the teachers but also to the students especially of those in the colleges of education. The unserious attitudes and psychological problems of the learners can be addressed with the use of the CLL method. Through interaction, the teacher will be able to identify the challenges of the learners and suggest ways of reducing their anxiety and building their capacities to learn.

This paper submits that at the primary school, secondary school, college of education and other higher institutions, there should be effective teaching and learning of English language. If teachers will adopt the CLL method in the classroom, students will be able to interact properly with them, which will enable them learn the language effectively and be proficient in using it in the larger society.

Recommendations

1. Teachers and students of colleges of education need to internalize the concept of sustainable development; what it represents and how it affects the educational system, their well being, and relationship with one another, such as improved economic growth and interpersonal relationship; acquiring good education; and fostering more peaceful communities where children live free from violence. When this understanding is in place, staff and students are motivated to do the right things within the institution, resulting in sustained progress and harmony in the society and shifts in the norms and behaviours in the long term.
2. The development of any nation depends largely on the quality of education it offers its citizenry; as such the Nigerian government needs to be committed to funding the building of language laboratory across the colleges of education nationwide. This is because without a language laboratory, the language teacher may not be able to effectively teach language in school and this will hamper the goal of sustainable development both in the colleges of education and the country at large.

3. Both the lecturers and management of colleges of education should make efforts to discourage the use of pidgin English within the school environment in order to encourage students to be proficient in their use of English language. This will help the students to improve on their spoken and written English which may also improve their academic performance and contribute significantly to the growth of the larger society after their schooling period.
4. The language curriculum planners need to re-structure the curriculum to include interactive and patriotic elements that would ensure students interest in citizenship and nation building goals in order to develop a positive mental consciousness of a "one Nigeria" mindset that would encourage unity and sustainable development after their education.

Conclusion

Sustainable development is development that has two key needs; development that meets the needs of the present generation and development that allows the future generation to meet their needs. It focuses on the development that embraces all aspects of the country including its economic development, social development and environmental protection for the present and the future. In essence, it incorporates issues on land development and human development such as education, public health and standard of living. Nigerian problems can; be addressed through the acquisition of early learning and quality education because the true development of a nation commences with the development of its human resources. The idea of sustainable development can be achieved in Nigeria

when proficiency in English language is a key factor in acquiring good education, economic empowerment and national integration. The development of the knowledge and skills of individuals through education is only made possible by the language through which they are acquired. Hence, it can be said that English language works with education in Nigeria to bring about human and national development.

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