

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract.

The primary objective of this study is to examine the role of English language in socio-political development in Nigeria. A study of Esit- Eket L.G.A of Akwa Ibom state. Research findings reveal that the role of English language in socio-political development in Nigeria, Akwa Ibom state in particular has given a boost an access to an even development in our great nation. The need to prioritize and mobilize available resources to ensure that English language is fully integrated in all spheres of national and state development in Esit-Eket L.G.A of Akwa Ibom state is measured in terms of social and political participation. To proffer solutions to the problems militating against the use of English language within Esit-Eket communities, some objectives are developed in the study, and on the basis of these, the research design and tools of analysis among other things are discussed. Based on findings recommendations are made towards finding solutions to the problems confronting local communities in Esit Eket L.G.A of Akwa Ibom state in Nigeria as a result of communication skills in English language.

Introduction

English Language is one of the most widely used language in Nigeria. It is now considered as the language of communication for both the urban and rural communities in the country. English played a significant role in economic, social and political development of Nigeria. English Language is realized as a link language with global significance and also the most spread language in the world. In Nigeria, it is now an official language while Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo languages remain indigenous languages. A university degree is no longer a necessary and sufficient qualification if it is not in competency in English Language. This study also reveals that some rural communities in Nigeria Akwa Ibom State as a case study in particular find it difficult to communicate in English language fluently.

In Akwa Ibom State, most people in rural areas feel reluctant to use the English Language side by side with their local dialects. However, the cross cultural communication helps bring the confidence in a child and urges him or her to improve his or her skills in communicating with various people and encourages them to handle complex concepts with ease. This means that with the help of English Language, a child or even adult is able to communicate with any body and is also able to handle whatever situation he or she finds, with ease. In a period of globalization and modernization, English Language enables in transferring the individuality of a child into a personality to survive in Modern society.

English Language also plays a significant role right at the school levels where a child tasted the sweetness of the literacy language and develops an interest in it and inculcates the habit of book reading English

as a subject helps a lot to get one into the habit of book reading as most of

the books are written in that language. English Language helps in furthering trade and industrial relationship; it helps in political development such as legal development and proceedings in our state and National assembly including court proceedings. It is worth saying that English language assists tremendously in social development such as group and interpersonal interactions among people especially in our schools, churches, markets places, clubs and many other areas too numerous to mention.

Statement Of The Problem

In spite of the role played by the English Language, our Local Communities faces problems and challenges in English Language and because they are numerous and Endless, they cannot be ignored.

Almost all members of Akwa Ibom rural communities encounter at least three types of problems, challenges with pronunciation and grammar, challenges with situations. grammar such as workplace English versus slangs, and lastly challenges with expressions.

Findings revealed that some top politicians cannot read not write English effectively, on the other hand, English Language aids in international trade and facilitate easy communication among people in the world, it is also noted that not everybody in business cycle can speak and write English Language in spite of the trade relationship across the globe. This is the problem that this research work seeks to address.

Another noticeable problem for English Language is rural area, having members of the community fall back on their native language for conversation. It is often easier for people to communicate in their native language instead of English. It is usually frustrating for people to rethink and reward their thoughts into English Language clearly. If by diversifying members of groups so that not all members in the group

speak the same native language will discourage rural areas dwellers from reverting to their native language to communicate and encourage them to use the one they have in common. There is also difficulty in buying and selling as the rural dwellers finds it difficult to communicate with the visitors and foreigners who arrive such markets.

Objective Of The Study

The potency of effective communication in English depends greatly on adopted and possible awareness created.

Here are the primary objective of this, study. One thing that all linguists and researchers of languages are sure of is the role that English plays nowadays. Therefore, the role of English as a common means of communication must be redefined among rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. To ensure that qualified English teachers are in rural areas to teach English Language for easy communication. Educating Akwa Ibom Communities on the fact that English gives them important domains such as government, laws, the media and educational system in their countries.

Ensuring that English Languages creates contact, planning and attitudes of people within the country community in respect of industrial community and international relations critically explore the place of foreign languages in a monolingual nation that has become an economic super power in view of our crude oil and gas and examine how and why foreign languages. It also ascertains the preparedness of the communities to adopt English Language as a general communication media among themselves and with other people.

Research Hypothesis.

Hypothesis 1

(No) There is no significant relationship between English language and other local languages in the communities.

(Hi) There is a significant relationship between English language and other local languages in the communities.

Hypothesis 2

(No) Adoption of English as a lingua franca among the people of the state will not change the attitude of people in communication in the area.

(Ni) Adoption of English as a lingua franca among the people of the state will change the attitude of people in communication in the area.

Hypotheses 3

(Ho) There is no significant relationship between effective communication and productivity in state measured in terms of economic, social and political development.

(Hi) There is a significance, relationship between effective communication and productivity in state measures in, terms of economic, social and political development.

Data Presentation

This chapter is concerned with the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the primary data obtained through the administration of questionnaires which reflected the purpose of this study as stated in chapter one. The questionnaires are administered to the selected rural dwellers in Akwa Ibom rural communities as shown in chapter three of this study. The questionnaires contains a total of so questions; Eleven of which requires a "Yes" or "No" answers. 10 questions comments while the remaining questions contained multiple choice items out of which the respondents were asked to choose one applicable to them.

A total of 50 copies which represented about 50% were returned to me, the researcher with useful information. Total analyses by the research include tabular formats and percentages. The statistical tool employed is chi-square text X^2 as indicated in chapter three of this study. Throughout the study, the answers given by the respondents were extent to which their responses agreed or disagreed with each of the hypothesis.

DATA ANALYSIS ENGLISH AS A TOOL IN FACILITATING SOCIO- POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
YES	30	60
NO		0
SOME HOW	20	40
TOTAL	50	100

The respondents were asked to indicate whether the English language facilitates socio- political development in Nigeria. 60% of the respondents said yes, 40% said they were not certain, that is they were not quite sure, nobody said however, that he or she did not know. The analysis shows that English language is used as a tool to facilitate economic, social and political development of Nigeria.

THE EFFECTIVE USE OF ENGLISH IN THE COMMUNITIES

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
YES	25	50
NO	5	10
SOME HOW	20	40
TOTAL	50	100

The respondents were asked to indicate whether The inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the use of English are caused by the lack of education and

training, 50% of the respondents said yes, 40% said they were not certain, that is they were not quite sure, 5% said however said out rightly that it is effective.

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
YES	30	60
NO	5	10
SOME HOW	10	20
TOTAL	50	100

Table 7: fig. 44

COMMUNICATION AS A WEAPON OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS

The respondents were asked to indicate whether communication practice was regarded by the Federal Government as another weapon towards achieving English as a lingua franca in Nigeria. The analysis of the responses showed that 60% of the respondents were of the opinion that government controlled their citizens without effective flow of communication. 10% said No, while 20% said that somehow government do assist in tuning people to communicate and that these are used as Weapon of control. Consequently, it could be gathered that the ideal communication practice as a productive weapon was not visibly practiced in the communities as a result of either ignorance or intentional neglect by the community members.

Table 8 fig. 4.6

NIGERIAN COMMITMENT TO SPEAKING ENGLISH

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
AGREED	30	60
SOMETIMES	15	30

The respondents were asked to indicate whether community members often tried harder to learn how to communicate in English but sometime failed as a result of lack of training and lack of exposure. 60% of the respondents agreed, 30% said sometimes and 10% said never- the analysis above shows that members of the communities are more committed to communicating in English, but because of no encouragement, training and exposure, the system collapsed, with time.

Table 9 fig. 4.7

COMMUNICATION ASSESSMENT APPRAISAL IS MEDIOCRITIDE

The respondents were asked to indicate their observations during ,assessment., appraisal by the government when results were not met as a result of ineffective communication, whether they observed it to be investigatory and accusatory in

nature. Response indicated 60% with a "yes" and 40% with a "No" response ,-. the analysis therefore indicates that during appraisal assessment by the government the supervisor tends to emphasize the weak points of the community members.

Table 10 fig. 4.8

ACHIEVEMENT OF YEARLY TRAINING OBJECTIVES

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
YES	34	68
NO	16	32
TOTAL	50	100

Here, the respondents were asked to tell whether government yearly objectives were variable enough to motivate them considering the low rate of productivity. An overwhelming 68% of the respondents said "yes" while 32% said "No". based on the analysis, it would be gathered that speaking English language and yearly set objectives are challenging, unrealistic and partially achievable which do not bring about communication effect and linguafranca effect.

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
YES	30	60
OTHERS	20	40
SOME HOW	20	0
SPECIFY		
TOTAL	50	100

Table

11 fig. 2.0

BENEFITS ON INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

VARIABLE	NO OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE RESPONSE
YES	48	96
NO	2	4
TOTAL	50	100

Respondents were asked of their Opinion if they would recommend the inclusion of the higher productivity to good communication in English. The responses shows an overwhelming 96% of the respondents say for example that they would recommend that rural dwellers should be encouraged based on productivity and be made to write their objectives / goals achievement (output)

TEST OF HYPOTHESES

HYPOTHESES 1

(N6) There is no significant, relationship between English language and other local languages in the communities.

(Hi) There is a significant relationship between English language and other local language in the communities.

Table 4 f.g 4-1

COMPUTER X² VALUE FOR THE HYPOTHESES

VARIABLE	FO			$(F_o - F_e)^2$	F_e/Fe
STRONGLY AGREE	39	12-5	-5-5	702-25	56-18
AGREE	7	12-5	_9-5	30-25	
UNDECIDED	3	12-5	_9-5	90-25	7-22
DISAGREED	1	12-5	-11-5	132-25	10-58
TOTAL	50	50		954	76-4

From the above table, the computed chi-square value $x = 76-4$ — the degree of freedom is computed thus:

$$Df = (r-1) (c-1)$$

$$= (4-1) (2-) = 3 \times 1 = 3$$

Thus the chi-square table value (x^2) at 0-05 Of 5% level of significance of 3 = 7.815.

DECISION CRITERIA

Reject the null hypothesis (Ho) and accept the alternative hypothesis.

(Hi). -ifthg computer X^2 value is greater than the chi-square ,table value. Based on the analysis above, it is seen that the calculates chi square value X^2 is greater than the critical. or the theoretical table . value. Therefore based on that, the •researcher rejects the null , hypothesis (Hi) which states that there is a significant relationship „ between English language and. other local languages in the communities.

HYPOTHESIS 2

(No) Adoption of English as a lingua franca among the people of the state will not change the attitude of people in rural area.

(Ni) Adoption of English as a lingua franca among the people of the state , will change the attitude of people in rural area.

COMPUTER X^2 VALUE FOR THE HYPOTHESIS 2

From the table above, the computed chi-square value $X^2= 40.32$. The degrpe of freedom is computed thus:

$$Df = (r-1) (c-1)$$
$$= (4-1) (2-1)$$

$= 3 \times 1 = 3$

Therefore the chi-square table value of 0.05 or 5% level of significance of 3 $= 7.815$.

DECISION CRITERIA

Reject the null hypothesis (Ho) and accept the alternative hypothesis (Hi) if the computer X^2 value is greater than the coinputed table value (X^2). It is obvious that the compound computed X^2 value is greater than X^2 table value. Similarly, the researcher rejects the null hypothesis in confirmation of the alternative (Hi). Which states that the adoption of English as a lingua franca among the people of the state will change the attitude of people in rural area.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND RESULTS

In the course of this research work, the following findings were recovered: „ in question one, the respondents were asked to indicate whether the English language facilitate economic, social and political development of a country — 60% of the respondents said yes, 40% sais they were not certain, that is they were not quite sure, nobody said that he or she does not know. The' analysis shows that English language is used as a tool to facilitate socio- political „ development in Nigeria.

In question 2, the respondents were asked to indicate whether the „ inefficiency and ineffectiveness in the use of English are „caused by the lack of education and training — 50% of the respondentsesaid yes, 40% said they „ were not certain, that they were not quite sure, 50/0 however sais out rightly that it is effecåve.

question

In question 3, the respondents were asked to indicate whether „ communication practice was regarded by the Federal Government as another weapon towards achieving English as a lingua franca in Nigeria. The analysis of „ the respondent were of the opinion that government controlled their citizens without effective 'flow of communication. 10% said No, while 20% said that „ somehow government free education and other facilities provided by the government do assist in turning people to communicate and that these are used as weapon of cormlA .

Consequently, it could be gathered that the ideal communicationpracdce as a producåve weapon was not visibly pracåced in the communities as a result of „ either iglorance or **nternational** neglect by the community members.

Quesåon 4, the respondents were asked to indicate whether community members often tried harder to learn how to communicate in English but somefrne failed as a result of lack of fraining and lack of exposure. 60% of the respondents agreed, 30% said sometimes and 10% said never. The analysis above shows that members ofthe communities are more committed

to communicating in English but because of no encouragement, training and exposure, the system collapsed with time. The respondents were asked to indicate their observations during assessment appraisal by the government when results were not met as a result of ineffective communication whether they observed it

e investigatory

to be and accusatory in nature, Response indicated 60% with a "yes" and 40% with a "No" responses.

In question the respondents were asked to indicate how communication in English has facilitates their achievement within Akwa Ibom State Community, 32% of the respondents ticked always, 60 ticked sometimes and 8% ticked never. The analysis shows that it neither consistent nor sustainede It would appear as if the government objectives do not include this attributes in clear terms.

In 6, the respondents were asked to tell whether government yearly set objectives were variable enough to motivate them considering the IOW rate. of productivity,, An overwhelming 68% the respondents said "yes", while 23% said "No". based on the analysis, it would be gathered that speaking English language and yearly set objectives are challenging unrealistic and partially achievable which do not bring about **COMMUNIE**ffect and lingua franca effect.

Respondents were asked of their opinion if they would recommend the inclusion of the productivity to good communication in EnglishnThe responses show an overwhelming 98% of the respondents say for example that they would recommend that rural dwellers should encouraged based on productivity and be made to write their objective/goals/achievements.

HYPOTHESES 1

In hypotheses 1, it was certain that there is a significant relationship between English and other local languages in the communities.

HYPOTHESES 2

In hypotheses 2, the adoption of English as a lingua franca among the people of the state will change the attitude of people in rural areas, thereby increase productivity in economic, social and political development

Conclusions

The roles of English language in socio- political development of Nigeria are so many that one cannot count. English language plays major role in social development such as social gathering parties, schools, hospitals and in uniting communities such as Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo who speak different local language in our political arena are so many that one cannot count. English is used in law making federal

and state executive councils, **meeting**, governmental agencies, security cycle and various committees to mention but a few.

Recommendation

1. In the light of the findings, it is recommended that people in the rural communities in Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State in particular should communicate effectively with the fellow countrymen for the achievement of the objectives and goals.

2. Government should set good example by words and action through effective **communica**on by encouraging the ongoing free education.

5. There should be proper and regular performance appraisal system that can encourage higher proficiency in English. This must be communicated to the communities.

6. Schools must be made to maintain high ethical standard by subordinating personal interest to that of the public, bring honesty in their dealing with all manner of people having business.

7. Traditional rulers and elders of the communities on the other hand are expected to exhibit high ethical standard of behavior in the

Leadership and their subject should work towards effective

3. Action on any issue should be taken at the right time for it to be effective

4. Proper disciplinary measures should be applied when the need arises to solve and encourage children to go to school.

5. There should be proper and regular performance appraisal system that can encourage higher proficiency in English. This must be communicated to the communities.

It is also recommended that people should be held accountable for things put in their care especially in our local schools; they should be answerable for their actions to reduce the misuse of schools assets. Therefore,

10. Rural dwellers should be allowed to involve in a communication with one another making them exposed to the use of English

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45

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46

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CHAPTERTWO

REVIEW OF CRITICISMS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews literature related to this study with some theoretical facts, analysis of facts submitted by other researchers. The theoretical basis of the ancient philosophers had it that ideas contributed for problem solution are more reliable than an individual conclusion. Literature from various authors were reviewed to provide basis for a working frame work.

THE ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN NIGERIA

It is through English Language as a lingua franca that bilateral relationships between Nigeria and other countries are created. our social and political systems are strengthen with the changing times in Nigra (Inwang, 2008). According to Inwang, English Language is used as common communication medium for the law makers. Also, in our local markets and social gathering, English Language is spoken as a common language to facilitate exchange of goods and services among Nigerians. Our socio cultural system is proactively visible today as a result of English as a commonly used language in Nigeqia.

There has never been a language so widely spread or spoken by so many people as English. (David Crystal 1997). Education is a process of enlightenment and empowerment by which the individual are able to secure a better quality of life. Today; education is a global and a multi purpose social service, which must reward human resourcefulness, commitment and freedom. The present day education is aimed at the growth of body, mind, intellect and soul. Children are humanity's greatest asset. Hence a new vision of human grgatness must be instilled in them..Many children go out of our country in pursuit of higher education.,

economic, social and political upliftment. Hence, we should welcome modern knowledge based on age old culture. It is a widely accepted fact that knowledge must be acquired and supplemented by a life long relearning and retaining system. English Language is realized as a link language with global significant and also the most spread language in the world. In Nigeria, it is an official language in addition to the three major languages in Nigeria, namely, Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo. Students at the school level need to acquire better proficiency in English along with the learning of other subjects like Mathematics and science. Expectations of the society about the role of students and demands on them also changed. According to Desmond (2001), A degree is no longer necessary and sufficient qualification if it is not imparted with competency. This cannot be attained if the student does not adapt himself or herself to the exposure of the emerging 'era of knowledge'. The students need to have a channel of communicating with other schools, colleges and institutions for which the knowledge of English plays an important role especially in economic, social and political development of a nation, AkwaIbom as a study in particular. English Language plays a significant role right at the school levels where a child tastes the sweetness of the literacy language and

develops an interest in it and inculcates the habit of book reading as most of the books are written in, English language. To survive in modern society, English language learning is as important as water to us. It is also identified to be one of the factors for many graduates are urged to polish up their knowledge in English and communication skills to better equip themselves. This can be better achieved only if the students begin to learn the language with keen interest at their school level paying equal efforts along with learning other subjects or the key subjects. The school environment enables the child to attain changes with the changing times and attain his noble objectives if he contributes his might to improve

himself or herself in English language. According to the Ethnologue.com, the English language is the third largest in the world after Chinese and Spanish. It is spoken in 112 countries by 328 million speakers. The special phenomenon is that English is spoken all over the world and is not only restricted to one area, as is Chinese. Edward Finegan (2001) summarizes this by saying that "though Chinese is spoken by a greater number of people, English is spoken around the globe and has wider dispensation than any other language"

1989:77),

(Finegan from its home land, the United Kingdom, it has spread to other countries and continents like America, Australia, New Zealand and Africa and became the Lingua Franca in many countries (Finegan 1989:77). English functions as the sole official language in countries like Ghana, The Bahamas or Jamaica but it is also established as an official language along with other languages in countries like Tanzania, Singapore and Pakistan (Finegan 1989:78). Even where English is not officially established, it is used and taken for grants, as it is in the United States (Finegan 1989:79). One thing that all linguists and researchers of languages are sure of is that the role that English plays nowadays. Anderman and Rogers point out that it has developed into a lingua franca (Anderman and Rogers 2005:1) which gives people the opportunity to communicate more easily and overcome burdens" (Anderman and Roger 2005: 180). Joshua A. Fishman sees "the expansive reach of English as undeniable and unstoppable" (Fishman 2000: 1) and Hans Sauer even defines it as "the most important language in the world" (Sauer 2006:187). David Crystal proves that English is a global language by giving a short definition of the term: "A language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country" (Crystal 1997:2).

That means, the language is not only mother tongue in many country but is also present in other areas where it is either the official language or the language which is mostly taught to children, though it has no official status (Crystal 1997:3). The fact that English has gone through this three-pronged development of first language, official language and foreign language speakers" (Crystal 1997:4) gives it the status of a global language.

Nowadays, it seems almost impossible to escape the influence of the English language: "the majority of the world's population are exposed to English everyday via American brand names, American destiny station and commercials through subtitled Anglophone television, film and Digital versatile Disk productions, lyrics and titles of all kinds" (Gottlieb 2005: 162). David Crystal even sees English as the most influential language ever when it comes to international relations (Crystal 2000:70). As can be seen before, using English is not the same in every country, some people do it because they were raised with it as their mother tongue (as in USA, Canada, Britain etc), others use it as an addition to their mother tongue because English gives them access to important domains such as government, laws, the media and educational system in their countries (as in Ghana, Singapore or India etc).

The third group learns English as the major foreign language at school which happens in countries like China, Germany, Russia or Spain (Crystal 1997:2).

REASONS FOR THE STATUS OF ENGLISH AS LINGUA.

David Crystal states that the power of English Language is 'closely related to the history and development of the British empire' (Crystal 1997:53). This project is supported by other linguists such as Henrick Gottlieb who says that "ever since the infancy of the former British Empire, English has been in a no-lose situation" (Gottlieb 2005:161)." Salikoko Mufwene explains how a language like English is put through in other countries as follows: Due to colonization the British Empire took over other countries and introduced English as the new official language. To avoid negative consequences the native people had to arrange with it and adopt the new language as well. Over the years the native languages have become extinct or remained only as a left over of old times (Mufwene 2000: 1). During the 15th and 16th century, Britain became very successful in developing new colonies and soon its influence, and consequently its language, reached up to America, the Caribbean, Africa and, finally, Nigeria (Nettle & Romaine 2002: 114). In history, this was the time when the English Language spread widely in a climate of political and economical changes (Viereck et al. 2002:151). Despite its relatively secure position nowadays, English has not always been such an influential language. Especially before the colonial period the supremacy that

English has around the world today was not foreseeable (Viereck et al., 2002:151). When English was brought to Britain in the 5th century, it soon took over many parts like Wales and Cornwall and started to supersede Celtic languages (Crystal 1997:25). However, during the Norman conquest 1066, the French language was brought to the Island and established itself in many official domains (Finegan 1989:84). The countries were separated while the upper class spoke only French, English remained chiefly on peasant tongues (Finegan 1989:84). Nevertheless, due

THE ROLE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN SOCIO- POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

The role of English language in socio-political development in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. English language plays major role in social development of Nigeria such as Social gathering, parties, in this gathering; English plays a role because as the lingua franca, it is necessary to be used in various kinds of parties. Schools: the role of English language plays here is very vital because here lies the future generations of the country. Hospitals: English language also play a role in this aspect as it will be used to communicate with patients who are not able to understand a particular dialects to open up to the doctors and nurses. It also plays a significant role in uniting communities such as Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo who speak different local languages. The role of English language in our political arena are so many that one cannot count them. English is used in law making; federal and state executives council meetings, government agencies, security cycle and various committees to mention but a few.

CHALLENGES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PRONUNCIATION, VOCABULARY AND GRAMMAR.

Almost all English learners encounter at least three types of problems: challenges with pronunciation, some people are never able to master certain sounds which will make any word they pronounce incorrect and if the case in a school setting, such people will be left behind while others excel.

Vocabulary: some English learners cannot build up their vocabulary due to whatever situation that may have occurred and because of this, they find learning English language very challenging. Grammar: such as workplace: This aspect is the most challenging as learners of English language who are not able to speak and communicate find it difficult to fit in their workplace and in a situation where there is a first break out or any leakage of any kind where they saw or know how it happened, because they are not able to say what happened and how it happened they can also lose job as the case may be.

ENCOURAGING ERROR

Errors in learning English challenge students, but they typically learn from their mistakes and progress. However, if English language learners feel intimidated, embarrassed or judged, their affective future can inhibit their ability to absorb new information and produce English. Teachers of English as a second language and English as a foreign language typically refrain from providing an overload of corrective feedback so that students feel more comfortable expressing themselves in English, even if it is not perfect.

TECHNIQUES OF LEARNING ENGLISH

Shannon Johnson (2000) opines learning English requires different techniques for different types of learners. Some people require more time to reflect on concepts before diving into dialogues and presentations. Others need to speak to reinforce new information. For some people, kinesthetic activities such as dance, clapping and physical movements can shift information from short-term memory to long-term memory. Music, rhymes, chants, poems and games provide additional reinforcement. Instructing students in the English language involves building a student reading and speaking vocabulary and understanding of written and spoken English language.

USING OTHER LANGUAGES

Another noticeable issue for English language is having learners fall back on their native languages for conversation as in community cases in Nigeria. It is often easier for learners to communicate in their native languages instead of English. It is usually frustrating for students to re-think and reward their thoughts into the new language clearly. Diversifying learners in one group speak the same native language will discourage learners from reverting to their native language to communicate and encourage them to use the one they have in common.

THE USE OF OUTDATED TEXT BOOKS

Differentiating between in-class speech and real-world speech application can be tricky. Textbooks and in-class material instructing students on the fundamentals aspects of the English language and proper grammar can be stilted and very unrealistic in terms of dialogue examples: when students are taught English as a second language, they may assume in-class speech patterns will be the same outside the classroom. Often, textbooks language uses more uncommon or outdated terms and phrases, which can confuse and contradict what a textbook shows.

WRITTEN VERSUS SPOKEN ENGLISH CONFUSION

Learners may be able to understand spoken English but confuse sentence structure and grammar when writing the same thing. Grammatical problems in writing is another problem teachers face in teaching English language. It can be difficult for students to write clearly in a second language, as their native language may have different requirements for tenses and placement for sentence structure. Teachers often face problems with sentence formatting and grammatical requirements needed for writing to be coherent.

BUILDING VOCABULARY BASE

Building up a student's English vocabulary is one of the first issues teachers instruct students in a second language face. Thinking about one object and remembering two identifying names for it can be confusing for younger and older students. Incorporating objects and images is a great starting point for building vocabulary for everyday items. Activities and

16 practice material focusing on recognizing and using words with the correct spelling are key elements of instructing students in English as a second language.

Until recently, much research has documented problems in the instruction of English language learners. There is a clear need documenting the need for improvement. When students are presented with conventional curriculum with no modifications, they tend to flounder, become overwhelmed and mentally turn out or withdraw from active classroom participation' (Gersen, 1999; Gersen & Woodward, 1994) Over 30 years ago, the research of Moll, Estrada, Diaz and Lopes (1980) poignantly delineated the pain and frustration that English language learners struggling to learn English sometimes feel when taught in all English settings. Students may fail to understand what the teacher is talking about, and may become frustrated when they have an idea but cannot adequately express their thoughts in English. Moll et al. found out that teachers tended to correct pronunciation errors (e.g. seyd for "said") or interrupt passage reading

with attempts to define simple English words (e.g. "surprise") ("guess"), thereby breaking the flow of the story. This focus on the details of accurate English language production makes the students appear less competent than they really are. When Moll et al. (1980) followed the same students into a Spanish reading lesson, they observed that the students, although considered "low ability" by their teacher, were able to answer comprehension questions correctly on grade-level material to develop and expand on ideas in the stories and to process more complex text. Further, the students could read texts usually reserved for "high ability" students.

17

CRITICAL ISSUES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

REGIONAL DIALECTS

Dialects affect the way people speak and learn English and much depends on where they spend most of their time. Language experts at the University of Pennsylvania identify three dialects within the United States as inland North, South and the West. Dialects contribute to the way people pronounce vowels in different parts of the country. People living in Massachusetts pronounce the letter "r" more differently than people do elsewhere; they say "Hah-vuhd" instead of "Harvard" or "cah" instead of "car". This makes learning the language from the beginning of a confusing ordeal because no correct dialect exists, especially in American English.

TRAVEL

Travelling across the globe allows people to visit different countries, sample different cuisine and also hear a different variation on English. People living in Britain speak a more different version of English than those living in Nigeria. Australians also speak a different version than both the British and the Americans. A baby born in Britain but raised in the New York city would still be British (by descent) but would not speak with any sort of British accent.

Many differences in English occur because of cultural and etiquette rules, and learning each difference adds to the difficulty of learning English.

•language.

COLLOQUIALISMS

Throughout the world, each region uses different sayings to identify certain behavior or actions. In English, people might call someone a

18,

"bloke", a slang term meaning "man". In Georgia, someone might say a person "is as sweet as a peach", reflecting their kind personality and demeanor. Southerners in the United States often greet people with "v'all" and in the northeast, they say "hello". Each saying takes on a different meaning depending on the part of the country, making it difficult for those learning the language to differentiate what each saying means.

MEDIA EFFECT

The media's effect on learning a language makes it difficult to learn because of the constant barrage of messages, sayings and dialects people hear on a daily basis, because of media's portability. Internet viewing and satellite television make usual forms of media available just about anywhere. Movies and television also present the English language the way people speak it, which may be too fast a pace for those trying to learn.

Choice of language medium during the early years of schooling is a much debated issue. Most scholars argued for the use of mother tongue as the language medium as this is the language, which the child is most familiar with. This, when a second language is introduced as a language medium in the primary school years, it goes against the universally held notion of the mother tongue as the best primary school. The use of a second language as a language medium during the early years of schooling, for whatever reasons, will inevitably lead to learning. However, such problem does not override the crucial need to acquire a second language, especially those that has immense instrumental value.

Increasingly, the bilingual approach has been adopted to facilitate learning through a second language with mother tongue playing a

19

supplementary role. Viewed against this background, the implementation of the policy of teaching of science and mathematics in English in the Malaysian primary provides an interesting case for discussion. It is important to note here that there are three types of primary schools in Malaysia: National School or Malay medium primary school, Chinese primary school and Tamil primary school. All these

schools are being conducted in the mother tongue of the three main ethnic groups in Malaysia. National schools are main stream schools that cater all races. However, in the main, they fail to attract non-Malay students and these are predominantly attended by Malay students. The implementation of the policy of teaching science and mathematics in English in the primary schools has brought about a different dimension of learning to the students. It entails learning of science and mathematics through a second language as English is not the home language of most African countries. Its main aim is to ensure that students can acquire the required proficiency in English to fulfill the needs for employment in the private sector as well as to access scientific knowledge.

THE IMPACT OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN RURAL AREAS.

Communication is the tool by which people exchange thoughts, experiences and ideas. It's the foundation on which all political, social and business endeavours rest. Given this fact of life, it becomes apparent that the person who excels at communication will excel in all those areas related to communication. Teamwork, managing people, building products and services and interacting with customers. Have you probably worked with people who suffered from inadequate communication skills. You may have been confused or frustrated when you worked with them because you were unsure of what was happening what they meant to

convey to you. But not to be too critical; few people have the gift of remarkable communication skills and not enough people have been educated in the essentials of effective communication. In fact, you can probably recall a time where you had trouble conveying your thoughts or feelings to someone you were speaking with since communication is a requirement in every business setting, mastering more effective communication techniques can only improve our work relationships and allow us to spend more time focusing on the important aspects of work, rather than correcting wasteful and unnecessary miscommunication.

Like Arthur (1998) in effective communication, a message that is distributed is understood by the recipient in the way that it was originally intended. This type of communication is vitally important to the success of any business. When employees of a business stop communicating with one another, it can lead to internal problems that may never be resolved. It is also critically important to communicate with business partners and suppliers.

COMMUNICATION AND HUMAN RELATIONS.

Good communication throughout a business remains an integral part of a company's culture effective communication skills keep a firm running smoothly and strengthens relationships with clients. According to the Wisconsin Business Alumni association, managers "Spend 75 to 80 percent of their time engaged in some form of written or oral communication". The spoken and

written work may dominate, but listening and nonverbal cues also play a big role in communicating effectively within an organization.

Oral communication makes up the bulk of business communication today. Given the collaborative nature of business, the ability to work efficiently with a team makes oral communication imperative for success.

Voicemail, phone calls, meetings and client interactions all require knowledge of the topic at hand critical thinking ability and great interpersonal skills. Those skilled with oral communication are also typically good listeners who pay attention to verbal and nonverbal communication clues.

People communicate nonverbally via body language and facial expressions. Eye contact, gestures and proximity to the speaker are all examples of nonverbal communication. Most of the time, the non verbal communication people exhibit happens subconsciously or unintentionally it's important to pay attention to your body language and posture when speaking or listening to someone else. What you don't say can have just as big an impact as what you do. Being a good listener goes a long way in the corporate world. It endears you to colleagues and makes your life easier by letting you know what's going on. It can also help you figure out the best verbal response based on what you hear. Companies often advocate "active listening", which entails being fully engaged in the act of listening to a speaker, without distraction of any kind. Being an active listener increases the effectiveness of an organization by facilitating better understanding between colleagues.

Written communication in today's workplace commonly takes the form of email. Effective communication and proper etiquette are no less important in electronic form, than they are on the written page.

Follow the same rules of etiquette in email that you would in any other business setting. Many employees consider email the most effective form of office communication. It's fast, easy to access and simple to retrieve.

COMMUNICATION AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Business professionals rely on effective communication to build strong internal partnerships while developing a sound customer base. Whether asking permission to proceed with a plan or seeking an advance to move a corporate agenda forward, the way professionals express their ideas can impact how their audience perceive those concepts-poorly communicated ideas, even when fundamentally sound, often fail to interest their intended targets.

Effective communication requires two or more parties to engage in a cycle of feedback that shapes their next actions. For professionals to remain productive, communication should include a specific call to action, backed up by persuasive evidence that reinforces the desired, outcome. While a manager may choose to draft a memo to his team about a policy change, the conversations that ensue after the memo's publication often determine the success of that request. Ineffective workplace communication can inspire passive — aggressive behavior, including defacing a posted policy sign or a reversal of expected results.

Organizations can determine if business communication is effective by measuring results, according to Asha Kaul (2006). For instance, an ad campaign may "go viral", capturing the attention on millions of viewers. However, it can still fail if it neglects to generate any real revenue for a sponsor. Building "buzz" only counts if a business can convert a community's chatter into bottom line communication results. While the effectiveness of external communications produce more traceable revenue, internal communication leads to more advanced results, including behavioral changes of policy shifts.

Business professionals must learn to make distinctions between internal and external communication. In most companies' workplace culture defines the formality and the method of spreading ideas and sharing feedback. Some business rely heavily on emails, while others have built a culture of meetings. Likewise, organizations often use a narrow set of preferred communications channels to engage with customers. Mass media advertising campaigns should complement the conversations between customers and local sales or service agents. An employee who falls outside a campaigns' communication norms can be viewed as unauthentic or "off message".

Business professionals must learn to match the anticipated tone and style of communication, of risk alienating their audiences. For example, partners in an established law firm sanction employees whose informal communication style lacks detail or professionalism. Likewise, workers in a start-up technology company may alienate colleagues who come across stuffy or detached in their email or presentation. While Apple Day agencies often sip companies maintain consistency in their external communication, individual professionals must learn to mirror the style of their intended audience to achieve real effectiveness. Companies that achieve a culture of effective communication often benefit from enhanced productivity and deeper customer relationship. Teams that have developed tight feedback cycles often complete tasks more quickly, especially when they receive clear goals from leadership. Likewise, companies that understand how to efficiently communicate their value propositions earn more business while spending less money on advertising and public relations. Reduced employee churn and increased annual revenues both indicate that teams have developed highly functional communication skills.

PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATION IN BUSINESS CYCLE

Dominic Donaldson (2009) asserts that there are multitude of problem in business that are caused by ineffective communication. Misunderstandings, conflict, giving a business a negative image, lower productivity. Communication skill is the life blood of successful business enterprise and it takes many forms internal and external, in writing on the phone and in person.

Language is a primary barrier, and those conversing in two different languages run the risk of distorting the primary objective or meaning to the conversation. Effective communication can also be blocked by personal feelings between the parties... two people who are at enmity may well find that they are unable to communicate effectively as they let emotions override what is being said. Effective and clear communication is paramount, as without such targets and team goals will be blurred and disjointed, leaving the team unaware of what they are working to achieve. Poor English communication with external clients and consultants can also have damaging consequences. Unclear English to a clients will have them confused, and possibly disillusioned as to the service that you are providing.

Effective communication in the work place can be hampered by certain barriers, including a constantly closed office door or, mistrust between managers and direct reports, according to Eric Garner, owner of the management training company manage train learn. Com. Effective communication within a company between department and individual colleagues is essential for a productive working environment. Just as clear and professional communication with clients is imperative to secure and maximize business opportunities.

25

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF EFFECTIVE BUSINESS COMMUNICATION SKILLS

There are many elements that constitute effective communication. One of the primary considerations is the selection of the most appropriate method or medium. If you are communicating something which requires traceability then an e-mail or letter can be best, while other conversations are much better than face-to-face and can appear impersonal and lackadaisical if carried out expressly or basically in writing the case be. Every small piece of communication that comes from a company speaks volumes and makes an impact, whether it is good or bad, hence attention to detail is a major communication skill. Many organizations take for granted the ability to communicate effectively in writing or (on the phone) however many employees might not have received specialist training in these — disciplines people communicate

nonverbally via body language and facial expressions. Eye contact, gestures and proximity to the speaker are all examples of nonverbal communication. Most of the time, the non verbal communication people exhibit happens subconsciously or unintentionally. It's important to pay attention to your body language and posture when speaking or listening to someone else.

What you don't say can have just as big an impact as what you do.

Being a good listener goes a long way in the corporate world. It endears you to colleagues and makes your life easier by letting you know what's going on. It can also help you figure out the best verbal response based on what you hear. Companies often advocate "active listening", which entails being fully engaged in the act of listening to a speaker, without distraction of any kind. Being an active listener increases the effectiveness of an organization by facilitating better understanding between colleagues.

Written communication in today's workplace commonly takes the form of email. Effective communication and proper etiquette are no less important in electronic form than they are on the written page. Keep business correspondence professional. Use correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. Check every message before sending. Follow the same rules of etiquette in email that you would in any other business setting. Many employees consider email the most effective form of office communication. It's fast, easy to access and simple to retrieve.

Communication programs that effectively convey business strategies, objectives and goals, to various audiences like employees: The best strategy will fail if it cannot be communicated clearly and to the right people. Thus, effective business communication contains multifaceted and complex aspects.

Setting a specific objective or goal and deciding how to measure it ensure efficient and on target messages.