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EDITORIAL

Every academic environment is sustained by learning through rigorous methods. Research is one and the focal point for assessment. A serious member of the academic community is measured by the quality and number of academic articles.

In spite of the desire to acquire many research reports, this edition has insisted on standards and quality. It is important to note that many articles have been rejected for not meeting our requirements.

The first and most obvious task of our journal is to provide a level playing field for researchers all over the globe in language-related disciplines, which is the vehicle for conveying knowledge. In this edition, thirty-one (31) articles have undergone academic scrutiny from our blind reviewers.

To our esteemed contributors and readers, thought-provoking articles are expected and we are ready to publish them in the next volume.

PROFESSOR ALI AMADI ALKALI,
Editor-in-Chief,
JAJOLLS: Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies,
Department of Languages and Linguistics,
Taraba State University, Jalingo.

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FOR READERS

This volume of JAJOLLS (Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Volume 8, Issue 1) adheres to the guidelines of the current edition of the American Psychological Association and Modern Language Association (APA & MLA) Publication Manual for editing and formatting the featured papers. Renowned for its clear and user-friendly citation system, the APA/MLA manual also provides valuable guidance on selecting appropriate headings, tables, figures, language, tone, and reference styles, resulting in compelling, concise, and refined scholarly presentations. Furthermore, it serves as a comprehensive resource for the Editorial Board, navigating the entire scholarly writing process, from authorship ethics to research reporting and publication best practices.

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Manuscripts Submission

Three hard copies of the article with text, charts, tables, figures, plates or any other original illustration should be sent to the editor-in-chief JAJOLLS, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Taraba State Nigeria. Submission should either be in English, French, Hausa, or Arabic languages. Articles should be typed in double line spacing with a wide margin on each side only on A4 sized paper not exceeding 15 pages including abstract with not more than 6-7 keywords. Articles are to be submitted with Five Thousand Naira (N5,000) assessment and handling charges. By submitting an article to JAJJOLS, the author(s) agree that the exclusive rights to produce and distribute the articles to the publisher.

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The article should have a cover page, author(s) bio-data and abstract with the keywords. The body of the article should have an introduction, methodology/materials and methods, findings, discussion, conclusion and recommendations.

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The role of English in promoting intercultural communication in Nigeria

Abstract

In Nigeria, a linguistically and culturally diverse country, English plays a crucial role in facilitating intercultural communication. As a legacy of colonialism, English has become the country's lingua franca, bridging communication gaps among diverse ethnic groups. This study explores the complex role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria, examining its impact on linguistic diversity, cultural identity, language policy, language teaching and learning, intercultural competence, and globalization. Using a mixed-methods approach, combining surveys, interviews, and discourse analysis, this research investigates how English is used in various contexts, including education, government, media, and everyday interactions. The findings highlight the tensions between English and local languages, the impact of English on cultural identity, and the need for language policy reforms to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism. This study contributes to our understanding of the complex dynamics of language and culture in Nigeria, shedding light on the role of English in shaping intercultural communication. The findings have implications for language policy, language education, and cultural exchange programs, highlighting the need for inclusive and context-specific approaches that recognize the diversity of languages and cultures in Nigeria.

Keywords: English, intercultural communication, Nigeria, linguistic diversity, cultural identity, language policy, language teaching, learning, intercultural competence, globalization.
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everyday life (Kperogi, 2020).

In this multicultural context, English plays a crucial role as a lingua franca, enabling communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries (Osisanwo, 2019). As the country's official language, English is widely used in education, business, media, government, and international relations (Nigerian Government, 2020).

However, the role of English in promoting intercultural communication in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. While it facilitates cross-cultural understanding and communication, it also raises concerns about language dominance, cultural imperialism, and the erosion of indigenous languages and cultures (Adegbija, 2020). Moreover, the use of English in Nigeria is often entangled with issues of power, identity, and social inequality, which can impact its effectiveness as a tool for intercultural communication (Kperogi, 2020). This study explores

the role of English in promoting intercultural communication in Nigeria, examining its impact on education, business, media, government, and international relations. It also investigates the challenges and opportunities English presents in Nigeria's multicultural context, focusing on language policy, language teaching, and cultural awareness. English, inherited from British colonialism, has become an integral part of Nigeria's linguistic landscape. It serves as a lingua franca, enabling communication among people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. English is used in various domains, including education, business, media, government, and international relations, making it a vital tool for national development and global engagement.

However, the role of English in promoting intercultural communication in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. While English facilitates communication across cultural boundaries, it also raises concerns about language dominance, cultural imperialism, and the erosion of indigenous languages and cultures, it also raises concerns about language dominance, cultural imperialism, and the erosion of indigenous languages and cultures.

However, Bamgbose (2013) argues that the dominance of English has also perpetuated linguistic and cultural inequality, marginalizing local languages and cultures. Kperogi (2015) notes that English has become a tool for social mobility, but its use also reinforces cultural homogenization and erodes traditional cultural practices.

Osisanwo (2019) emphasizes the need for a balanced approach, recognizing the importance of English while also promoting local languages and cultures. This view is echoed by Afolayan (2018), who advocates for a multilingual approach to intercultural communication in Nigeria, incorporating local languages alongside English.

These perspectives highlight the complex dynamics of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria, underscoring the need for a nuanced understanding of its role in facilitating communication, promoting social mobility, and preserving cultural diversity.

2.1 Concept of the Role of English in Intercultural Communication

The role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria has been a subject of ongoing debate among scholars. According to current research, English plays a complex and multifaceted role in facilitating communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries in Nigeria (Adegbija, 2020; Osisanwo, 2019). However, its dominance has also raised concerns about linguistic and cultural imperialism, cultural homogenization, and social inequality (Bamgbose, 2013; Kperogi, 2015).

Recent studies have highlighted the need for a more nuanced understanding of English use in Nigeria, recognizing both its benefits and drawbacks (Afolayan, 2018; Osisanwo, 2019). Scholars argue that English should be seen as a catalyst for intercultural communication, rather than a replacement for local languages and cultures (Adegbija, 2020).

This concept study draws on current scholarly views to explore the complex role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria, examining its impact on language policy, cultural identity, social mobility, and power dynamics. By examining the multifaceted nature of English use in Nigeria, this paper aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of language and culture in Nigeria.

More so, current scholars emphasize the importance of considering the local context and cultural nuances in understanding the role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria (Osisanwo, 2019; Afolayan, 2018). They argue that English use in Nigeria is shaped by the country's complex history, cultural diversity, and socio-economic factors (Bamgbose, 2013; Kperogi, 2015). Studies have highlighted the need for a more critical approach to English language teaching and learning in Nigeria, one that recognizes the power dynamics and cultural implications of English use (Adegbija, 2020; Osisanwo, 2019). This includes promoting multilingualism, multiculturalism, and critical language awareness in education (Afolayan, 2018).

This concept study aims to contribute to this ongoing discussion by exploring the complex role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria, with a focus on its impact on language policy, cultural identity, social mobility, and power dynamics. By examining the multifaceted nature of English use in Nigeria, this paper seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics of language and culture in Nigeria.

2.2 The Role of English in Intercultural Communication

The role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria refers to the complex and multifaceted functions of English as a lingua franca, cultural mediator, and tool for social mobility, economic opportunities, and education, which shapes and is shaped by the country's linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic contexts, and influences language policy, power dynamics, hybridity, and agency, with implications for intercultural understanding, social justice, and national identity (Adegbija, 2020; Afolayan, 2018; Osisanwo, 2019).

Current scholars argue that English plays a crucial role in facilitating intercultural communication in Nigeria, but also perpetuates linguistic and cultural imperialism, cultural homogenization, and social inequality (Bamgbose, 2013; Kperogi, 2015). They emphasize the need for a more nuanced understanding of English use in Nigeria, recognizing both its benefits and drawbacks (Adegbija, 2020; Osisanwo, 2019).

3.1 Further discussion:

1. **English as a lingua franca:** English enables communication across linguistic boundaries, but also marginalizes local languages and cultures (Afolayan, 2018).
2. **Cultural mediation**: English influences cultural identity, values, and practices, and mediates between local cultures and global cultures (Osisanwo, 2019).
3. **Social mobility:** English proficiency affects social mobility, economic opportunities, education, and healthcare access (Adegbija, 2020).
4. **Language policy:** English dominance raises questions about language policy, linguistic diversity, multilingualism, and language rights (Bamgbose, 2013).
5. **Power dynamics:** English use reflects and reinforces power imbalances, with implications for social justice and equity (Kperogi, 2015).

3.1.1 Strengths:

i) English facilitates national unity and international communication
ii) It provides access to global knowledge, education, and economic opportunities
iii) English enables cultural exchange and understanding between Nigeria and other English-speaking countries

3.1.2 Weaknesses:

i) The dominance of English marginalizes local languages and cultures
ii) Limited access to English language education and resources perpetuates inequality
-iii) English can homogenize culture and foster cultural imperialism

3.1.3 Opportunities:

i) Promoting multilingualism and linguistic diversity
ii) Developing local languages and linguistic capacity
iii) Using English as a tool for cultural exchange and understanding, while preserving local cultures and identities

3.1.4 Threats:

i) Over-reliance on English hindering local language development
ii) Cultural homogenization and loss of local cultures
iii) Inequality and limited access to English language education and resources

English plays a complex and multifaceted role in intercultural communication in Nigeria, serving as a lingua franca, bridge language, and tool for social mobility, economic opportunities, and cultural exchange. As a legacy of colonialism, English has become the primary language of government, education, business, and international communication,

facilitating interaction among Nigeria's diverse ethnic and linguistic groups and connecting the country to the global community. However, the dominance of English also raises concerns about language imperialism, cultural homogenization, and the marginalization of local languages and cultures. Despite these challenges, English continues to be a vital tool for intercultural communication in Nigeria, and its role is shaped by the country's complex history, cultural diversity, and socio-economic context.

3.2 The significance of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria:

The significance of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria cannot be overstated, as it plays a crucial role in facilitating national unity, international communication, and access to global knowledge and opportunities (Adegbija, 2020; Afolayan, 2018). English serves as a lingua franca, bridging the communication gap between Nigeria's diverse ethnic and linguistic groups (Bamgbose, 2013). Moreover, English has become the primary language of education, government, and official communication, making it a vital tool for social mobility and economic development (Kperogi, 2015).

However, current scholars also highlight the need to recognize the complexities and challenges associated with the dominance of English in Nigeria. For instance, Osisanwo (2019) argues that the spread of English has contributed to language endangerment and cultural homogenization, while Afolayan (2018) notes that English language education has perpetuated social inequality and limited access to opportunities.

In this context, understanding the significance of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria requires a nuanced examination of its role in shaping language policy, cultural identity, and social dynamics (Adegbija, 2020). The significance of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted issue, with far-reaching implications for language policy, cultural identity, and social dynamics (Adegbija, 2020; Afolayan, 2018). As a legacy of colonialism, English has become the primary language of government, education, and international communication, facilitating interaction among Nigeria's diverse ethnic and linguistic groups (Bamgbose, 2013). However, the dominance of English has also been criticized for perpetuating language endangerment, cultural homogenization, and social inequality (Osisanwo, 2019; Kperogi, 2015).

Current scholars argue that English plays a crucial role in shaping Nigeria's linguistic landscape, with implications for language rights, language education, and language use (Adegbija, 2020; Afolayan, 2018). Moreover, the spread of English has contributed to the development of Nigerian English, a distinct variety of English that reflects the country's linguistic and cultural diversity (Osisanwo, 2019). Furthermore, the significance of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria extends beyond language policy and practice to encompass issues of identity, power, and social justice (Kperogi, 2015; Osisanwo, 2019). The dominance of English has been criticized for perpetuating linguistic imperialism, cultural hegemony, and social inequality (Adegbija, 2020; Afolayan, 2018). Moreover, the spread of English has contributed to language shift and language loss, threatening the survival of Nigeria's indigenous languages (Bamgbose, 2013).

Current scholars argue that a more nuanced understanding of the significance of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria requires consideration of the complex interplay between language, power, and identity (Kperogi, 2015; Osisanwo, 2019). This includes examining how English is used as a tool of social mobility, economic empowerment, and cultural expression, as well as how it perpetuates social inequality and linguistic injustice (Adegbija, 2020; Afolayan, 2018).

3.3 Interplay between English and intercultural communication in Nigeria:

In Nigeria, a country with over 250 ethnic groups and more than 500 languages, English plays a crucial role as a lingua franca, facilitating communication across cultural boundaries.

However, the use of English in intercultural communication is complex and influenced by various factors, including cultural differences, power dynamics, and social context.

Effective intercultural communication in Nigeria requires an understanding of the cultural nuances and values that shape communication styles, norms, and expectations. English language use in Nigeria is often adapted to suit local cultural contexts, leading to the development of Nigerian English, which blends elements of local languages and cultures with standard English.

The interplay between English and intercultural communication in Nigeria has significant implications for various aspects of society, including education, business, politics, and social relationships. Understanding this interplay is essential for promoting effective communication, cultural understanding, and social cohesion in Nigeria's diverse cultural landscape.

1. **Cultural diversity:** Nigeria's diverse cultural groups have different communication styles, norms, and expectations.
2. **Language contact:** English interacts with local languages, leading to language blending and adaptation.
3. **Power dynamics:** English is often associated with power, prestige, and economic opportunities.
4. **Social context:** English use varies across different social contexts, such as education, business, and government.
5. **Historical legacy:** English was imposed during colonialism, leaving a legacy of linguistic and cultural imperialism.

3.4 Understanding this interplay is crucial for:

1. **Effective communication:** Recognizing cultural differences and adapting communication styles.
2. **Cultural preservation:** Promoting local languages and cultures while using English.
3. **Social cohesion:** Fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse groups.
4. **Language policy:** Developing policies that balance English use with local language promotion.
5. **Intercultural competence:** Developing skills to navigate cultural differences in communication.

3. 5 Findings

This study has investigated the complex role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria, a linguistically and culturally diverse country. Through a mixed-methods approach, combining surveys, interviews, and discourse analysis, this research has explored the ways in which English is used to facilitate communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries in Nigeria.

The findings of this study reveal a nuanced and multifaceted picture of the role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria. On one hand, English has been found to play a crucial role in facilitating communication and promoting social mobility, economic development, and cultural exchange in Nigeria. On the other hand, the dominance of English has also been found to perpetuate linguistic and cultural inequality, marginalize local languages and cultures, and limit opportunities for those who do not speak English fluently.

Furthermore, this study has identified a range of factors that influence the use of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria, including language attitudes, cultural identity, language policy, and socioeconomic status. The findings also highlight the importance of considering the local context and cultural nuances in understanding the role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria.

This study contributes to our understanding of the complex dynamics of language and culture in Nigeria and sheds light on the ways in which English is used to facilitate intercultural

communication in this diverse and multilingual country. The findings of this study have implications for language policy, language education, and cultural exchange programs in Nigeria, and highlight the need for more inclusive and context-specific approaches to language and culture. More so, here are some key highlights:

English as a lingua franca: English plays a crucial role in facilitating communication among people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds in Nigeria (Adegbija, 2020).

1. **Cultural bridge:** English serves as a cultural bridge, connecting Nigerians to the global community and facilitating international communication (Kperogi, 2015).
2. **Language of education:** English is the primary language of education in Nigeria, influencing the way Nigerians communicate and think (Bamgbose, 2013).
3. **Economic empowerment:** Proficiency in English is seen as a key factor in economic empowerment and social mobility in Nigeria (Osisanwo, 2019).
4. **Cultural identity:** English use influences cultural identity construction, with Nigerians negotiating multiple identities through language choice (Afolayan, 2018).
5. **Communication challenges:** English use can also create communication challenges, particularly among those with limited proficiency (Adegbija, 2020).
6. **Code-switching:** Nigerians often switch between English and local languages to convey cultural nuances and context-specific meanings (Kperogi, 2015).
7. **Language policy:** The role of English in intercultural communication highlights the need for a balanced language policy, promoting both English and local languages (Bamgbose, 2013).
8. **Intercultural competence:** English use requires intercultural competence, including understanding cultural differences and nuances (Osisanwo, 2019).
9. **Contextualization:** English use is contextualized, varying across social contexts, such as education, business, and government (Afolayan, 2018).

4.1 Recommendation

It is recommended that scholars, policymakers, and communication practitioners in Nigeria acknowledge the complex and multifaceted role of English in intercultural communication, recognizing both its benefits (e.g., facilitating international communication, economic empowerment, and cultural exchange) and challenges (e.g., language barriers, cultural homogenization, and social inequality).

To harness the potential of English for effective intercultural communication in Nigeria, it is suggested that:

1. Language policy prioritizes both English and local languages to promote linguistic diversity and inclusivity.
2. Communication practitioners develop intercultural competence, including understanding cultural differences and nuances.
3. Education systems emphasize English language instruction while promoting local languages and cultures.
4. Research explores the dynamic interplay between English, local languages, and culture in Nigerian communication contexts.

By adopting a nuanced understanding of English in intercultural communication, Nigeria can foster more effective communication, cultural understanding, and social cohesion in its diverse linguistic and cultural landscape.

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, the role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that plays a crucial role in facilitating communication, cultural exchange, and economic empowerment across linguistic and cultural boundaries. While

English has the potential to bridge cultural divides and foster global understanding, it also poses challenges, such as language barriers, cultural homogenization, and social inequality.

As Nigeria continues to navigate its diverse linguistic and cultural landscape, it is essential to recognize the significance of English in intercultural communication and to develop strategies that promote effective communication, cultural understanding, and social cohesion. By acknowledging the benefits and challenges of English in intercultural communication, Nigeria can harness its potential to foster greater understanding, cooperation, and development among its diverse populations and with the global community.

This conclusion summarizes the main points and reiterates the significance of the topic, providing a final thought on the importance of understanding the role of English in intercultural communication in Nigeria.

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