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A CORPUS-BASED INVESTIGATION OF SEMANTIC MEANINGS OF NIGERIAN ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS ACCEPTED BY THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY IN 2020 AND 2025

BABANGIDA AHMED, PROFESSOR YUSUF MAITAMA ABUBAKAR AND PROFESSOR IDRIS MUSA OKPANACHI

Department of English and Linguistics, Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State Nigeria

Corresponding Author:

babangida2012ahmed@gmail.com

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Abstract

This corpus-based seeks to explore the semantic creativity of the accepted unique Nigerian English words and expressions by the Oxford English dictionary in 2020 and 2025. Using the Nigerian component of international corpus of English as a source of data for the research. The method of data analysis for this study is a qualitative method. The qualitative research is a type of research that focuses on non-numeric data in form of text. The findings of the research has discovered the semantic creativity of each word and expression that occurred in the ICE-Nigeria according to the text and reflect the country's cultures, social, and political context of the Nigerian society. The finding shows that most of the words and expressions have a literal meanings and are more frequently used than the idiomatic one in the ICE-Nigeria. Research shows that there is an avoidance the use of the idiomatic category of words and expressions by the Nigerian speakers of the English because it is difficult to understand.The research recommends Scholars who are interested in studying Nigerian English should use the Nigerian Component of the International Corpus of English (ICE-Nigeria) to investigate the various semantic creativity of Nigerian English words and expressions. More instructional materials should provides that can helps the teachers and students in teaching and learning of the recent words and expressions that have been accepted by the Oxford English Dictionary in 2020 and 2025.

Keywords: Corpus, Nigerian English, Variety of Nigerian English, Evolution of Nigerian English, Features of Nigerian English.

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Introduction

In 2020 and 2025 the Oxford English dictionary have been accepted of some Nigerian English words and expressions. In 2020 twenty-nine (29) Nigerian English words and expressions were added in the Oxford English dictionary and also twenty (20) words and expressions were added in Oxford English dictionary in 2025. The Oxford English Dictionary has recognized and included Nigerian words and expressions, acknowledging the country's contribution to the English language. This recognition highlights the growing influence of Nigerian English on global language and culture. Nigerian English plays a significant role in the country's linguistic landscape, serving as a lingua franca and a means of communication across different ethnic and linguistic groups. It is also an important aspect of Nigerian identity and culture, reflecting the country's history, creativity, and diversity. Nigerian English refers to the variety of the English language spoken and used in Nigeria, a country with a rich linguistic and cultural diversity. Nigerian English has evolved over time, influenced by the country's complex history, cultural heritage, and linguistic traditions. Nigerian English incorporates words and expressions from local languages, such as Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo, as well as pidgin English. Nigerian English has its own accent and pronunciation patterns, shaped by the phonology of local languages. Nigerian English often reflects the country's cultural values, traditions, and social norms.

Nigerian English is a vibrant and dynamic variety of the English language, shaped by the country's rich cultural heritage and linguistic traditions. Its unique characteristics, importance, and recognition make it an interesting area of study and exploration.

Nigerian English words and expressions are Dynamic and always new expressions are emerging from technological advancements, cultural shifts and creative expression, while the existing expressions acquire new meanings as a result of these, there are needs to investigates semantic creativity of these words and expressions according to the concordance lines in the ICE-Nigeria. This study aim at investigating the semantic creativity of the accepted words and expressions used in Nigerian context by use the Nigerian component of the International Corpus of English (ICE-Nig.).The used of Nigerian English words and expressions in the country has become more widespread, leading to the development of unique expressions, and grammatical structures that reflect the country's cultures, social, and political context. This investigation is important in the field of linguistics, particularly in the area of Nigerian English. This study endeavors to contribute to the understand the dynamic linguistic landscape of Nigerian English by addressing the gap in research on recently adopted words and expressions in Nigerian English by the Oxford English dictionary.This research is significant for the teachers and students.

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Many research have been conducted on Nigerian English expressions. Most of these studies have relied solely on quantitative methods, neglecting qualitative corpus-based methods. Therefore, there is a need for a qualitative methods approach that can provide a more comprehensive understanding of Nigerian English words and expressions. This study fills the gap by imploying qualitative methods to investigate the semantic creativity of the accepted Nigerian English words and expressions expressions by the Oxford English dictionary in 2020 and 2025 by employed a corpus-based approach and recognized their profound impact in Nigerian English.

Review of Literature

Concept of Corpus

A corpus is defined as a principle collection of texts that serves as a representative sample of a given language or dialect (Sinclair, 1991). It contains various linguistic information, including words, structures, meanings and discourses and is used for linguistic analysis. Corpora are invaluable resources for studying language use in different contexts and for investigating patterns of usage associated with different speakers or users (McEnery & Hardie, 2011). By analyzing corpora, researchers can gain insights into language variation, change and evolution over time (Leech, 1992). Corpora are also used to inform language teaching and learning practices, lexicography, translation studies and computational linguistics (Hunston & Francis, 2000).Corpus linguistics is the study of language which essentially relies on natural use of language, with a goal to uncovering hidden patterns of usage associated with different speakers/users (Krieger 2003). According to Gries (2009), corpus analysis is conducted with the help of computer technology, which, amongst others, allows the linguist to manipulate large data with a view to arriving at usage patterns in the form of frequency listing, concordances, and collocations of the linguistic features being investigated.

Corpus linguistics is an empirical method of analysis and linguistic descriptions to examine the language spoken by speakers naturally (Cheng, 2012). The development of modern linguistics is graced with emergence a relatively "new" branch of science, namely corpus linguistics. This science is specifically examines language through a set of data that is natural, real according to its use, both written data and oral data which is transcribed (Adolphs, 2006). According to the definition, a corpus is a collection of data, both ordinary data and digital data, in written form containing various kinds of linguistic information, starting from the level of words, structures, meanings, and discourses, which can be used for research (Hizbullah et al., 2016). Corpus-based study methods have proven established in linguistic research and have expanded most of its methods and language analysis techniques to other disciplines such as lexicology, terminology, language teaching and

translation (Candel-mora & Vargas needed to use some words as triggers in the application.

Concept of Nigerian English

Nigerian English can be defined from both broad and narrow perspectives. Broadly speaking, Nigerian English is commonly defined as the English spoken by Nigerians, encompassing a wide range of variations and styles. This perspective acknowledges that English in Nigeria is used in diverse contexts, from formal settings to casual conversations, and may exhibit varying degrees of influence from local languages and cultures and spoken by speakers of varying lev□els of competence. From a narrow perspective, Nigerian English refers to 'the phonological, grammatical, and lexical properties that distinguish the English used in Nigeria from varieties of English elsewhere' (Jowitt, 2019). Thisperspective focuses on the specific linguistic features that distinguish Nigerian English from other varieties of English.

It highlights the unique phonological (pronunciation), grammatical (sentence structure) and lexical (vocabulary) char□acteristics that have emerged due to the interaction of English with Nigerian languages and cultural contexts. This perspective emphasises the systematic nature of these differences, often showing the extent to which Nigerian English has developed its own distinct linguistic norms. In essence, the broad perspective emphasises the sociolinguistic reality of English usage in Nigeria, while the narrow perspective focuses on the linguistic characteristics that set Nigerian English apart as a distinct variety.

The increasing use of Nigerian English and its promotion as a legitimate variety of English has resulted in a bourgeoning of research on the variety from a wide range of linguistic standpoints (Jowitt, 2019, also see Jowitt & Ugwuanyi, 2025, in this issue for an overview). Following Walsh's (1967) pioneering work on Nigerian English, argurments for and against the existence of Nigerian English were particularly rife in the mid-20th century. Scholars who argue against the existence of Nigerian English as a legitimate variety of English (Eyisi, 2003; Vincent, 1974) perceive it as usage errors and deficits that must be discarded in favour of Received Pronunciation. Jowitt (2019) refers to this group of scholars as rejecters and prescriptivists. Scholars favouring Nigerian English (Bamgbose, 1982; Jowitt, (2019) see it as a legitimate variety of English that deserves sustained scholarly attention. As is, the debate on whether there is a Nigerian English variety has waned because there have been increasing discussions of Nigerian English both in academic and non-academic spaces. Further argument in support of the status of Nigerian English as a independent variety of English is that it meets the four criteria used to classify New Englishes (Brunner, 2017). First, Nigerian English developed as a result of British

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colonialism and spread through education. Second, Nigerian English is spoken in a multilingual society in which it co-exists alongside many Nigerian languages. Third, it performs formal and official functions in sites of power, such as education, media and business. Finally, Nigerian English results from the nativisation of English in Nigeria, as evidenced by the presence of specific phonetic patterns, unique grammatical structure and local vocabulary items.

Adegbite (2003) Nigerian English refers to the variety of English spoken as a second language in Nigeria, characterized by its unique blend of indigenous languages, cultural influences, and English language features. Bamgbose (1995) Nigerian English is a distinct linguistic code that has emerged from the interaction between English and Nigerian languages, with its own rules, norms, and conventions that are different from those of Standard British English.

According to Adegbite (2003) Nigerian English is a unique blend of British English, American English, and indigenous Nigerian languages, characterized by its own distinct accent, vocabulary, and grammatical structures. Jowitt (1991) Nigerian English refers to the English language as used in Nigeria, characterized by its own distinct lexical, phonological, and syntactic features, which reflect the cultural, social, and linguistic contexts of the country.

Variety of Nigerian English

Due to the many years of coexistence of the English Language with indigenous Nigerian languages and its use for expressing Nigerian experiences and situations, it has developed linguistic patterns that identify it as a distinct variety of world Englishes (Udofot, 2004). Due to diverse ethnic and cultural orientations, there are too many varieties of English that have developed in the country. Thus, this discussion will identify the varieties that are relevant for characterizing the problems and prospects of Nigerian English.

a. Variety one is spoken by people with elementary school education and semi-literate people. It is marked by a high rate of negative transfer from the phonological system of the mother tongue and is not acceptable even by Nigerians.
b. Variety two is spoken by post-primary school leavers. In this variety, mother tongue interference is minimal, but the speakers do not make vital phonemic distinctions. The brand is largely intelligible and nationally acceptable.
c. Variety three is associated with university education. The speakers make vital phonemic distinctions and the variety is accepted and understood nationally and internationally.
d. Variety four is described as being identical with standard British English but is ridiculed in Nigeria for being artificial.

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Evolution of Nigerian English

Pinpointing the exact evolution of the English language in what is now Nigeria presents a challenge due to historical complexities. The history of English in Nigeria can be divided into five stages, drawing from Schneider' s (2007) dynamic model of the evolution of Postcolonial Englishes.

Five Stages of Nigerian English Evolution

a. **Initiation:** The initiation stage marks the introduction of English by British slave traders and missionaries in the 18th and 19th centuries. While the slave traders may have arrived earlier, it was the missionaries who played a significant role in the propagation of the English language through education. The emergence of Coastal English, characterized by lexical borrowings and limited domains of usage, laid the groundwork for further linguistic development (Bamgbose, 1971). Despite initial resistance, the missionaries and traders actively promoted the language, laying the foundation for its future growth.

b. Foundation: The foundation stage saw the consolidation of English as a medium of communication with the arrival of colonial masters in 1842. English began to assume roles beyond evangelism, expanding into government, education and other sectors. Government ordinances further institutionalized English education, leading to a wider adoption of the language. The cultural and educational dominance of English over indigenous languages began to solidify during this period, setting the stage for its eventual naturalization.

c. Stabilization: During the stabilization stage, English and indigenous languages coexisted more harmoniously as bilingualism became more widespread. Positive attitudes towards English and its role in education led to its increasing prominence, with vernacular languages being marginalized in educational settings. Missionary schools played a crucial role in importing English teachers from England, further standardizing the language and transmitting cultural norms.

d. Naturalization: The naturalization stage marked the Nigerianization of English, with the language adapting to local linguistic and cultural needs. Experimentation and creativity flourished, leading to the development of new norms and linguistic forms. The attainment of independence in 1960 and the establishment of educational institutions further cemented English as the lingua franca, fostering vocabulary innovations and semantic extensions unique to Nigerian English.

e. Individuation: In the individuation stage, Nigerian English differentiated itself from British English, adapting to local linguistic systems while retaining its own norms and conventions. Recognition of two distinct varieties of English emerged, each serving

different linguistic and cultural needs. The term Nigerian English was coined to describe this unique variety, which has since been the subject of scholarly study and scientific inquiry, revealing peculiarities at various linguistic levels

Features of Nigerian English

Odumuh (1993) states that code-mixing is another major influence of some features that distinguish Nigerian English from other forms of English language in other parts of the world. These he categorizes into lexical, semantic, syntactic and phonological usages at both the spoken and written levels.

a. Morphological Feature

One of the features of Nigerian English is affixation. Although some prefix and suffix items might surprise English native speakers, most of them share their cores in both form and meaning with Nigerian first languages. Conversely, suffixation is quite striking in Nigerian English. The following examples may not be common for native speakers. The pattern used in these instances is simply verb + able = adjectives. The examples are shown below:

Table 1: Uncommon Suffixation Pattern in Nigerian English

Suffix	Meaning
Danceable	Able to dance
Hearable	Able to be heard
Walkable	Ability to walk to the target point
Poundable	Something that can be pounded
Writeable	Something that can be noted

b. Syntactic Features of Nigerian English

The adaptation of Nigerians to the English language and the acceptance of English as a second language have created new syntactic features that distinguish Nigerian English from Standard English. The syntactic features of Nigerian English is called Deviance. Deviance is a term used in linguistic analysis to refer to a sentence (or its units) that does not conform to the rules of grammar, i.e., it is ill. The reason for deviance in Nigerian English is that Nigerian learners often do not continue studying the language beyond age 16. If a person has no use for the language, a speaker will naturally revert to using his or her first language. Table shows the differences between Nigerian English and Standard English.

This table shows the differences between Nigerian English and British English

Nigerian English	Standard English
I hear English.	I understand English.
I can hear a smell.	I can sense a smell.
The food is too sweet.	The food is delicious.
Don' t move with bad boys.	Don' t associate with bad boys.
They are calling you.	He is calling you.

c. Semantic Feature of Nigerian English

There are a large number of lexical items and expressions which have undergone semantic change in Nigerian usage compared to British Standard English. Some examples are highlighted below:

Academician – used to refer to an academic person instead of academic.

Answer (e.g. He answers Tope) instead of ' His name is Tope'

Colonial masters – used to refer to the British in their role of exercising political control in Nigeria before independence.

Correct (e.g. your head is not correct) means somebody has a psychological problem or a way of describing someone as a fool.

Light – meaning electricity (e.g. there is no light).

d. Phonological Feature of Nigerian English

In the area of phonology, we have the problem of interference of the mother tongue on the pronunciation of some English words by Nigerian speakers of English. This occurs because some sounds in English are not available in some of the Nigerian languages. Hence, some Yoruba speakers of English often substitute the sound /f/ for /v/ and /s/ for /z/ and thereby pronounce wrongly words like: van /væn/ as /fæn/; zoo /zu:/ as /su:/ etc. Also, the articulation of the English phonemes /p/ and /f/ presents problems to Hausa speakers of English. For example /f/ is substituted for /p/ in the word ' people' pronounced as /fi:ful/ instead of /pi:pul/

These peculiarities features of Nigerian English differentiate it from other varieties of English in the world. These features can help us to analyze of recently accepted lexicals in Nigerian English.

Methodology

The source of data used for this study is Nigerian component of the International Corpus of English (ICE-NIG), Daily Trust (Nigeria) Newspaper and the Punch newspaper. The data was extracted from these to be used by the researcher in the analysis.

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The ICE-Nigeria. (usually abbreviated as ICE-NIG) is the Nigerian component of the International Corpus of English. The ICE-Nigeria. is a useful source of data for research in Nigerian English studies. It provides the data for research on English usage by educated Nigerian speakers. In October 2007, the compilation of ICE-Nig. started and realised in 2013. The project was coordinated by Professor Ulrike Gut of the University of Augsburg, Germany. The principal aim of the project was to compile a one-million word corpus of both spoken and written English used in Nigeria at the beginning of the 21st century

The data have specifically been collected from fourteen files both edited and unedited files of the ICE-Nigeria**.** The data were collected using AntConc 4.2.0 (Dev) (Windows) in 2022. A freeware corpus analysis toolkit designed for concordance and text analysis. To facilitate this, the International Corpus of English for Nigeria (ICE-NIG) is imported into the AntConc. The Nigerian English words and expressions searched one after the other by using the AntConc' s concordance. The collected data from ICE-NIG the concordance lines is copyed and pasted into a Microsoft file. The data printed so as to facilitate the observation processes. Where the expressions appeared once or more within sentences.In this case, the researcher checked back from the concordance lines the right words to be considered. Then the right expressions were highlighted as the right words and expressions. This procedure used for extracting the data. To determined which of the concordance lines is selected as the composition of the data, the toolkit then be utilized to investigate the semantic creativity of the accepted Nigerian English words and expressions in the ICE-Nigeria.

The research employs a comprehensive approach to data analysis, incorporating of qualitative technique for effective analysis of the data. The qualitative research is a type of research that focuses on non-numeric data in form of text. All the concordance lines were selected to determine the semantic creativity of the words and expressions in the ICE-Nigeria.

Data presentation and analysis

This section attempts to answer the research question qualitatively by employed the ICE-Nigeria. The central question that this research aims to answer is: "What are the semantic meanings and creativity of the accepted Nigerian English words and expressions in the ICE-Nigeria?" The findings of the study have been driven by the textual nature of the data. In this section, one concordance line used from each expression to analyzed the text for the purpose to determine the semantic meanings creativity of each words and expression based on concordance line and how these expressions are used in the ICE-Nigeria are given. The following are the analysis of the words, expressions and brief discussion under them:

An Analysis of the Texts

1- .....within the university , parents are making adequate financial sacrifices in Okada hence their children deserve the basic school amenities which (bl_19.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "okada" in the given text:

1. Denotation: "Okada" refers to a motorcycle or motorbike.
2. Connotation: Neutral, implying a common mode of transportation.
3. Semantic Field: "Okada" belongs to a semantic field related to transportation and mobility.
4. Cultural reference: In Nigerian culture, "okada" is a popular mode of transportation.
5. Tone: Neutral, focusing on the context of transportation rather than emotional tone.

2- .....video materials, public speech , discussion , special occasions, family and bedroom gist meetings, etc My ticket and others have also reached (sl_06□×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "gist" in the given text:

1. Denotation: "Gist" refers to informal conversation or chat.
2. Connotation: Casual, relaxed, and possibly intimate or private.
3. Semantic Field: "Gist" belongs to a semantic field related to communication, conversation, and social interaction.
4. Colloquial usage: "Gist" is often used in informal contexts, such as social media, text messages, or casual conversations.
5. Tone: Neutral to informal, implying a relaxed atmosphere.

3- ..... to go ahead and deceive the electorate that the Yobe Guber tussle is over , and therefore, the door is open (bl_03.×ml)

The semantic analysis of "Guber" involves understanding its meaning, context, and implications.

1. Denotation: "Guber" refers to gubernatorial or governorship-related issues.
2. Connotation: Informal, colloquial, or regional usage.
3. Semantic Field: Politics, governance, and elections.
4. Pragmatic Implication: The use of "Guber" implies a casual or familiar tone, possibly indicating a regional or cultural context.

4- ..... go Lagos no hard, to return na'im be the wahala , it was upon the shifting ground from live -and- (nov_10.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "wahala" in the given text:

1. Denotation: "Wahala" refers to trouble, problem, or difficulty.
2. Connotation: Negative, implying a challenging or unpleasant situation.

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3. Semantic Field: "Wahala" belongs to a semantic field related to challenges, difficulties, and problems.
4. Cultural reference: "Wahala" is a Nigerian Pidgin English term commonly used in West Africa.
5. Tone: Informal, conversational tone, possibly with a hint of frustration or concern.

5- ..... us here. Remain in His love ! And until tomorrow, bye Oga I beg no vex o! I been dey think (sl_28.×ml)
The semantic analysis of the term "oga" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Oga" refers to a superior, boss, Senior or elder.
2. Connotation: Respectful, deferential, or affectionate.
3. Semantic Field: Social hierarchy, power, respect, authority.
4. Cultural reference: "Oga" is a Nigerian Pidgin English term used to show respect or deference.
5. Tone: Polite, respectful, and possibly humorous.
6- ..... Nigeria and stop receiving ourselves by the free education (whether qualitative or not) programme of most states and federal government (bl_17.×ml)
The semantic analysis of the term "qualitative" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Qualitative" refers to the quality or standard of education.
2. Connotation: Implies evaluation, assessment, or judgment of quality.
3. Semantic Field: Education, quality, standards.
4. Contextual implication: Questions the effectiveness or excellence of the free education program.
5. Tone: Critical, skeptical
7- .....was not original, I told him how England was colonised severally for centuries by various countries and empires including France, (PHum_19.×ml)
The semantic analysis of the term "severally" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Severally" means repeatedly, multiple times, or on several occasions.
2. Connotation: Implies frequency, recurrence, or a series of events.
3. Semantic Field: Time, frequency, repetition.
4. Contextual implication: Emphasizes the repeated colonization of England.
5. Tone: Neutral, informative.

8- .....he had pledged to make the entire community an unpleasant Zone for any party other than the ACP. When the (nol_16.×ml)
The semantic analysis of the term "Zone" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Zone" refers to a designated area or region.

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2. Contextual meaning: In this context, "Zone" implies a state of being or a condition, rather than a physical location.
3. Metaphorical extension: The usage of "Zone" here is a metaphorical extension, where a physical concept (geographic area) describes an abstract concept (state of being).
4. Connotation: The phrase "unpleasant Zone" has a negative connotation, implying exclusion, hostility, or discomfort.
5. Semantic field: The term "Zone" belongs to the semantic fields of geography, politics, and social dynamics.
6. Tone: The tone of the text is formal, political, and slightly adversarial.

9- ..... of its products (and those of Boulos in Lagos) made tokunbo motorcycles, which were very popular up to the late 90 (PTc_19.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "tokunbo" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Tokunbo" refers to a used or second-hand item, particularly vehicles.
2. Contextual meaning: In this context, "tokunbo" describes the origin or condition of the motorcycles.
3. Cultural reference: "Tokunbo" is a Nigerian term, derived from the Yoruba language, commonly used to describe imported used goods.
4. Connotation: Neutral, informative, implying a pre-owned or imported used item.
5. Semantic field: Commerce, trade, vehicles.
6. Tone: Formal, objective, informative.

10- .....and I shall always give it to them, Let monkey chop and let baboon chop, and let palaver short". At (nov_15.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "chop" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Chop" refers to eating or consuming food.
2. Connotation: Implies sharing, distribution, or enjoyment of resources.
3. Semantic Field: Food, consumption, sharing.
4. Idiomatic usage: "Let monkey chop and let baboon chop" is an idiomatic expression meaning "let everyone have a share" or "let everyone benefit".
5. Tone: Informal, conversational, possibly humorous.

11- .....May God visit you with favour and mercy throughout the' ember' month. How 're you and how's studies and (bl_29.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "ember month" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Ember month" refers to the last four months of the year (September to December).
2. Connotation: Implies a period of reflection, gratitude, and seeking blessings.
3. Semantic Field: Time, seasons, spirituality.

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4. Cultural reference: "Ember month" is a term commonly used in Nigerian culture, particularly in Christian traditions.
5. Tone : Spiritual, benevolent, and well-wishing.

12- .....office of dubious sanitation and dangerously peppery fare, called Executive Buka, which was heavily patronized by the banking-finance company (Nov_05.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "buka" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Buka" refers to a local, informal eatery or food stall.
2. Connotation: Implies a casual, rustic, or traditional dining experience.
3. Semantic Field: Food, culture, informality.
4. Cultural reference: "Buka" is a Nigerian term, particularly in the Yoruba culture.
5. Tone: Informal, descriptive.

13- .....known. In fact, lead has been described as the most severe environmental contaminant to arise in human civilization (Smith and (ANsc_08.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "severe" in the given context:
1. Denotation: "Severe" means extreme, serious, or intense.
2. Connotation: Implies a high level of danger, harm, or negative impact.
3. Semantic Field: Intensity, extremity, danger.
4. Contextual implication: Emphasizes the significant threat posed by lead as an environmental contaminant.
5. Tone: Formal, objective, and informative.

14- .....my father and my uncle Ayeni. Between Oshogbo and Apata Aje Station I rode on a train for the first (nov_07.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "Aje" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Aje" refers to a place or location.
2. Connotation: Geographical, spatial.
3. Semantic Field: Place, location, geography.
4. Contextual implication: Specifies a train station, "Apata Aje station".
5. Tone: Neutral, informative.

15- .....dey think say I get time sidon write you abi find time for Skype make we talk, but I (sl_28.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "abi" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Abi" denotes a question or inquiry, seeking confirmation or clarification.
2. Connotation: The term "abi" connotes a sense of sarcasm, irony, or mocking tone.
3. Semantic Field: "Abi" belongs to a semantic field related to questioning, inquiry, and confirmation.
4. Collocates: Words that often collocate with "abi" include "think", "say", and "find".

5. Pragmatic Function: "Abi" serves as a pragmatic marker, used to express the speaker's attitude or tone.
6. Tone: The tone associated with "abi" is informal, conversational, and slightly sarcastic.
7. Cultural Reference: "Abi" is a common feature of Nigerian Pidgin English, reflecting the cultural and linguistic context of the text.
16- .....and the future of the business.Over the years, Adire fabrics(Tie and Dye), also known as Kampala, has (PScs_14.×ml)
In this text, the term "Adire" has the following semantic meanings:
1. Denotation: "Adire" refers to a type of textile fabric, specifically a traditional Yoruba fabric from Nigeria.
2. Connotation: The term "Adire" connotes cultural heritage, tradition, and African identity.
3. Semantic Field: "Adire" belongs to a semantic field related to textiles, fashion, and cultural artifacts.
4. Synonyms: "Adire" is also known as "Tie and Dye" or "Kampala", indicating its connection to specific textile techniques and styles.
5. Cultural Reference: "Adire" is deeply rooted in Yoruba culture and tradition, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria.
17- .....and hardened from ill-use- held a steaming plate of eba. A tiny piece of meat cowed like a shame- (nov_12.×ml)
The semantic analysis of the term "eba" in the given text:
1. Denotation: "Eba" refers to a type of traditional Nigerian food made from cassava flour, similar to fufu.
2. Connotation: The term "eba" connotes warmth, comfort, and familiarity, evoking a sense of home and culture.
3. Semantic Field: "Eba" belongs to a semantic field related to food, cuisine, and cultural heritage.
4. Collocates: Words that often collocate with "eba" include "plate", "steaming", and "food".
5. Cultural Reference: "Eba" is a staple food in Nigerian cuisine, particularly in Igbo and Yoruba cultures.
6. Tone: The tone associated with "eba" is one of nostalgia and simplicity.
7. Pragmatic Function: "Eba" serves as a cultural marker, highlighting the protagonist's connection to their heritage.
18- ..... I was taught it on my arrival and stay in Edo. It is completely unknown in the Igbo nation , the (sl_25.×ml)
The semantic analysis of the term "Edo" in the given text:

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1. Denotation: "Edo" refers to a state in Nigeria, specifically Edo State.
2. Connotation: The term "Edo" connotes cultural and geographical identity.
3. Semantic Field: "Edo" belongs to a semantic field related to geography, culture, and ethnicity.
4. Cultural Reference: "Edo" is associated with the Edo people, their language, and traditions.
5. Contrast: The text contrasts "Edo" with the "Igbo nation", highlighting cultural and geographical differences.
6. Tone: The tone associated with "Edo" is neutral, providing cultural and geographical context.

19- ..... in journalism; as quacks selling their by -lines for a Kobo. In medical practice they are there, in law they (ed_22.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "kobo" in the given text:

1. Denotation: "Kobo" is the smallest unit of Nigerian currency.
2. Connotation: The term "kobo" implies a very small amount of money.
3. Semantic Field: "Kobo" belongs to a semantic field related to finance, money, and economics.
4. Idiomatic usage: In this context, "for a kobo" is an idiomatic expression meaning "for a very low price" or "cheaply".
5. Tone: The tone associated with "kobo" is one of disdain or disapproval, implying that selling something for a kobo is undervaluing it.

20- ..... voice mail has been responded to on his return from Naija. It appears he is very busy so I can't (sl_27.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "Naija" in the given text:

1. Denotation: "Naija" is a colloquial or informal term for Nigeria.
2. Connotation: The term "Naija" has a positive, affectionate, or patriotic connotation.
3. Semantic Field: "Naija" belongs to a semantic field related to geography, culture, and national identity.
4. Informal usage: "Naija" is often used in informal contexts, such as social media, text messages, or casual conversations.
5. Tone: The tone associated with "Naija" is neutral or slightly positive, implying familiarity or affection for the country.

21- .....new laptop has not been able to connect me with yahoo account in my room here. Only My account enters (sl_13.×ml)

The semantic analysis of the term "Yahoo" in the given text:

1. Denotation: "Yahoo" refers to the popular internet service provider and web portal.

2. Contextual meaning: In this context, "Yahoo" specifically refers to the user's email account.
3. Semantic field: Technology, internet, email.
4. Connotation: Neutral, informative.
5. Tone: Informal, conversational.

Discussion of the findings

The analyses of the Nigerian English words and expressions portrayed that most of the words and expressions demonstrate of literal meanings while very few of the words and expressions have of idiomatic meanings and some words and expressions have metaphorical extension. Examples of the expressions with idiomatic meanings are:. Idiomatic usage: "Let monkey chop and let baboon chop" is an idiomatic expression meaning "let everyone have a share" or "let everyone benefit". Another example of Idiomatic usage: In this context, "for a kobo" is an idiomatic expression meaning "for a very low price" or "cheaply".

The analyses discloses that Nigerian English is vibrant and creative language variety that reflects the social, cultural and linguistic diversity of Nigeria English expressions.The above analysis presented the semantic meaning and creativity of twenty one Nigerian English words and expressions that occurred in the Nigerian component of the International Corpus of English (ICE-NIG) and analysed them according to the texts.

Conclusion

The study has discovered the semantic creativity of each word and expression that occurred in the ICE-Nigeria according to the text. The finding shows that most of the Nigerian English words and expressions have a literal meanings and are more frequently used than the idiomatic one in the ICE-Nigeria. Research shows that there is an avoidance the use of the idiomatic category of words and expressions by the Nigerian speakers of the English because it is difficult to understand.

Recommendation

1- Teachers and materials developers of English language in Nigeria should focus their attention more on semantic creativity of Nigerian English words and expressions were added in the Oxford English dictionary in 2020 and 2025 editions.
2- Scholars who are interested in studying Nigerian English should use the Nigerian Component of the International Corpus of English (ICE-Nigeria) to investigate the various semantic creativity of Nigerian English words and expressions of the Nigerian variety of English.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Prof. S. T. Addo [GHANA]

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