

In essence, to interact on the-Internet you must have a knowledge of English or French languages. Inability_ to communicate in any of these languages makes it difficult to interact with other members of the global village. The question is for how long will indigenous Nigerian languages speakers remain behind? To be relevant as members of global village, one will go along with the findings of Gerjets (et al) (2008) which note that learners can select themes and compare multiple instances of them (i.e. scenes) with regards to their commonalities and differences.

This example signifies that African languages on the Internet will bring people of common interest together.

The irony of it all-is that the letters of Nigerian languages have not been included in computer keyboard, the effort made so far are few software packages, prepared in local languages. For example to have a complete representation of the Yoruba vowels, the cognate sounds which are represented by diacritics dash or dot as in o (òw), e (èṣ) should be , included on computer keyboards, it is even more difficult to put intonation marks on Yoruba words if computer is to be used without the Yoruba keyboards.

Taking all these into consideration there is the need to give Nigerian languages wider exposure and good orientation. Instructional packages of Nigeria languages can be launched into the Internet, this will give room for learners all over the globe to start learning the languages. It will eventually open up avenues for indigenous Nigerians to interact globally. As cited in Odunsi (1991) cited by Makinde (2002) stated that there is no foreign language that can adequately or effectively take the place of the indigenous language and to disregard the indigenous languages will be tantamount to jeopardizing the mental development of the child. Therefore if Nigerian indigenous language is not incorporated into the Internet, the use of Internet will remain a mystery to a large groups of Nigerians.

Such words like "Chat on line" "Web browser" "Net space" "Navigator" "Microsoft" "Hyper Text" "Make up language" will remain riddle to a fraction of Nigerians who can only read in local languages. It becomes necessary for this research to create awareness on how indigenous Nigerian languages can be launched into the internet and how it can be packaged into software for non-Nigerians to learn. In order to carry out this study effectively, the following hypotheses were formulated and tested at .05 level of probability.

1. The proportion of Nigerians who can read only the local languages and need to surf the net is not different from the people who have good knowledge of English language and need to surf the net.
2. Preference for surfing the net is not related to the effective knowledge of English language.

Methodology

The research design adopted is that of survey method which includes data collection from a defined population using the questionnaire. The Cybercafes in Lagos State formed the target population of the study. The stratified random sampling was used to select 24 Cybercafes and 480 local users from four Local Government Areas in Lagos State. The four Local Government Areas are: Badagry, Amuwo-Odofin, Ojo and Alimosho.

Instrumentation

A questionnaire titled "Nigerian languages on internet inventory" (NILAG II) was constructed by the researchers and administered to the sample selected. The NILAG II has two sections. Section A is made up of - items that elicited responses on the demographic background of the respondents while Section B has -items in the four point Likert format of Strongly Agree (S.A) Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (S.D.). Meanwhile the NILAG II was administered on a neutral sample of 30 using the test retest procedure of two-weeks interval. Using the Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient, a reliability value of 77 was established.

Table 1. Comparison of those who read only the local languages and those with the knowledge of English language who need to surf the net.

Nigerian Tribes	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Yoruba	60 (19.38)	32 (27.6)	35 (41.3)	28 (9.04)	155
Igbo	45 (16.88)	60 (22.5)	40 (15)	35 (13.13)	180
Hausa	55 (5.2)	25 (2.6)	30 (9.06)	35 (10.6)	145
Total	160	117	105	98	480

EDITORIAL

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Adaptation of Learning Nigerian Languages on the Internet: An Opportunity for International Learners

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the research issues associated with the use of Nigerian Languages on the internet. It is proposed that international communities should be provided with the opportunity to learn Nigerian Languages as second languages (L2), however the use of internet has not widely covered the people whose literacy level is at the ability to read only in the indigenous languages. It is a common knowledge that the language of computer is foreign especially English or French, also the language of communication is related to the rate at which people use internet. The researchers are of the opinion that if Nigerian languages are made available on the internet as languages of communication there will be a great increase in the rate at which Nigerians interact with other people in the global village.

Introduction

Many Nigerian languages are among the languages that have been classed as unwritten ones. Nigerian has over 500 ethnic groups with various languages and dialects (Ayelaagbe, 1998). The earliest attempt to reduce the languages to written forms was made when it became necessary to translate the English Bible to African languages, this was when the Church Missionary Society (C.M.S) with Rev. Henry Venn as Secretary, organized a mission to the Yoruba country under the leadership of Henry Townsend, an English clergyman of the C.M.S also at work in the same place.

This first language to be written is the Yoruba spoken by the people of Nigeria and the West African sub-region. The traces of the language are found in Brazil, Australia and some generation of ex-slaves in the new world.

The other important language that is widely spoken in West African countries is Hausa language. The Igbo language is dominantly spoken by people of Eastern Nigerian. These languages have been termed local languages or been derogatory termed "vernacular" but one needs to realize the fact, that these different ethnic groups have been very relevant in international commerce. It can be deduced that these languages need international recognition, and need to be widely projected for the benefit of international friends who might turn out to be international learners. Wider orientation will expose the languages in the field of commerce education, politics and spiritual affairs.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) becomes important because it creates opportunity for the global community to interact at any level. It also gives room for easy access to information, knowledge, manipulation of skills, sharing of ideas and appreciation of new discoveries and culture. It also makes it easier to understand different kinds of languages for the beneficiaries. This is in relation to the findings of Gerjets, Scheiter and Schuh (2008) where they stress that information comparisons in example based hypermedia environments; supporting learners with procession prompts and an interactive comparison tool.

Apart from Swahili that is spoken by a large group of people in Africa, many African languages have not been able to find their bearings among the languages of other continents. It is pertinent to know that some African languages including the major Nigerian languages (Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba) are studied L2 in some Universities of the United States of America.

The orient languages: Chinese, Japanese, Indian etc are finding their feet in the global economy; a good reference can be made to the fact that their products are packaged with instructions in these languages. Effective communication is very important, the wider the scope of language of communication, the easier it is for the common man to be carried along.

Emphasizing the effect of global interactivity, it is obvious that the Internet plays a major role in this direction. The Internet is the large system of connected computers around the world which allow people to share information and communicate with one another using electronic mail. The most common language on computer is either British or American English with French language.