

PDF - THE USE OF NIGERIAN PIDGIN ENGLISH IN IPODO AND ALADE MARKETS - researchcub.info

In these two definitions, a pidgin is described as minimal, makeshift or marginal, which suggests that it is not a full language, does not have a long history and is not central to the communicative codes available to its users. It is also claimed in each definition that the kind of situation that gives rise to a pidgin is one in which the people in contact have no language in common.

These rather archaic definitions are supported both by common sense and by practical observation. If people have a language in common, there is no need for them to resort to a makeshift form of communication. On the other hand, it is accepted that a pidgin-like stage probably exists as a universal in the learning or acquisition of a second language, and some scholars now talk of a 'pidginization theory' of second language acquisition. The theory of decreolization, the observation that a pidgin becomes more and more like the language on which it is based (if they exist side by side), also supports the possibility that a pidgin stage is a universal of second language learning.

In its initial stages, a pidgin is simple in having loose syntactic rules, a narrow and flexible bounded or differentiated vocabulary and phonological component not properly defined, thus its semantic base accounts for much of its speaker's mutual compatibility.

A language in the making, it necessarily expands from this simple level to a more complex one. There is also the possibility that it would become a different language or another dialect of the 'same one from which it is contrived, depending on the similarities in the linguistic backgrounds of pressure brought to bear against its survival by the full developed language.

At some point of its development, such a communication system becomes a pidgin and at a further stage it becomes a Creole. But such maturation is probably merely a function of its speaker's innate linguistic potentials and subject to a combination of both variable and content factors. Pidgin arose impulsively from people's desire to communicate and may as a result, be more or less co-terminus with human history. Pidgin is said to have been creolized in Sierra Leone and Freetown now Guinea, but in Nigeria there are varieties of Pidgin English according to different linguistic groups, yet they possess at some points some common features which makes those varieties mutually intelligible. Nigerian Pidgin English consists of vocabulary items from each language used to enhance mutual understanding in communication.

1.2 HYPOTHESES

The hypotheses for this study are as follows:

- i. Pidgin has assumed a significant role in communication in Nigeria, especially between and among ethnic groups that do not share a common language.
- ii. Nigerian pidgin can promote national unity, because it has the power of bringing peoples of different languages, groups, social class and religion together.
- iii. Pidgin is fast assuming the role of a major language in Nigeria.

1.3 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to examine the use of Nigerian Pidgin English in IpoDo and Alade Market of Ikeja, Lagos State.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are as follows;

- i. To attempt to examine the nature and use of pidgin in domestic trade in Nigeria using Alade and IpoDo markets as case study.

- ii. To investigate the level of the usage of pidgin in both market.
- iii. To find out the perceptions the traders have of pidgin and their attitudes towards pidgin.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In a quest to show the significance or importance of Pidgin in Nigeria, it was observed that Pidgin in Nigeria is highly underestimated. Considering the very high number of Pidgin Speakers in the country and its ever growing importance in trade in Nigeria, this work may have brought into "lime light" this importance.

The reason for the significance of this study is educational. By this, it is believed that people will be able to learn how to appreciate the important role pidgin plays, not only in trade but in almost all the facets of the Nigerian setting. This significance of study contains all the information earlier presented in the statement of the problem, research objectives and information deduced from review of relevant literature.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study was limited to the Pidgin English speakers in Alade and Jpodo markets respectively market. The source of data for this study was the use of questionnaires. Both sellers and buyers served as respondents. Also, assistance was given to respondents who could neither read nor write. The questionnaires were filled for them in the form of an interview.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

During the cause of the fieldwork, several problems were encountered they are as follows:

- i. Due to the noisy nature of the market the recording was distorted.
- ii. The high level of illiteracy in the market did not help matters. At a point, help had to be gotten from an interpreter to help decode the Yoruba language
- iii. The sincerity or the respondents on whom the questionnaires are administered are doubtful because their answers may not be true.

1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS

A pidgin is a reduced language that results from extended contact between groups of people with no language in common. Examples are:

Yamutu: Slaughtered/dead

Oyinbo: Whiteman

Wayo: Tricks

Boku: Plenty

Pikin: Child

Sisi: Lady

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