

PDF - AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH COMMON SPELLING ERRORS - researchcub.info

The Guardian Newspaper quoted the World Bank that "Nigerian University graduates are poor in their usage of English Language which includes spelling errors and they are unproductive on the job".

"Graduates skills have steadily deteriorated over the past decades" (p.l). According to the report, the poor performance of Nigerian graduates is particularly evident in two areas; poor mastery of the English Language both in the written and oral and then also evident in the lack of requisite technical skill. It was ascertained in the report that the deficiencies in both vital areas Nigerian graduates of the past fifteen years unfit for the labour market and sometimes the larger society.

Shortcomings were particularly observed in oral and written communication. The study also indicated that a serious disconnection exists between university training and the needs of the labour market. Though, the study may have identified major areas of the decline in the University Education but the actual problem may have its root at the secondary school level.

At the secondary school level, the potential undergraduate is given adequate foundation in the use of English. In our secondary schools, there are lots of English Language misspellings as well as wrong pronunciation of words. This has really been a major concern and setbacks for the Teachers of English Language in Nigeria Secondary Schools.

The teaching of spelling in Nigeria secondary school is always a challenge, because so many of this students find it difficult to spell correctly due to one thing or the other, which will be the main focus of this project work. Teachers are perplexed when students spell words correctly on weekly test and misspell the same words as well as easier more common words.

Like reading, spelling is a written language skills that draws upon individuals repertoire of linguistic knowledge including phonological awareness. A mastery of written and spoken English is highly desirable to help our fallen educational standard in this country.

In Nigeria, English Language serves as an official language, a means of communication that is rule governed. Every language has a structure different from another. Each language of the world for example has certain regular system of pronunciation, certain regular word order and certain regular sentence pattern. English Language for example, permits consonant cluster both initially and finally while other languages does not permit it.

English Language is a standard language, because it is accepted in the country as a means of interacting formally. Therefore, every students of this country is not restricted to the standard usage of the language.

According to Kachuru 1986:1,

"Competence in English and the use of this language signify a transmutation, an added potential for material and social gain and advantages. One sees this attitude in what the symbol stand for; English is considered a symbol of modernization and an extra arm of success and mobility in culturally and linguistically complex and pluralistic society".

In Nigeria, English enjoys a wider geographical spread than any of the indigenous language. Whatever, the language of discussion, a serious business transaction is sealed up in writing in English. The same goes for political campaigns which can be in the language of immediate environment, but manifestos and other documents are produced in English. English Language in Nigeria is a language of Education, Publication and it is a language of Government. It is used for thinking and widening our perception of life. It aids the cohesive political community; it serves in the expression and development of Nigeria's personality.

It is the medium of diplomacy and national relationship and it socially makes you feel at home in any part of the world. All these show there is the need for competence in the usage of English Language.

This research work will be looking at "The Common English Spelling Errors". English spelling error analysis is a type of linguistic analysis that focuses on the errors learners make. The investigation of errors can be at the same time diagnostic and prognostic. It is diagnostic because it can tell us the learners state of language at a given point during the learning process and prognostic because it can tell that language learning materials need to reorient on the basis of the learners current problems .

Learners error during the foreign language learning has always been concerned and argued about by linguist and foreign teachers from the ancient time. The most distinguishing difference between the foreign language learners and the native speakers lie in their English vocabulary size, therefore lexicon learning is attached more and more importance.

This research will be based on the analysis of errors and the patterns in spelling. Samples of spelling errors will also be provided as well as the psychological analysis of spelling errors.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS**

In analyzing the common spelling errors in English Language, there is the need to identify the major cause of these errors.

In the course of this project, the following problems will be highlighted;

- The problem of the 'ough' words.
- The effect of memory in spelling irregularities.
- The negative effects of anxiety while spelling.
- The problem of spelling patterns.

## **1.3 AIM OF THE STUDY**

The aim of this project is to provide a theoretical assessment of English spelling error analysis, models for spelling error analysis and then to look into the sources of errors.

## **1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The significant of the study will be drawn as we progress in the course of this project work.

## **1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In the course of this project work, the following questions will be addressed.

- What is the effect of spelling errors in the study of English language?
- To what extent does spelling errors affect the learning and teaching of English language?
- What is the source of English language spelling error?
- What can be done to avoid English spelling errors?

## **1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The scope of this study will be confined to the common English spelling errors, starting from the word origin.

## **1.7 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

This study can be limited by time, financial constraint and non-availability of data etc.

## **1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Different terms used in the course of this research work are hereby defined as follows:

- **COMPOUNDING:** occurs when a person attaches two or more words together to make them one word. The meanings of the words interrelate in such a way that a new meaning comes out which is very different from the meanings of the words in isolation.

- **DERIVATION:** is the formation of a new word or inflectable stem from another word or stem. It typically occurs by the addition of an affix. The derived word is often of a different word class from the original. It may thus take the inflectional affixes of the new word class.
  - **PROPONENT:** one who argues in favor of something
  - **IDIOSYNCRASY:** A structural or behavioral characteristic peculiar to an individual or group.
  - **PSYCHOUNGUISTICS or psychology** of language is the study of the psychological and neurobiological factors that enable humans to acquire, use, comprehend and produce language.
  - **COINAGE:** The invention of new words or phrases.
  - **DIACRITIC** is a glyph added to a letter, or basic glyph. *Diacritic* is both an adjective and a noun, whereas *diacritical* is only an adjective. Diacritical marks may appear above or below a letter, or in some other position such as within the letter or between two letters.
  - **SPELLING ERRORS:** These are the errors we make when attempting to learn spelling. The process of skill development that is learning something new involves making errors. These errors occur irregularly and are usually self-detected and self-corrected.
- HOMOPHONES:** These are words which sound the same but are spelled differently.

## **AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH COMMON SPELLING ERRORS**

The complete project material is available and ready for download. All what you need to do is to order for the complete material. The price for the material is NGN 3,000.00.

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Regards!!!