

# Nigerian English: Towards Codification, Legislation and Standardisation

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## Abstract

Apart from its primary function as a means of interaction among the masses of varying ethnic and racial backgrounds in Nigeria, English plays an important role as the official language of transactions in all sectors. Nigerian English, as the Nigerian variety is called, has a distinctive structure and idiosyncratic usage, part of which is at times considered to be erroneous but which, over time, has become standardised. This paper investigates the processes and significance of compilation, codification, legislation and standardisation of new and loan words into this variety explicating the need for proper and collective coordination by eligible and designated bodies. Examples of new and borrowed words are given and their semantic implications emphasised. The paper discovers that the uniqueness in structure and usage is more of a difference rather than a deviance and it calls for more local and global recognition for this respected brand as a variety of the world English.

**Key words:** Nigerian English; Codification; Legislation; Standardisation

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นอกเหนือไปจากการรับหน้าที่หลักในการเป็นเครื่องมือสื่อสารระหว่างผู้คนจากหลากหลายชาติพันธุ์และหลากหลายเชื้อชาติที่อาศัยอยู่ในประเทศไทยในปัจจุบันแล้ว ภาษาอังกฤษยังมีบทบาทสำคัญในฐานะที่เป็นภาษา franca ในการดำเนินการทางธุรกิจของทุกภาคส่วน ภาษาอังกฤษแบบในปัจจุบัน หรือที่เรียกว่า ภาษาทางการ ภาษาแบบในปัจจุบัน มีโครงสร้างทางภาษาที่มีลักษณะเฉพาะตัว และมีการนำไปใช้ที่มีรูปแบบเฉพาะ ซึ่งในบางครั้ง บางส่วนของลักษณะการใช้ภาษาดังกล่าว บางส่วนถูกมองว่าเป็นการใช้ภาษาที่ไม่ถูกต้อง แต่เมื่อเวลาผ่านไป กลับได้รับการยอมรับและกลายเป็นภาษามาตรฐาน บทความนี้ นำเสนอการศึกษากระบวนการและความสำคัญของการรวบรวม การประมวล การบัญญัติศัพท์ และการจัดทำมาตรฐานของคำใหม่และคำยืมของภาษาอังกฤษแบบในปัจจุบัน ซึ่งจะอธิบายให้เห็นถึงความสำคัญของการประสานงานกันอย่างเหมาะสมและให้ความร่วมมืออย่างเต็มที่ระหว่างหน่วยงานต่างๆ ที่ได้รับมอบหมายให้รับผิดชอบ ในเรื่องนี้ และมีการแสดงตัวอย่างของคำใหม่และคำยืมรวมถึงความหมายโดยนัยของคำเหล่านั้น ผลการศึกษาวิเคราะห์แสดงให้เห็นว่า ลักษณะของโครงสร้าง และการนำไปใช้ที่เป็นเอกลักษณ์เฉพาะตัวนี้เป็นร่องของความต่างมากกว่าความติดต่อ ผลกระทบ นอกจากนั้น ภาษาที่เฉพาะตัวนี้ยังต้องการการยอมรับในระดับท้องถิ่น และระดับโลกในฐานะที่เป็นความหลากหลายของภาษาอังกฤษในฐานะภาษาของโลก (World Englishes)

**คำสำคัญ:** ภาษาอังกฤษแบบในปัจจุบัน การประมวล การบัญญัติศัพท์ การจัดทำมาตรฐาน

# **Nigerian English: Towards Codification, Legislation and Standardisation**

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## **Introduction**

Observations, debates and comments in academics are noble; through them facts emerge and knowledge is advanced, being propelled through assertions and counter-opinions. These exercises even become potent tools for establishing a new concept and for re-moulding, re-invent in and strengthening old assertions. An academic argument could even become a framework from which a detailed empirical research could proceed. Any observation made on a controversial issue is noted as a challenge for future research. Controversies, arguments and divergent opinions are bound to ensue on issues that relate to language development due to a host of contending factors, but at the end, they are debated and are either partly or wholly resolved. Genuine respect for people's opinions, even in the face of sharp differences, can lead to effective communication.

Even as the most-spoken language in the world, English is still the most researched, with ever-emerging controversial theories and arguments at all levels of language, as evident in various literatures in the discipline. This has given the English language dynamism, popularity and prestige it enjoys today throughout the world. It is this status of English as the unrivalled world language in terms of intercontinental speaker ability that

leads to the emergence of varieties, some of which are regional and others discourse-based. This paper focuses on one of such regional varieties known as Nigerian English. The following are some of the questions this research intends to address:

- What are the circumstances that gave birth to Nigerian English and why is it exigent?
- What are the activities involved in the compilation and codification processes?
- Is the project of Nigerian English better handled by individuals or professional associations?
- What are the unique features of Nigerian English, most importantly, lexically?

## **Origins and Exigence of Nigerian English**

Nigerians had their first contact with English through the British traders in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The need to have a common language of business gave birth to a kind of English language mixed with adapted lexes from indigenous languages, a phenomenon sometimes perceived as a reflection or the linguistic incompetence of the Nigerians. The teaching and learning of the English language was introduced at schools in the middle of the nineteenth century. Presently, English has overthrown the indigenous languages in terms of speakership and prestige, with indigenes always striving to speak English. Multiple and divergent Nigerian languages have had considerable influence on structural with indigenes always striving to speak English.

Multiple and divergent Nigerian languages have had considerable influence on the structural pattern of the kind of English spoken by the vast majority of Nigeria. The traces manifest at all levels of language phonologically, morphologi-

cally, syntactically, semantically as well as pragmatically. In the process, a distinctive variety reflecting the Nigerian usage has emerged and till today remains a distinct variety of the world Englishes.

A cursory study of the syntax and morphology of the Nigerian English reveals the uniqueness of this variety along syntagmatic and paradigmatic axes. For instance, it is a common system, even among the elites, to say *Call me John* instead of *Call John for me*. Paradigmatically, phrases like *go slow* are substituted for traffic hold up, *senior brother* for elder brother, *yellow fever* for traffic warden police, etc. Instances of how Nigerian languages and culture have impinged on the use of English language abound at all levels of language as would be discussed later in this paper.

The labels “Nigerian English” and “Standard Nigerian English” and many more are used to capture a transitional phase in the growth and development of a peculiar type of English spoken by average educated Nigerian speakers, which is adjudged to be either a variation or a deviation. The former is sometimes used to represent a variety that has gained social acceptability as well as international intelligibility, while the latter is widely used to denote what some scholars see as “bad English” or “error of usage”. As it is, any departure from the London variety is tagged a deviation (Ajani, 2007).

In spite of dissensions to the reality of Nigerian English, Achebe (1965, p. 18) says this in its defence:

*I feel that the English language will be able to carry the weight of my African experience. But it will have to be new English, still in communion with its ancestral home but altered to suit its new African surroundings.*

The above explains the imminent and exigent need of the Nigerian speakers of English to have a variety with the Nigerian flavour, and yet with international comprehensibility. Expressions are therefore coined to reflect world view or the Nigerian experience in the immediate environment. Discussion on the evolution, development and standardisation of the Nigerian English is over-flogged; there is no doubt that the dynamism of this discourse makes it such a fertile ground for breeding divergent opinions.

## **Compilation, Codification and Standardisation of Nigerian English**

Generally speaking, language development is an issue of national concern and all imminent challenges arising from it are addressed in stages. It involves decision-making concerning the standardisation of a variety of language in terms of its grammar, orthography, lexes and phonology. It also includes determination of the coined words or sounds to be accepted for usage, to be acquired or adopted and subsequently, as applicable in the second language (ESL) context, given local colouration. Every period in the development of a language produces new words or/and meanings of established words. Not all coined words or those with semantic extension live long; most of them die with events or circumstances that gave birth to them. “They are coined for use at a particular moment, and therefore possess a peculiar property – that of temporariness. The given word or meaning holds only in the given context and is meant only to ‘serve the occasion.’ However, a word or a meaning once fixed in writing may become part and parcel of the general vocabulary irrespective of its quality and temporariness: (<http://durov.com/study/Stylistics-826.doc>).

It was further argued that coinage is often “necessitated by the need to designate new concepts and the need to express nuances of meaning called for by a deeper understanding of the nature of the phenomenon in question” (*ibid*).

In recognition of claims and counter claims by individuals or bodies on the issue of the Standard Nigerian English, the Nigeria English Studies Association (NESA) organized the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference at Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun state, in which a committee was inaugurated to collate entries of lexical items from which experts would finally identify and compile words that were qualified to enter into the Nigerian English lexical usage. The Association reiterated the continuity of this assignment in the 27<sup>th</sup> NESA Annual Conference held at Covenant University, Ota, also in the same state.

At the end of this conference held in 2010, the Association came up with a communiqué which observed that the codification of Nigerian English requires a lot of public and private participation for its success. It was agreed that the federal government would be responsible to finance the project and to formally pass it as the accepted variety of English that is distinctively Nigerian. Thereafter, official transactions at all levels of the government should be conducted using this variety of English. In addition, it should be included in the nation’s language policy.

The communiqué concluded by recommending a corpus-based approach which could be used as a method for codification; field officers for this project would be mandated to employ a corpus-based approach and should be mindful of the democratization requirements of the exercise so as to reflect the true situation on ground. A corpus-based approach reflects the what, who and

how of the issue under investigation. Efforts would be expended on collating a lexicography of the new and loan or borrowed words, the domain of use as well as whether these lexical entries feature in formal or informal contexts, how often and by which category of speakers. The data would then be subjected to both quantitative and qualitative analyses.

In the process of compilation, codification and standardisation, it is no uncommon for 'foreign' words to be transferred and adapted into a new language. One recollects that towards the end of the Middle English period, everything was done to advance the cause of French over English in England, but the English turned this to their advantage by acquiring and, in some cases, recreating some French words into new ones through orthographic or semantic modifications so much so that at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, a new standard variety of English with a universal acceptance and recognition had emerged (Baugh & Cable, 1993). Academia and public social institutions were duly involved in the process of standardisation. According to Voorman and Gut (2008), the process of compilation of Nigerian English involves gathering of raw data which consists of samples of language in forms of handwritten, printed and electronic texts as well as audio and video recordings. They also include non-linguistic factors like age, native language, addressee, event, time and date.

The process of lexical selection is a rigorous task. It is a collective rather than an individual scientific research. The process, for instance, would require the serve of etymologists who will not only trace the history of an entry and review it, but also account for adjustments made in terms of the new meaning which a particular word has assumed in the light of new evidence. Such evidence may be the product of published

scholarly debates and researches. At the end of series of academic debates, the issue is then made a public discourse. This will continue for a while to harvest useful ideas from the average speakers.

Researches to suggest fairly acceptable parameters that can be used to legislate on which lexical items should be accommodated and which should be expunged from the Nigerian English are still ongoing. In one of the published articles on coinages in the Nigerian English, Abdullahi-Idiagbon and Olaniyi (2011) mentioned a number of words as part of their contribution to the call made by experts in the Nigerian English project. The authors did not claim that their submission is either absolute or exhaustive but that it only reflects a field survey carried out on arrays of speakers as well as words extracted from some Nigerian dailies. The shortlisted words were found to be featured in some of the utterances of Nigerian speakers of English.

The codification process of a language involves processes of collations, ‘linguistic’ and later political legislation and ratification. For English in a second-language environment, entirely new lexes are formed, words are loaned from the host languages, and expressions are as well constructed and put to use in a new context recognizable by the speech communities of this new variety. In the evolutionary phase of the Nigerian English, some words are mostly of English origin; but in that situation, “they have, over time, assumed meaning signification peculiarly Nigerian due to particular semantic implications in the Nigerian socio-political system”. Abdullahi-Idiagbon and Olaniyi (2011) argue further that these words require legitimacy and acceptability “in order to be incorporated into the Standard Nigerian English lexis. As such, they have restricted use...” (p. 32).

The onus is on the appropriate bodies to popularize and publicize or throw them out. In every language, word-formation has led to an increase in self-consciousness – at levels of individuals and public – and a greater relish of peculiar usages through analogical extension or enlargement.

As earlier maintained, the call for more entries is ongoing. These entries can only be licensed to be incorporated into the lexicon of the Standard Nigerian English by competent authorities (individuals and bodies) partly because “...the birth (of coined words)...are always dictated by circumstance”. The two authors conclude that “...the emergence of most of the words discussed in this paper is merely circumstantial, a reflection of the situation that bred and nurtured them” (p. 32).

It should be noted that lexicography is not necessarily the work of an individual; it is a group effort. The Nigeria English Studies Association (NES) is in the best position to accomplish this task. A competent and organized body becomes necessary to avert any situation in which single individuals become the legislators on language matters (Geis, 1982).

## **Unique Features of Nigerian English**

Nigerian English is a dialect of the world Englishes; therefore, as a variety thriving in a multilingual second language context, some of its unique markers are sometimes described as errors. Adegbite (2012) investigates and classifies errors of Nigerian English usage based on generation; older and younger users of educated Nigerian English. He utilises data from the ICE Nigeria corpus, identifies and analyses errors that are essentially syntactic; for instance, the misuse of article, case and number marking, pronominals, concord, verbs as well as the indiscrimi-

nate use of British and American English spellings. It was revealed that occurrence of errors is greatly affected by the age and level of education of speakers. Nigerian local languages, especially the three major ones, which often serve as substrate languages from which words are sometimes loaned into English, immensely contribute lexico-semantically to feed and enrich the super-ordinate Nigerian English. It is characterised by mother tongue interference in usages. Adekunle (1974) attributes the uniqueness of the Educated Nigerian English to the normal process of language development involving coinages and semantic shift. This position is strengthened by Kwary (2012) who opines that coinage includes many other word formation processes like the following:

- Compounding. This involves the combination of two or more words with or without hyphen, e.g. sugar daddy (NE);
- Acronym. This is formed by making a word out of the initial letters of a phrase, e.g. NAFDAC (National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control);
- Back-formation. This is the process of making a long word short through the removal of the suffixes, e.g. barb from barber;
- Eponym. This is a word which originates from a person's name, e.g. Maradona (shrewd person, Zik (orator);
- Blending. This involves merging of two words to form a new one, e.g. forex for foreign exchange.

Word coinage in the context of Nigerian English takes place more or less at the level of an individual or speech community. In the light of this, some Nigerian English expressions are locally understandable. Users reserve the right to coin and adopt them to express the local content. Some words have peculiar Nigerian

connotations and understanding their meanings requires the context of use.

Historical, political, geographical, psychological and societal factors have considerable effects on semantic shift and pragmatic implications of lexical entries. Individual ingenuity and societal exigency prompt creativity in the users, this affecting the use to which a lexicon is put; notwithstanding its earlier usage or the much acclaimed ‘standard sense’. Forerunners in Nigerian English contend that it is rather not mandatory to have uniquely homogeneous features at all levels of language including lexicon to be called a Nigerian English. This is because this variety has “peculiarities as well as socially constrained usage of some lexical items”(Ajani, 2007, p.5). Bamgbose (1995, pp.9-26) opines that certain usages are borne out of creativity in expressions and idioms and this has the added advantage to further mark out the autonomy of the Nigerian English. Acronyms have not only been frozen into single lexical items in Nigerian English but are also imbued with broader semantic scope such that Nigerians would speak their own type of English confidently. For instance, it is normal to hear the following expressions: Have you paid your NEPA bill? He is a NAFDAC official, etc.

Some religious words have equally become lexicalised over time due to their constant usage and relevance. Examples are Ogun (Yoruba deity of iron and war), Agbada, Buba (kinds of attire) and egungun (masquerade). Scholars have this suggested lexicalisation of some vocabularies from the local languages. Therefore, many words are borrowed from the Nigerian languages; others are English words or phrases which have acquired new meanings (See *A Dictionary of Nigerian English Usage*, Fountain Junior Fiction Series by Herbert Igoanusi). Ajani (2007, p.10)

corroborates this assertion further:

*Other examples of semantic extension abound in NE, especially in the domain of relationship vocabulary. Thus the words father, mother, brother, sister, and uncle, aunt and cousin, all take on additional meanings in the Nigerian context (cf. Wigwe 1990). For instance, in NE an auntie and an uncle could be just a term of respect for any older female or male person who may have no connection at all with one's immediate or extended family. It is used just as an honorific term in those contexts. Auntie could also refer to one's older sister or even a female friend of hers. The terms father and mother could be used both for one's biological father and mother as well as for an uncle or an aunt (in the British or American sense of the words).*

Adebileje and Araba (2012) in their article entitled Nigerian English Usage: It's Lexico-semantic Features in The Joys of Motherhood by Buchi Emecheta identify the following items in the novels as being typically Nigerian though the words are either partially English words or words from the Nigerian local languages. "This process is known as analogical creation. Analogical creation deals with the formation of new words based on already existing words or partial likeness" (p. 23). Below are some examples of analogical creations which were cited by these authors. The created analogies are first given while the explanations and British equivalents are in parentheses.

"A medicine man" (p.21) (A herbalist)

"Kolanut and palm wine are here" (p. 14, p.18) (Here are kolanut and palm wine)

"Unspoiled virgin" (p.31) (Virgin)

“Cooking things” (p. 14) (Cooking utensils)  
“Quarters” (p. 23) (Living quarters)

Words that capture some conceptual beliefs in the Nigerian culture, especially the royal and religious institutions but which do not exist in the culture of the native speakers of English, are often coined. Words like those mentioned so far; that is, words that retain their English form but no meaning or those that belong to the indigenous languages but which have now found their way to the Nigerian English to give the touch of ‘Nigerianness’. The Nigerian situation, just like many other second language contexts, serves as a fertile ground for coinages to sprout and existing lexical items undergoing semantic sift.

The following are excerpts from a draft copy of A Dictionary of Nigerian English written by Blench and Dendo (2005) which includes both new and borrowed words as parts of the lexis of the Nigerian English: alhaja, alhaji, altar, amala, amount, answer, anyhow, applicant, area-boy, assignment, attachment, aunty, uncle, ayo, beat, blackout, born-again, colonial mentality, dowry, fura, godfather, mallam, Oga, okada, wahala.

On the other hand, some lexical coinages reflect the linguistic milieu of the source language to which their meanings are traceable even though their constituent lexical choices are English. Below are two tables, one table representing “new words” and the other table representing “borrowed words”. Numbers 1-7 are few examples of new words extracted by Yeibo (2011) from Gabriel Okara’s The Voice; others are collated from every day usage of the Nigerian English.

**Table 1.** Examples of borrowed words

Number	New Words
1.	know-nothing people (p.121) (illiterates)
2.	know-God people (p. 32) (religious people)
3.	these happening-things (p. 48) (incidents)
4.	man-killing medicine (p. 37) (poison)
5.	surface-water things (p. 34)) (hypocrisy)
6.	meeting-place (p. 48) (meeting venue)
7.	spoilt world" (p.35)(corrupt world)
8.	go-slow(traffic hold-up/congestion)
9.	senior wife (in a polygamous setting, seniority is in the order of who is married first)
10.	sitting room (living room)
11.	globe (bulb)
12.	Sleeping tablet (sleep-inducing tablet)

**Table 2.** Examples of new words

Number	New Words
1.	moin-moin (a kind of delicacy)
2.	mago-mago (hanky-panky)
3.	okada (commercial motorcycle)
4.	wahala (problem/trouble)
5.	molue (commercial bus commonlyfound in Lagos)
6.	ogogoro (local gin)

The coinage approach in the examples above is lexico-semantic deployed at foreground textual meaning. According to Yeibo, they are discussed under neologisms because their inference and usage is unusual and novel, though the words are English.

In Igboanusi (2001), SOME 1600 entries were selected while many words were borrowed from many Nigerian languages, others were English words or phrases but which have acquired new meanings in the Nigerian discourse. A good example is “Alhaji”. Blench and Dendo (2005, p.7) also remark that

*The most comprehensive sources for Nigerian English prior to this are Jowitt (1991) and Igboanusi (2002). When native English speakers try to characterize Nigerian English, it is clear that their personal perceptions play an important role in determining which lexical items or usages are distinctive. For example, Nigerian newspapers often use the stereotyped expression ‘men of the underworld’ to refer to criminals. This would be unlikely to occur in a current British newspaper, and has an archaic or jocular feel to it. Still, it is perfectly comprehensible to a speaker of Standard English and the component words show no significant lexical deviation from their normal meanings. Contrast this with ‘area-boys’ also referring to criminals, which would have no meaning to a speaker of Standard English.*

When new lexical items are coined from the existing lexical items or borrowed ones from the local languages or even pidgin, they consequently attain new meanings. However few cases exist where the coinage retain the existing meanings like the word *barb* (verb), which is a Nigerian coinage from *barber*; and *corner* for the archaic British word for *bend*. Words like *dress* (to close gaps so as

to create space for other people), *chase* (womanizing) and *escort* (to see a visitor off) have all undergone special structural usage in the Nigerian English. More examples of such words are *father*, *mother*, *chief*, *uncle*, *aunty*, *brother*, etc. The fact is that new lexical items owe their origin to the complex dynamics of language contact phenomena such as borrowing and code switching.

It is also not an uncommon occurrence for errors and idiosyncrasies to become standardised. For example, the word *trouble shooter* used to mean peacemaker but has acquired a new meaning of *trouble maker* in the Nigerian context.

Inyang (2007, p.17) notes that “the reluctance of the average educated Nigerian to accept Nigerianisms in English is indicating differences rather than deviant usages” is a challenge to the English language in Nigeria. ‘Nigerianism’ according to Jowitt (1991:x)

*Should not invariably be seen as evidence of the imperfect learning of English but deserved to be considered as possible signs of healthy acculturation, and of the creative capacity that we normally associated with Mother-tongue learning and use ...*

Inyang attests to “the fact that standard reference books of what constitutes acceptable usage in Nigerian English are yet to appear in sufficient number to measure up with research in Linguistics” (p. 17).

Banjo (1970) attempts to identify a particular variety as the preferred one qualified for the status of a standard variety out of four. Banjo’s classification is based on the extend of mother tongue transfers and international intelligibility. In his typology, the first variety exhibits the greatest density of mother tongue transfers while the last exhibits the least. Variety II exhibits more transfers

than Variety III, a home-grown variety; it is thus identified as the most appropriate model. A Standard English is a variety spoken by the educated people and which is considered appropriate for public use. The nomenclature of being educated here is measured by tertiary education. Therefore, legislation over which variety is eligible as Standard English is not a judicial responsibility; rather it is an implicit consensus within the users. Gut (2012) also detailed a classification which agrees with Banjo's. She explains that Variety I is used by exigent speakers who want to learn how to read and write by all means to get a job to earn a living. Such English is marred by interference at all levels. Variety II is an improved version still with interference but with some levels of acceptability and intelligibility. Variety III is the one with the widest recognition, acceptability and intelligibility in Nigeria while Variety IV, near British English, is for the privileged few.

Adegbija (1994, p.44) citing Ansre (1971) asserts that though graphitization is an important characteristic of a standard norm, an unwritten language can also achieve a standard feature. He postulates that a written language has the potentials to recreate, reproduce and publicize itself. A standard variety of language could also emerge through the unification of other composite variations. Adegbija (1994) concludes (pp. 44-45)

*When a basic standard has been decided upon, it is usually followed by development ... (through) the increasing and augmenting of the linguistic repertoire of the basic standard at various levels.*

Odumuh (1984, pp. 155-228) observes that a large number of lexical items and expressions have undergone semantic change in the Nigerian usage. Though, it is noted that “the boundary

between word formation and semantic change could be difficult to define: a new use of an old word can be seen as a new word derived from an old one and identical to it in form" (Wikipedia: word formation). Therefore, coinage and semantic extension are key features of the emerging lexical entries into the Nigerian English since there seems to be a limit to which we can create new words into a language which is not primarily ours. But on the other hand, if that should happen to the Nigerian English, there is need for adequate literature, and above all, concerted and coordinated efforts from the central body – NESA – to legislate on the standardized items.

Nigerian English is "not an inferior variety of English to any variety of English; rather, it has mutual co-existence with other varieties of English" (Adegbite, 2001, p.3).

## Conclusion

The recognition of Nigerian usages and reluctance to accept them are two ambivalent behaviours exhibited by the elite speakers of this variety of English. This double standard is often anchored on the fact that there are no standard books which have collated most of these lexical items with a view to identifying the correct from incorrect usages in the Nigerian English. As vulnerable as Brosnahan's classification of the Nigerian English varieties is, the typology serves as the anchor to the subsequent researchers. Speakers at various strata as well as the institutions in the society have contributions to make to the issue of codification and standardization of Nigerian English.

Finally, it is our conviction that eminent scholars, individuals, i.e. ordinary language users, groups and professionals

should submit proposals to statuary professional bodies like NESA, which is the only recognized body that can collate and legislate on what should be and should not be included in the lexicon of this emerging variety. This body will then subsequently work with the government for the implementation of its compilation.

## Biodata

Abdullahi-Idiagbon is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He holds B.A (Combined Hons.), Masters and PhD in English Language and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. He has published articles in local, national and international journals and attended seminars, workshops and conferences in Africa, Europe and Asia. He is the current Co-ordinator for the Use of English, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. Abdullahi-Idiagbon belongs to many professional bodies like Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and Nigeria English Studies Association (NESA) and he has won many honours to his credit.

**Research Interest:** Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistics and Syntax

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