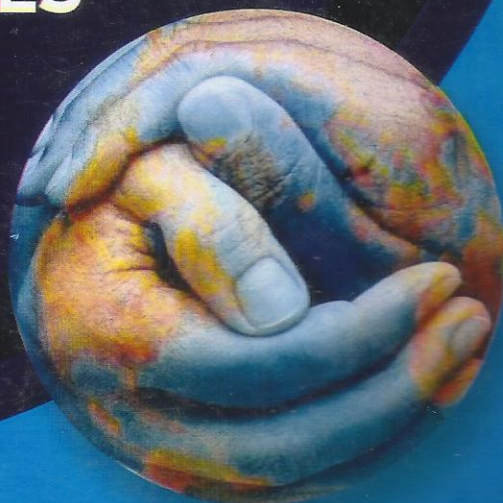


# Humanity

**JOS JOURNAL OF  
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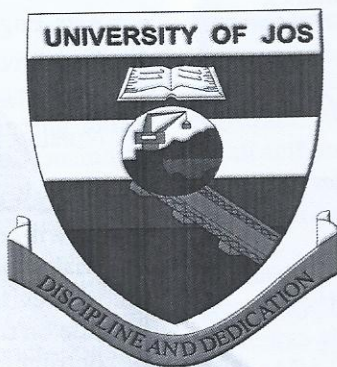
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# humanity

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Jos Journal of General Studies

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### **Acknowledgements**

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- 1) **Goyit Meshach Goman and Danjuma Nimfa Tali** examined human capital development (namely training, empowerment, and career development) and organisational quality service delivery in Nigeria. The mediating role of human resource values in increasing organisational quality service delivery in Nigeria was also assessed. The study was based on Nigeria's Industrial Training Fund (ITF). 399 employees constituted the sample while questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. 235 valid questionnaire copies were retrieved out of the 399 administered, yielding a response rate of 58.90 percent. The data were analysed using partial least square structural equation modelling with the SMART PLS 3.33 version. The findings showed that training and empowerment have a direct significant relationship with organisational quality service delivery, although career development has an insignificant effect on organisational quality service delivery. Further, the findings revealed that human resource values have a positive relationship with organisational quality service delivery. In addition, the results established that human resource values mediate the relationship between training, empowerment, and organisational quality service delivery. On the other hand, human resource values did not mediate the relationship between career development and organisational quality service delivery. It was concluded that human resource values and organisational quality service delivery denote an intriguing area of investigation and survey, necessitating further research to be undertaken on the effects of training, empowerment, career development, human resource values, and organisational quality service delivery. It was therefore recommended that the Industrial Training Fund management should engage in more training and empowerment of staff as a critical first step towards organisational quality service delivery.
- 2) **Hannatu Mai Gadzama, Philip Manda Imoh, and Yakubu Jacob Umaru** conducted a descriptive study of wh-question in M̀argi, an Afro-Asiatic language under the sub-family of the Chadic language spoken in Nigeria and Cameroon. The study is a syntactic analysis of the M̀argi wh-questions which is considered significant due to the role questions play in the language. The data for the study were collected using interview, checklist and M̀argi language books such as the M̀argi Bible, (Hoffman, 1963; Dlibugunaya, 1989, 1999, 2004), and Tranel (1992/94). A descriptive method of analysis was adopted in analyzing the collected data. The findings showed that there are two types of wh-questions in M̀argi language which are the simple and the complex wh-questions. Wh-questions are formed in the language using wh-question markers such as *wà* 'who', *m̀* 'what', *ú* 'where', *látú-m̀* 'when', *à* 'how', *m̀* 'which' and *ẁ* 'whom'. In the formation of the simple wh-question, the question markers can be moved from the object position in anon-echo question to the *spec* position or before the auxiliary verb. In the formation of the complex wh-question, the M̀argi language exhibits pied-piping as the wh-operator always move with the head of the phrase. This kind of movement is only permitted in the language within the embedded clause but not outside the clause. The study is believed to have uncovered the idiosyncrasy of M̀argi question formation processes and has also made its contribution to the on-going research on endangered languages in Nigeria, and the linguistic literature.
- 3) **Ifeoma Umeh and Chinelo Ezekulie** assessed the use of the personal pronouns *I*, *we*, *they* and *you* in governor Willie Obiano's second term inaugural speech using Norman Fairclough's three tier dimensional model of critical discourse analysis. The study hoped to provide insights into the peculiar uses of personal pronouns in political speeches. Both quantitative and qualitative methods of data presentation were employed. '*We*' was found to be the most frequently used pronoun in the speech. The researchers hold that Obiano uses '*we*' intentionally and strategically to emphasize the willingness and the representative role of his administration; to identify that he and his government are part of the whole state; and, that achievements should be attributed to the efforts of the people of Anambra State while the challenges before them call for their united hard work. The authors concluded that politicians exploit the flexibility of pronominal reference to construct a view of themselves and others that is favourable to their image.
- 4) **Rev Tony Aku Amba, Dr Tokunbo Michael Bankole & Dr Isaac D. Akut** examined the role



of religion in environmental management through the aggregation of views in extant literature. It was established that religious practices if adopted would address the present environmental crisis occasioned by anthropological activities. This is because most religious practices have demonstrated a high sense of love and care for the environment. It was further corroborated that a cohesion between religion and environmental management practices is needed to help maintain an eco-friendly society. The scholars concluded that religious practices are important in the advancement of environmental management strategies. As a way of recommendation, they suggested that religious institutions should contribute to a proper response to environmental issues by teaching about the environment in their regular gatherings. This can be achieved through environmental education, environmental preaching and education for the environment.

- 5) **Joy Ejikeme's** work examined the role of General Studies Programme in the understanding and the need to preserve cultural heritage in Nigeria. The Humanities Unit in the School of General Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, was used to highlight the importance of cultural heritage and its preservation. This is because the Unit has a culture-based course in its curriculum. A qualitative research method was adopted for the research. Students from different faculties were interviewed during seminar classes. This was analysed using content analysis. Secondary data was obtained from written materials on cultural heritage and education. The findings showed that the Humanities Unit as one of the units in GSP exposes students of different ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds to cultures other than their own, through the understanding of cultural heritage and the need for preservation.
- 6) **Anna Awukun Wash-Pam and Saleh Hayatu's** work examined students' perception of the Computer-Based Test (CBT) for examining General Studies (GST) courses in the University of Jos for a period of three years (2015 – 2018). The diffusion of innovation theory was used as basis for scholarly argument examining the potential for using student feedback in the validation of assessment. A manageable sample of 485 students who cut across all levels (100 to 400) in the University of Jos, who had taken the CBT/GST examination was surveyed, while questionnaire was used for data collection. The result showed that the environment provided by the system, receiving results automatically using the CBT system, threat felt when taking GST/CBT examination compared to the paper-based, as well as the positive experience it offers are important design considerations for the GST/CBT examinations. Based on the findings, the author recommended that students should be orientated early before the examinations and if possible, such orientations should be made part of the GST lecture series itself. They also recommended, based on students' feedback, that a GST/CBT guide or manual be prepared to enable them read ahead of time. This is because the GST/CBT assessment mode has been used for some years in the University. The document will enable the school management identify grey areas that need to be addressed during the orientation exercise.
- 7) **Edward Kuruku's** paper examined the incessant and perennial conflict between pastoralists otherwise called Fulani herders and farmers in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria, focusing on states such as Benue, Nassarawa, Taraba, Plateau and Kaduna. The work assessed the effect of the conflict on the region as well suggested possible solution by aggregating the various conflict management approaches which have been proffered through empirical studies. Observation of conflicts from other parts of the world was also used. The author posited from the assessment that the best way to curb herdsman and farmers' conflict is by the provision of ranches for livestock in confinement with modern facilities, in line with global best practices. Consequently, it was recommended, among others, that ranches should be provided in parts of the country or regions where livestock is domesticated to avoid reoccurrence of the conflict.
- 8) **Vivian Nkeiruka Wannang, Nanna Suwa Goar & Justina Mangut Solomon's** work looked at skill acquisition in office technology and management as a prerequisite for sustainable national development. The concept of skill, skill acquisition, office technology and management, and sustainable national development were examined. The importance of skill acquisition, office technology and management objectives, and the challenges to skill acquisition in office technology and management were also



identified. From the assessment of the important concepts of the study, it was concluded that skill acquisition in office technology and management prepares learners to acquire skills and knowledge that will make them functional in their various endeavours and contribute immensely to sustainable national development. The authors recommended that set objectives in our institutions should be achieved to improve learning, knowledge and skill acquisition. They also suggested that government should make efforts in ensuring the provision of facilities for modern methods and techniques in teaching and learning in all tertiary institutions in addition to adequate funding.

- 9) **Jonathan Okewu and Solomon Manzuch** demonstrated the use of ceramic art media as a means of highlighting socio-economic occurrences and developments in society in their work titled "Dancing Skill in Bullets and in Brokenness: Metaphor in Terracotta on Canvas." A unique form of ceramic press moulding termed *clay palm press* was used to interrogate socio-economic insecurity. The art work was made possible through a ceramic medium known as *terracotta on canvas*. Extensive studio practice was carried out to generate the terracotta forms for the study. According to the authors' finding, the medium and mode of execution of the art work shows a unique side of working with clay that negates tactile or three dimensionality of inured ceramic practice. It was also shown that the process of clay palm press could be therapeutic against medical conditions of muscles of the palm. They concluded that the art work is a demonstration of the resolute and dogged nature of Nigerians who are not usually limited by social and security challenges.

- 10) **Okoidegun, Clement, Ofuokwu Faith & Buddy Mustapha's** article considered entrepreneurship theories and empirical research as the nexus of entrepreneurship development. They used six entrepreneurship theories with underlying empirical studies as main data. The theories include Economic entrepreneurship theory, Psychological entrepreneurship theory, Sociological entrepreneurship theory, Anthropological entrepreneurship theory, Opportunity-Based entrepreneurship theory, and Resource-Based entrepreneurship theory. The authors are of the opinion that these theories offer a fair good opportunity to refocus our efforts at

integrating the diverse viewpoints.

- 11) **Israel Nandi Bigun, Kasim Jibril & Linda Achagba Ameh's** work centres on public perception of the image of the military Special Task Force (STF) and its operations in Plateau State. The scholars used survey method gather data from a sample drawn from purposively selected communities considered as flash points and hosts to the STF in five local government areas, covering the three senatorial zones of the state. 400 respondents chosen from the population using random sampling technique were given questionnaires, while the SPSS software was deployed for the analysis of data. Using the Systems Theory and the Social Information Processing Model of Perception, it was discovered that the STF has generated an image considered less than desirable, while also factors such as lack of respect for civilian population and highhandedness affect the level of cooperation that the STF receives from the populace. However, the organization was recognized as being combative, dutiful and helpful to communities. Also, the PR strategies used by the STF were identified as not being too effective in smoothening the operations in host communities. The authors recommended a more humane and cooperative approach to civil-military relations by the STF where the STF will be more courteous, accessible and friendly to their host communities. They also suggested that the STF should engage in community-relations activities towards boosting its image.
- 12) **Akila Yusuf Gunok and Ezra Rabo Samuila's** paper discussed the concept of entrepreneurship with focus on textile design. Specifically, they assessed fabric printing as a veritable engagement for self-reliance and economic development. Their work also outlined the benefits derivable from learning and practising a vocation in textile design and screen-printing, particularly on the individual who engages in the practice to tackle unemployment. The methods and practical procedures for obtaining quality-printed and consistent fabric were done and clearly discussed with the intended beneficiaries who are students and studio practitioners. It was concluded that consistency in printing, especially silk screen-printing during reproduction, depends largely on the methods that are employed. They recommended adequate funding and resuscitation of the comatose textile industry in Nigeria.



recommended a curriculum development in our tertiary institutions to include functional educational courses such as textile design and technology, among others. Finally, the establishment of public and private entrepreneurship skills-acquisition centres and vigorous organisation of workshops and seminars in the vocational disciplines were advocated.

**13) Polycarp Arinze Okoro and Ogbole Oganacha's** article focused on the concept of unemployment within the context of legal norms on job protection; looking at unemployment as a major labour market risk, and distilling it from the closely-related concept of underemployment. The paper also under-scored the adverse impact of unemployment on both the global and domestic labour workspaces against the backdrop of data from the International Labour Organisation and the National Bureau of Statistics. It further provided strong base for judicial activism as leeway for the National Industrial Court of Nigeria to efficiently and responsively wade into the specific challenge of wanton termination of employment through the application of international labour standards and global best practices. The article indicated the modes in which labour legislation influences and impacts on unemployment rate, and recommended, inter alia, that labour regulations be re-couched in a manner that prevents job loss through wanton termination of employment through the application of international labour standards and global best practices. The need to remodel laws, policies and programmes aimed at addressing existing gaps in employment protection regime and providing relief to the unemployed segment of the labour force population was also advocated.

**14) Mark Danung and Paul M. Dawap's** work analyses the boundaries that exist between hate speech and the right to freedom of expression and the press provided for in Section 39(1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended. The work takes cognizance of the proposed National Commission for the Prohibition of Hate Speech Bill, pending before the National Assembly. The doctrinal research approach was adopted in highlighting the meaning, existing laws, and the boundary line between free speech and hate speech, as well as their implications for Nigerians

on the cyberspace and the challenges associated with same. It was noted that the current corpus of our legal jurisprudence sufficiently covers both the criminal and civil aspects of hate speech. Consequently, the authors posited that it is needless to enact an entirely new law to govern the subject, as that will be tantamount to duplication. Rather than enact a totally new legislation on hate speech, they suggested that our existing laws should be improved upon by ensuring that appropriate regulations regarding opening of Facebook, twitter, skype, etc. accounts are put in place. It was also recommended that our existing laws should be amended by prescribing stiffer penalties for perpetrators of hate speech.

**15) Joseph Philip Turaki** examined the historical origin, migration and settlement of the Pyamethnic nationality of Jos Plateau state from the pre-jihad period to the colonial times. The aim was to unveil and document the history of the people with a view to discountenancing baseless assertions surrounding the past, origin and settlement of the Pyam. The work assessed the push and pull factors that contributed to the wave of migration and the subsequent outpouring of the Pyam in their present abode. A survey method was adopted for the study in addition to field work using structured questionnaires. The data generated through oral interviews were analysed using the narrative, analytic and descriptive approach. Secondary sources and archival materials relevant to the study were also obtained from the national Archive Kaduna and the Department of History and International studies, University of Jos. The study revealed that the migration of Pyam people into their present abode is dated between ca. 1100 to 1700 AD. The 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were characterized by internal or external migrations which were caused by the need for vaster farmland, necessitated by the increased population rate at that time. The study also showed that *Bapla*, *Bwerin* and *Gyertiem* communities predated the migration of the Gobir immigrants who came and met already organised settlements with well-defined political oligarchies. It was further revealed that some of the earlier immigrants were the ones who introduced Hausa culture into the Pyam community especially with the coming of the *Lerewa* from the present Bauchi State. Secondary settlements were said to have also emerged due to



the search for more farming and hunting grounds in addition to tertiary settlements.

- 16) **Restituta B. Igube and Frances Umari Ejue's** study identified major obstacles limiting women's access to the Internet and how to increase their network access. It explored gender inequality and the deprivation of women of social media usage using Lafia metropolis in Nasarawa state. The authors argued that women are deprived of the gains and participation in the Internet which is supposed to be an empowerment mechanism for women as development partners in society. It was assumed that the Internet has the potential to promote gender equality, increase productivity, reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development. This is in addition to job creation and increase in people's income with a multiplier effect of ergonomic. The liberal feminist theory was used in addition to the use of quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. Questionnaires were administered to one hundred and twenty-five women who were randomly selected in addition to in-depth interviews. It was concluded that the nature and level of women's participation on the Internet in Lafia Metropolis is abysmal. The scholars therefore recommended that more women need to be enlightened on the importance and usefulness of the Internet in the modern world. They also advocated for a safer cyber space.
- 17) **Omadefu Imran Addra, Aria John Saleh and Akwashiki Hubert Sanjay studied** language death and cultural disappearance occasioned by the forces of human migration and homogenisation of world civilisation. According to the authors, a language is endangered when its speakers cease to speak it or use it in selected domains. They posited in the study that language does not die alone: it dies along with its core values such as unique sounds, names of animals and plants in a speech community, unique forms of expression, traditional medicines and herbs, cultural heritage, among others. The paper identified attitudes, cataclysms, conflicts, education, etc. as responsible for language death and established pedestals: roles of family (speaking), government (advocacy), linguists (documentation) as well as NGOs (sensitization). It was concluded that many factors are responsible for language death and these could be internal and external. However, putative measures are suggested to halt this ugly linguistic
- trend.
- 18) **Bisong M. Tabang, Onucheyo, A. Friday and Abdulmalik, Mohammed Danrukayat** assessed the patterns of language acquisition of an Igala child using the behaviourism theory as propounded by Jean Piaget. The main concern is the development of Igala child language acquisition patterns based on the prescription of the theory of behaviourism. It was found that the Igala child first learns the Igala language as mother tongue (MT) and then as language of his immediate environment, which is purely a matter of imitation model through the help of adults who shape sounds that children make during babbling stage to words. It was also noted that parents and siblings reinforce the language habits in the child to produce more of acceptable words, expressions and sounds, and to develop a rule test via cognitivism. It was established through the study that imitation, practice and reinforcement constitute the patterns of language acquisition of an Igala child.
- 19) **Afolabi Festus Olushola, Abdulaziz Kasim Olalekan and Omoregie Faith Imuentinyan's** work looked at the effect of changes in prices on agricultural output in Nigeria and its implication on agriculture and food security over a period from 1980-2019. Time series data and econometric techniques were used to analyze the data. Specifically, regression analysis with the option of ordinary least square were employed. The results showed that there is variability in Nigeria rainfall and temperature. It also showed that price volatility has significant effect on agricultural productivity. It was further revealed that rainfall is more significant than temperature as a determinant of agricultural output in Nigeria. The scholars suggested that the formation of farmers' groups who would control the price of products to enhance or solve the problem of shortage, excessiveness, and fluctuations should be encouraged. *The need for adequate provision of irrigation and drainage infrastructure which are crucial for adaptation by all agencies and persons concerned to boost agricultural productivity in Nigeria was equally recommended.*
- 20) **Awaritoma Agoma's** work is an assessment of the performances of the main stand-up comedians, solo actors, spoken word artistes and other solo artistes at the maiden edition of the



festival of solo performance (Solo Africa). The aim was to highlight the event and portray them as the continuation of the storytelling tradition. The African folkist theory was adopted for the study in addition to the avantgardist theory of the theatre which allows ample room for experimentation. The Field Study approach was employed for data collection in addition to a descriptive qualitative method. Findings revealed that the storytelling tradition that seems to be going into extinction has long been reborn in the performances of today's solo performers. This implies that the storyteller has been split into the different styles of modern solo performance but an adept storyteller can still manifest all these styles in his performance. The scholar recommended that research should not be left in the hands of only scholars and critics. Performers should be encouraged to research their own performances and theorize about them to engender a proper connect between theory and practice.

- 21) **Chukwuebuka Cornelius Aguiyi, Joel Ogechukwu Okoh and Cynthia Ekene Umunnakwe-Okorie** assessed how the knowledge of social studies education could be a vehicle in solving the problem of national insecurity in Nigeria. Their aim was to examine the role of social studies education in preparing young people to be good citizens in a world that is becoming more and more complex. The study found that social studies places a premium on development and inculcation of right attitude, values, feelings and national consciousness in the youth. The authors concluded that youths that are adequately informed, educated and have acquired basic social skills in the society cannot be a security threat to national existence. The need to adopt a more people and society-oriented syllabus in our public schools to enable the youth to be acquainted with the security implications of any action they take was recommended.
- 22) **Emmanuel S. I. Ejere and Anieti Nseowo Udofia** investigated the impact of reforms on service delivery in Nigeria's public sector. The study adopted the descriptive method whereby the authors described the current situation in the Nigerian civil service to show how it has hampered service delivery. Data for the study was sourced through the secondary means using textbooks, journal articles and conference papers. The findings of the study revealed that the present

civil service in Nigeria is not service-oriented because of the negative attitude of workers which is occasioned by institutional failure. The authors concluded that for the civil service to be functional once again there is need for reforms that will be both institutional and behavioural in nature. They recommended among others the improvement of the incentive system that will motivate workers to do their best in rendering services in the different government institutions.

- 23) **Monday Imakpokpomwan, Roseline Olubor and Oghomwen Edeki** investigated Science Teachers Requirement and availability in Upper Basic Schools in Edo State. They noted that teachers are trained to further human development capacity in the society. They agreed that deploying science teachers in the right quality and quantity to the school system enhances the development potentials of the system. This study was based in the three Senatorial districts of Edo State, this was done using the human capital theory as expanded by Schultz (1961) and Becker (1962). The study explored the ex post facto research design and used a multi stage sampling technique for school sampling. They propounded three research questions and answered using percentages, average and pictorial illustrations. Their study found out that there exist inadequate supply of science teachers in the three Senatorial districts in Edo State. In conclusion they noted that rural schools were worst affected while urban schools were marginally staffed. They suggested that Proprietors of schools should employ science teachers within the locality to make up for the deficiencies.
24. **Salisu Mohammed and Adamu Usman** examined cohesion in selected speeches of the governor of Nasarawa State. This study explores the language of political speeches using cohesive devices such as deictic and exophoric references to determine a coherence between text and context in language use. The aim of the study was to examine how the speaker's use of these cohesive devices reflects on the assumptions he shares with his listeners that bring about language understanding. They employed a descriptive design and randomly selected two speeches made by the governor. Their findings show that, there exists a remarkable linguistic relationship between the two coherence features studied.



keep their identity alive through a native language. To do so will require an emphasis on *bilingualism* (mastery of two languages). Bilingual speakers could use their own language in smaller spheres-at home, among friends, in community settings-and a global language at work, in dealings with government, and in commercial spheres. In this way, many small languages could sustain their cultural and linguistic integrity alongside global languages, rather than yield to the homogenising forces of globalisation.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, Usman, (2014:71-2) affirms steps to take in halting the decline of our vanishing voices and cultural disappearance thus:

1. **Role of the Family:** parents must transfer languages intergenerationally to their younger ones. This is the first and the most important spring of socialisation because any language that a child is first introduced to becomes his instrument of thought and for the analysis of his world view.
2. **The Role of Community and Special Schools:** community leaders and language experts must make a concerted effort to design and implement language programmes where children are taught their languages particularly at pre-primary and primary school levels.
3. **The Role of Language Experts:** is to document our endangered languages as a sure way to revitalise them. For instance, Greek and Latin were revived through documentation by language experts.
4. **The Role of Public-Policy Makers:** government kills and preserves languages by its

policies and programmes. If government policies and programmes are designed to favour particular languages as media of instruction in schools and government functionaries for instance; Hausa and Swahili in Africa, Arabic in United Arab Emirates, English in United States of America, Australia and the entire Europe, Chinese in Asia etc among over 6,000 languages of minority speakers that are threatened by extinction is seen as a deliberate effort by the government to wipe them across the globe.

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## PATTERN OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION OF AN IGALA CHILD

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### Abstract

This study, entitled 'Patterns of language acquisition of an Igala child' was designed to find out how an Igala child acquire language (ie Igala). The theoretical framework adopted for the study is Behaviourism as propounded by Jean Piaget. There are many theories or models that explain how children learn language. But, hitherto, no single theory has been able to explain satisfactorily this wonderful phenomenon of the pre-school child. This becomes one of the reasons we have to study some language learning theories that can effectively aid the Igala child in language learning tasks. As discovered, the Igala child first learn the Igala language as mother tongue (MT) and second as language of his immediate environment which is purely a matter of imitation model

through the help of adults who shape sounds that children make during babbling stage to words. The child is reinforced by parents and siblings to produce more of acceptable words, expressions and sounds, and to develop a rule test via cognitivism. The patterns of language acquisition of an Igala child, according to this study, are imitation, practice and reinforcement. The main stay of this paper, therefore, is the development of Igala child language acquisition patterns based on the prescription of the theory of behaviourism

**Keywords:** Language, Acquisition, Behaviorism, Language acquisition pattern

### Introduction

Behaviourism or environmentalism as a theory of language acquisition helps in the explication of a child's capacity in speedy language development through what he sees in the practical world by a way of imitation and modeling. A pattern language is an organized and coherent set of patterns, each of which describes a problem and the solution (Alexander, 2006). An Igala child, like every other human child, is found to acquire language naturally and effortlessly through the aid of Language Acquisition Device (LAD) Chomsky (1997). Children acquire the L1 (ie Igala) implicitly, whereas patterns in language may potentially be learnt by adult either implicitly or explicitly. The stages of language acquisition by an Igala child can be broken down into listening, pre-production, early production, speech emergent, pre-fluency, intermediate fluency and advanced fluency (Peters, 2007)

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### Theoretical Framework

Behaviourism, the theoretical base of this paper, has been defined in different ways by different scholars. Encarta, (2009) defines it as "an approach to the study of psychology that concentrates exclusively on observing, measuring and modifying behaviour. Matthews (2007:30) sees it as "a movement in psychology which sought to eliminate all reference to subjective concepts or experience. The data were accordingly restricted to the observable reactions of subjects to observable stimuli. Also, Crystal (2008:51) considers it as the Bloomfield insistence on rigorous discovery procedures, and most notably in his behaviourist account of meaning in terms of observable stimuli and responses made by the participants in specific situations.

Behaviourism also known as environmentalism, itself discredited and displaced Introspectionism. This school of thought emphasises the publicly observable aspects of human behaviour and is informed by the need for a vigorous scientific investigation. To them, a neonate or new-born child is portrayed as a blank slate or "tabula-rasa". This neonate is perceived as a "pure mind" which has not been influenced by any external impression or whatsoever. However a



the child grows and matures with age, environmental stimuli prevail on him and he begins to respond and form his own perceptions and impressions about the world. This is because the need to interact with the environment, communicate and relate with the people around him, who are already organized into the superstructure called society, becomes pertinent. What drives the infant to utter sounds in the first place and later to master progressively more complex structures is what the behaviourist term stimulus and response. (Ivor 1967, 206).

The notion of stimulus and response as propounded by Skinner (1957) can be extended and applied to the Igala child in accordance with the conclusion that environment is the major determinant of behaviour, learning and acquisition of language. Ivor's (1967) formula of "input = output" or i/o can be interpreted to mean that the linguistic codes fed into the child generates a corresponding output. By implication, this means that what the child hears is the same as what he reproduces. Therefore, behaviourism affirms strongly that what a child internalizes is the result of his environmental exposure or experiences.

The theory identified some crucial factors necessary in language acquisition or learning. These are imitation, practice and reinforcement. Imitation is considered as an attempt by the child to model after the target language to which he has been exposed. Practice on the other hand implies that the child constantly repeats to himself what he hears around him, and this repetition enables him to firmly store the linguistic code in his memory for later use. Reinforcement is essentially the positive or negative encouragement that the child receives. In essence, behaviourism perceives language development within the context of reward and punishment, positive/negative sanctions.

This school of thought posits that humans learn languages through general learning principles, which are assumed to be the same for many species of organisms. This means that very little psychological structure is innately specified and that children have no special ability for language, other than that derived from general learning principles.

The main contribution that the people in the child's environment can make towards his language

development, is to encourage and reward him by initiating interchanges and responding to his initiatives. Early experiences of a reasonable measure of success encourages the child to continue to expand his efforts while lack of experience or success for whatever reason, seems in many cases to put a brake on the child's language development.

Behaviourism is rooted in psycholinguistics. The word "psychology" is gotten from the Greek word (Psyche), meaning "mind" or "soul" that is why Ray and Knight (1998) define psychology as "the systematic study of thought and behaviour – human and animal, normal, individual and social".

There is a great need for parents to monitor, correct wrong language behavioural pattern among children if at all they are to transmit genuinely unadulterated language and culture, because when the rudiment is lost there will be a mammoth chasm between the obtainable and the obtained. Bukar (2018:16) submits that "when a language is lost without being recorded, its unique linguistic features are also lost". From the above definitions, it is clear that psychology is concerned with the nature and the working of the mind and its aberrations and behaviour generally. Adoye (1964) maintains, however, that psychologists themselves prefer to avoid any assumption about the nature of the mind, and that most of them could prefer a definition in terms of behaviour rather than minds.

In psychology and children, Lowell (1960) observes that psychology may be defined as a branch of science "which studies the activities of the organism (human and animal)". But since activities also include the thinking process which distinguish man from the other lower animal because is factored into the centre of linguistic behaviour (cf Vgotsky, 1975) Due to certain reasons, evidentially, of course, this definition seems far less objectionable than many other which concentrate exclusively on overt behaviour or, on the other side of it, on the process of mental readiness. The psychology of the unconscious, or subconscious, is certainly older than the work of Freud, or of the other psycholanalytical schools of Adler and Jung. Essentially, it was the use of hypnotism which first revealed mental process below the level of consciousness.



**Behavioural pattern of the Igala child**

An Igala child after birth appears in his world of emptiness the brain equal to 'Tabularasa' (ie an empty vessel), but as he develops, he becomes aware of his environment and he listens, hears, speaks and write about things in his environment which include among others – Names of people which he applies them wrongly at the initial stage. Such linguistic exercise could be in form of:

Ojonugwa	- Jogwa	(Glory be to God)
Ojochogwu	- Jogwu	(God is medicine)
Maria	- Marera	(Mary)
Baba	- Bao	(Father)
Untewuajo	- Tewu	(Left for God)
Iko	- Duko	(Time/Period)
Uncle	- Oku	(Boniface)
Aunty	- Ati	(Aunt Female)
Ladi	- Adi	(Child born on Sunday)
Ewo	- Ewo	(Goat)

There are some words which Igala finds difficult to pronounce easily, because they lack some of the required alphabets. For instance letter "s" for example, the word Sule is pronounced as 'Echule'. Linguist like Armstrong (1955) maintains that the similarities between Igala and Yoruba language as experience today probably dated back from this period in history. The similarities could not have been acquired merely by a way of trade contacts for many names referring to parts of the body and not only objects of trade sounds but are similar both in meaning and sound, Example:

<u>English</u>	<u>Igala</u>	<u>Yoruba</u>
Hand	Owo	Owo
Ear	eti	eti
Get	gba	gba
Hear	gbo	gbo
Farm	oko	oko
Leg	ere	ese
Eye	eju	eju
Die	kwu	ku
Three days	ojometa	ojometa
Come and eat	ewajenwu	ewajenu
Water	omi	omi
Leave	kwo	kwuro
Fish	eja	eja
Husband	oko	oko

Yam	uchu	isu
Come	wa	wa
White	efufu	fufun
Red	ekpikpa	kpikpa
Black	edudu	dudu
Dance	ido	ijo
Hen	ajuwe	ajiye

*Adapted from Agih (2019:29).*

Linguistically, Igala and Yoruba shared certain degree of similarities. According to Agih (2019:29) "The belief is that Yoruba invaders came in the early prehistoric period of Igala land. Oral tradition among the ruling class in Igala, thus have traces of the origin of Achadu throne to Oyo and not Igbo as generally and erroneously believed. That the leader of the said invaders was the Asiwaju or Asaju (both mean leader) which name the Igala tongue roll as "Achadu". The unconscious mind which took a stage further into the realms of the collective unconscious mind.

Spearman (1904) produced evidence of mathematical nature which demonstrates mental abilities that correlated in a positive way. On this, Spearman argued that if an individual possesses one type of mental ability, then there is a degree of probability that he possesses another; and that this probability demonstrated by his experiments, statistically analyses and correlation factors. For instance, when an Igala child says: Baba (possessive Babami), mama (possessive mamai. It can equally be said as Baba kpai mama, which means father and mother. Spearman's theory was termed the "Two factor theory", and the "g" (or general factor) was regarded as the capacity for relational thinking. Spearman evolved what he termed "neogenetic principles", for example, the principles upon which the human mind works are:

1. The Apprehension of Experience: this was the ability to observe one's own mental processes, and to grasp quickly any situation, or human set of actions, which eventually became part of one's experience.
2. The Educational Relations: this was the ability to discover essential relationship between different data or items of knowledge. Thus the relation between "left and right", all black balls and the white ones, go and come are opposite.



**Igala**

- | <b>A.</b>   | <b>English interpretations</b> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Boluu Edudu (ele)4  | Black balls (four) 4           |
| Boluu Efufu (efa) 6   | White balls (six) 6            |
|   | Total = 10 balls.              |
| <b>B.</b> Ama – alemu Ekpikpa   |                                |
| (egwaka) 11   | red orange eleven (11)         |
| Ama alemu odufa   |                                |
| (ela) 9   | green orange nine (9)          |
| Ama alemu ogwuu   | total = 20 oranges             |
| <b>C.</b> Time reference: Odudu (morning), Oroka (afternoon) Ane (evening) greetings. |                                |
3. The Educational Correlates: This is purely the ability to discover a correlate when provides with a datum and relation. Thus, when given the word “left and the relation “opposite”, the correlation would be “right”. In the same way we have “olafia” (good health) and “oga” (sickness) as relational opposite in the Igala language. Others include:  
 “tikii or ree” versus “nana or lile” (small versus big)  
 “alee versus anana” (poverty versus richness)  
 enefu kpai enedudu (white man versus black man)  
 “ulakaa kpai ufedo” (hatred versus love)  
 “akwu” (cry) “kpai anyi” (laugh)  
 “oduu” (night) “kpai orokaa” (day)  
 “elo kpe wa” = (go and come)

In most cases, when a four-five year old Igala child is hurt and he/she retaliates in abusive words, what one normally hear is Atawe (ie) your father or Iyewe (i.e) your mother beyond this, sometimes it is done in borrowed language like Hausa e.g uwakaa = regarding ones mother wawa = mad person. Sometimes, the child says 'goat', 'sheep' meaning you are a goat or a sheep. They could also say – enidada. Enidada in Igala mean foolish person. All of the above responses by the Igala children are in accordance with the respective postulations of language development theories, as presented below.

**Theories of Language Development**

Children below the age of 0 – 7 are always inquisitive thus whatsoever their eyes capture or appeals to their senses and that arouse their attention become subject of questioning. It is

through this kind of inquisitiveness and high sense of interrogation that they become aware of several concepts in their environment. “In real world communication, there is always a context – a place where communication typically takes place, a subject, and people who talk”. According to Fulcher and Davidson (2007:16), Mastery of language creativity and development increases as practice continues unabatedly.

Tabang and Onucheyo (2018:259), Anagbogu, Mba and Eme (2010:162) all agreed that “Though language is known to be an aspect of culture (like religion, tradition), it contains and transmits culture; According to them, “all habits, ideas, behaviours, notions, believes, ethos, and other cultural patterns are virtually inconceivable without the instrumentality of language”. It is “a means by which elders in society teach the younger ones the culture of the society; it is a veritable instrument for socialising, a tool for thinking, for dreaming and for all human actions. The limit of a man's language is therefore the limit of his world” (Tabang and Onucheyo, 2018) “Words for concrete objects can be potentially acquired by hearing the objects named while it is being pointed out”. Jean (2006:16).

A four (4) year old child of the researcher Mr. Onucheyo by name ATAMA-OJO has this sample of speech development. Daddy (Mr Onucheyo) and Atama-ojo (Ata), through dialogue has this pattern of speech development:

**Dialogue:**

- Ata: Daddy, what is this?  
 Daddy: It is hoe (Ukoche)  
 Ata: Daddy, what do they call shirt in Igala?  
 Daddy: It is called Afe  
 Ata: What is the name of Snake in Igala?  
 Daddy: Snake is called Ejo  
 Ata: Daddy book is what?  
 Daddy: Book is called Otakada  
 Ata: Horse is what in Igala?  
 Daddy: Horse is called Anyela  
 Ata: Eye glass is what?  
 Daddy: Ogigo – eju  
 Ata: Bridge is called what?  
 Daddy: Ogolochi  
 Ata: This tree is called what?



- Daddy: Omagolo (Mango)  
 Ata: What is sand in Igala?  
 Daddy: Ekte  
 Ata: eeh! Ekte, Ekte, Ekte and he goes juggling, meeting his other playmates hilariously.

### The Igala Child and Linguistic Monologism

In his description of egocentric speech and its developmental fate, Piaget (1948) states that it does not fulfill any realistically useful function in the child's behaviour, and that it simply manifests as the child approaches school age. It is strongly held that egocentric speech early assumes a very definite and important role in the activity of the child as it controls his world to learn the language of his immediate environment. To support this, Votsky (1962) mentions some experiments in which he organized children's activities in much the same way as Piaget did but many obstacles, frustrations and difficulties were presented to the child at the same time. Votsky later found that in difficult situations "the co-efficient of egocentric speech almost doubled". The child would find that he/she had no pencil for the task he was given to perform or it was the wrong colour, or it was an oversized pencil that he was given by his teacher, with all these, his monologism would increase. "where is the pencil? Oh, this is not the colour I want, or the pencil is too big or the pencil is too small, I can't use this, where is the black one, where do you keep the one that is not cut?" see also Piaget (1926), from the experiment, Gotsky gathered that a disruption in the smooth flow of activity is "an important stimulus for egocentric speech", and that it demonstrates the general awareness of the child, and the fact that speech is an expression of the process of becoming aware, and becoming an instrument of thought itself in seeking and planning solutions to existing problems. On the work, however, the inner speech of the adult represents his 'thinking for himself rather than social adaptation; i.e it has the same function that egocentric speech has in the child. Conclusively, it is true that the primary functions of both the child and the adult's speech is communication and social contact. This means that the earliest speech of the child is essentially social; at first, multifunctional, but later undifferentiated.

### Language Application

In applying the theory of behaviourism to language acquisition, which is a sub-field in developmental psycholinguistics, one would find out that credence is given to child language development (CLD) which deals with how children acquire or learn a language. The emphasis here is on the environment in which a child grows. For example, if a child happens to be born in a Hausa speaking community, the child will grow up to use the language behaviour of the environment same applies to a child born either in an Igbo speaking region or Yoruba as the case may be. These three major factors – Imitation, Practice and Reinforcement combine with the environment to influence on the Igala child. For example, Atama-ojo, who is now four years old, a son to Mr. Onucheyo (the researcher) sometimes mimic adult's speech especially what his father says to him in a particular way. Over time he tends to reproduce replica of such utterances, example

English	-	Igala emi
Sit down here	-	gwane
Hello	-	allo
Stand up	-	kwane
Drink	-	nmuo

and so on. Sometimes when he wrongly pronounces certain words, his father tries to correct him by pronouncing the same word correctly over and over again as Atama repeats after him. Such practice helps the child to become better and as well internalise the correct forms of such expressions. Sometimes he is rewarded for properly calling or pronouncing certain expression, while at other times the reverse is the case.

Another good example is the work done on Code-Mixing in the language development of a Bilingual Nigeria Child by Surakat (2001). Based on this concept, one can apply the theory to play acting or the film industry where actors mimic other character and personalities other than theirs. The constant practices or rehearsal sessions they hold enable them to be able to produce overtime a replica of the personalities they intend to enact or represent. During such sessions of rehearsals, the Director sometimes commends or makes positive remarks or otherwise. This may encourage or challenge the actors as the case may be. Such remarks are considered as reinforcements. On



areas where one can apply the theory of behaviorism include our every day experiences as well as our mundane experiences.

### Critique of Behaviourism

The behaviourist, efforts are commendable since they made useful contributions to the study of language, however, they faced a lot of criticism which lead to the unpopularity of the theory. They were criticised by the rationalist that the three factors – imitation, practice and reinforcement in language acquisition were necessary but not sufficient conditions for speech development in childhood.

They dealt with performance because it was what the child produced at the expense of competence of what the child knows. The innatist argues that reinforcement plays just a mere passive role in speech development because what is being corrected by the parents is either pronunciation or content of the utterance of their children. Furthermore, they were accused that language acquisition cannot be reduced to a reward and punishment phenomenon. They were mediumistic and at best only contributed to explaining the development of surface structure of language. See Tomori (2004:111), Onucheyo (2015:57), Ubahakwe & Sogbesan (2001:141). Finally, they placed emphasis on observable behaviour and nothing was said to account for the unobservable and the role of the brain. In many ways, the theory cannot adequately account for man's capacity to acquire language, or the development of language itself.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, language learning and its development for the behaviourist is environmentally determined by the three important factors of imitation, practice and reinforcement. For the above reason, their contributions to the study of language development are of immense importance, though the shortcomings faced a lot of criticisms, it can be concluded that the learning process is a behaviouristic process – a verbal behaviour.

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