

THE IMPACT OF ENGLISH ON THE LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL STATUS
OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF NIGERIA¹

Jerome Baghana, Professor, Doctor of Philology, Belgorod State University, 308015, Russia, Belgorod, 85 Pobeda St., e-mail: baghana@bsu.edu.ru.

Voloshina Tatiana G., Candidate of Philological Sciences, Belgorod State University, 30015, Russia, Belgorod, 85 Pobeda St., e-mail: tatianavoloshina@rambler.ru.

The article describes the theoretical aspects of the historical and cultural influence of the English language on the functioning of the indigenous languages of Nigeria. The authors of the study analyze the main reasons for the dominance of the English language and its use in all spheres of life in Nigeria. The article points out the main interethnic language groups cooperation in Nigeria and analyze their peculiarities based on historical, cultural, linguistic basis. The research work presents some characteristics of language policy of Nigeria and outlines the prospects for its development.

Keywords: territorial variant, English, indigenous languages, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, globalization, language policy, domination, marginalization

ВЛИЯНИЕ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА НА ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ
СОСТОЯНИЕ КОРЕННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ НИГЕРИИ

Жером Багана, профессор, доктор филологических наук, Белгородский государственный университет, 308015, Россия, г. Белгород, ул. Победы, 85, e-mail: baghana@bsu.edu.ru.

Волошина Татьяна Геннадьевна, кандидат филологических наук, Белгородский государственный университет, 308015, Россия, г. Белгород, ул. Победы, 85, e-mail: tatianavoloshina@rambler.ru.

В статье рассматриваются теоретические аспекты историко-культурологического влияния английского языка на функционирование коренных языков Нигерии. Авторы исследования анализируют основные причины доминирования английского языка и его применение во всех сферах жизни Нигерии. В статье рассматриваются особенности ключевых характеристик межэтнических языковых групп Нигерии, анализируются их специфика функционирования в лингвокультурологии. В ходе исследования представлены некоторые характеристики современного состояния языковой политики Нигерии и намечены перспективы ее развития.

Ключевые слова: территориальный вариант, английский язык, языки коренных народов, Хауса, Йоруба, Игбо, глобализация, языковая политика, доминирование, маргинализация

The relevance of this article is seen in the consideration of controversial theoretical issues of the study in line with the functioning of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria and the impact on the functioning of many language groups of indigenous peoples of Nigeria. The aim of the work is to identify the im-

¹Статья выполнена в рамках дополнительного внутривузовского конкурса НИУ «БелГУ» на соискание грантов для поддержки общественных и гуманитарных направлений развития университета. Приказ № 737 – ОД от 15.08.2018.

fact of English on the status of indigenous languages of Nigeria. Prospects for the development of the problem are seen in the application of theoretical material for the preparation of practical manuals and dictionaries that reflect the historical, cultural, linguistic features of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria.

The multilingual nature of the country is one of the most acute problems in the life of modern Nigeria. Inconsistent language policies, the inability of successive governments to choose one or more indigenous languages as their national language, the lack of respect for many linguistic minorities, and the inadequate definition of the role of indigenous languages in governance are among the key factors of Nigeria's language crisis. Although there are from 250 to 400 indigenous languages, and no language has been granted processing official language status [1, p.84]. In 1990, the Government of Nigeria attempted to introduce the use of an artificial language similar to the East African Swahili language. But this attempt was not successful, since such a language in its composition contains the vocabulary of only three main languages, namely VA (Yoruba); ZO (Hausa) and BIA (Igbo), while other numerous languages were not used in this language system [1].

English has continued to occupy such a prominent place in the development process of the country that its dominance has hampered growth and even led to the disappearance of more than 529 indigenous languages of Nigeria. The spread of the English language in Nigeria was not violent, on the contrary, it was a natural course of events because of the urgent need to find a unified means of communication, without singling out the languages of favourites or languages belonging to a linguistic minority. However, the language situation in Nigeria before colonization was when indigenous languages were flourished and promoted to cultural values, while in modern society linguists note a marked reduction in the role of indigenous languages and even the extinction of some of them [2].

During colonization, indigenous Nigerian languages came into contact with the languages of the colonizers. It should be emphasized that, even after independence, Nigeria has not been able to develop a language policy that would ensure the proper functioning of indigenous languages. The existing language policy, which is one of the aspects of the education policy of 1977, singled out only three key languages from the likely set, such languages were Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo [3].

Concerning the problem of classification of language groups of Nigerian languages, it is customary to distinguish three categories of Nigerian languages: class A, class B, class C. Class A includes languages that are classified by the state as the main indigenous languages. Such languages are spoken by at least six million native speakers and are widely used outside their state of origin. Examples of this class of languages can be languages of Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. Languages of class B are officially recognized in Nigeria and they are used at the national and at federal levels. However, such languages are not very popular outside their country of origin, for example, languages Kanuri, Fulani, Edo, Efik, Mod and others. Group C includes secondary languages without official recognition at the state level [4, p. 67-71].

Unfortunately, the proposed language classification functions today, as noted by the leading Nigerian linguists (Ademowo A., Bamgose A., Oke R., Olabode E.), only in theory and in practice, since a number of problems arising in connection with such a classification, it has not been solved. The linguistic diversity of the Nigerian peoples is another factor that makes it difficult to present a single and unified classification. These factors have impeded the development of Nigerian indigenous languages for the development of English, which has gained greater prestige and status in Nigeria. Multilingualism, which was generally intended to protect indigenous languages and the diversity of different cultures, had become a major problem affecting all aspects of modern Nigeria. If some privileges are granted to one language, the representatives of other language groups begin to envy of such opportunities. Even the use of the so-called basic languages in education has not

led to positive results due to the impossibility of providing schools with sufficiently competent teachers [5].

All these factors promoted the prosperity of the English language development and functioning, which ranked first among the 400 Nigerian languages [5].

The dominance of English in Nigeria has naturally overshadowed the use of indigenous languages. This has far-reaching cultural and linguistic implications for the identity of the nation. For example, the use of indigenous languages among children is decreasing, the consequence is that many languages or dialects now face the threat of extinction. Language and culture could not exist independently of each other, and the lack of application of indigenous languages in practice by the younger generation had led to a gradual extinction of cultural identity, with the result that the younger generation was beginning to lose the basic values of its culture. One example of the loss of cultural heritage in the writings of the modern linguistic and cultural features of Nigeria is the fact that young Nigerians prefer to choose not traditional but modern European clothes, as well as the popular habit to use European names by the younger generation, so that they can be pronounced in English [6]. In his research, the authors provide the following analogues of English names in Yoruba and the identified on the platform of social media, for example:

Ayomide - *Haryurmideh*; *Oyindamola* – *Hoyindarmorlah*; *Adedoyin* – *Ardeydhoyin*; *Abisola* – *Harbeesorlah*; *Femi* – *Phemmy* [6, p. 19–21].

According to the authors' research, the younger generation of Yoruba suggests that non-Yoruba speakers are likely to have trouble pronouncing most of these names if they are written in their original patterns. In connection with the desire to simplify pronunciation, as well as the tendency of young people in Nigeria to prefer English in daily communication, we are witnessing a phenomenon such as the process of influence of "anglophonization" of indigenous languages.

Other Nigerian linguists such as Bambgose A. and Olabode E. believe that in the current language situation of Nigeria there are serious consequences in reducing the use of indigenous languages, manifested in the strict dominance of the use of English in Nigeria, which has adversely affected the quality of indigenous languages used even by the elite part of the society [6, 7]. Today, indigenous people can hardly speak the pure language of Yoruba, Igbo or Hausa without mixing the language with lexemes or phrases from the English language.

Thus, while English continues to be the national language in modern Nigeria, and remains the language of education, the media, legislation and permeates the entire fabric of Nigerian society, in fact, indigenous languages are not just threatened, but are gradually dying out. English, which had acquired a very impressive status, would be of particular interest to various individuals in Nigeria; especially when proper command of such a language was linked to career and social growth.

The influence of globalization on the linguistic state of the territorial version of the English language in Nigeria can be traced at the phonetic, lexical, syntactic levels. The official language of Nigeria, English, is based on the Foundation of the standard English language, however, the multi-ethnic nature of Nigeria has left its mark on the linguistic state of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria. Thus, the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is a hybrid language, which is based on the rules and norms of the standard English language and linguistic base of the indigenous peoples of Nigeria – Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba.

The phonological structure of the territorial English version of Nigeria is least affected by the phenomenon of globalization due to the lack of some sounds of standard English in indigenous languages. In this case, the inhabitants of Nigeria use similar pronunciation sound analogue or omission of a sound, which is not included into the pronunciation base of the native language of Nigerians, for example:

1. in Yoruba, the sound /h/ is absent, and therefore it is omitted in the pronunciation: *hause* /*hauz*/ (standard English) – /*auz*/ (territorial version of the English language of Nigeria),

2. the Igbo language does not have a sound /ju/, so when it is spoken, the people of Nigeria reproduce the sound that is closest to the system of the native language – /u/, for example:

– *security* /sɪkjʊərəti/ (standard English language) – /sɪkʊərəti/ (territorial English Nigeria) [5, p. 47–69].

However, in the period of globalization in modern Nigeria, there is a tendency of media broadcasts at the level of state and local channels, based on the phonetic structure of the standard English language, which is associated with the need to reach an international audience.

The syntactic structure of the territorial variant of the English language of Nigeria has the following specifics:

1) pluralization of nouns in Nigerian English, for which in standard English the norm is only the use of a noun in the singular, for example: *couple* (standard English) – *couples* (territorial version of the English language of Nigeria), *damage* – *damages*, *fault* – *faults*, *advice* – *advices*, *rubbish* – *rubbishes*, *equipment* – *equipments*, *baggage* – *bags*, *lap* – *laps*, *dead wood* – *dead woods* [8, p. 51–116];

2) the omission of the definite article, for example: – *I am going to the market* (Standard English) – *I am going to market* – (Nigerian English); *He wrote the letter in a hurry* (Standard English) – *He wrote the letter in hurry* (Nigerian English) [5, p. 77–98];

3) preference for the use of the modal verb *could* in the present tense, while in standard English this form will be used to present the action in the past tense or to give the action a shade of the possibility of the origin of an event, for example: *I could remember that he was here last week* (Nigerian English) – *I can remember that he was here last week* (Standard English); *We could succeed in our business if we are lucky* (Nigerian English) – *He couldn't answer the questions* – (Standard English) [5, p. 102];

4) the use of prepositions after some verbs, while in standard English there are no prepositions; the use of other prepositions other than standard English; the omission of prepositions, for example:

• *the omission of the preposition:*

He arrived at the airport just in time to catch the flight to Porto Harcourt (arrived at - Standard English) - *He arrived the airport just in time to catch the flight to Porto Harcourt* (arrived - Nigerian English) [5, p. 54],

• *adding a preposition:*

Ask from the chairman if there will be a meeting next Sunday (Ask from – Nigerian English) - *Ask the chairman if there will be meeting next Sunday* (Ask - Standard English) [5, p. 56],

• *replacement of a preposition:*

– *We arrived to the hotel in time for lunch* (arrived to – Nigerian English) – *We arrived at the hotel in time for lunch* (arrived at – Standard English) [5, p. 54],

– *We went to congratulate him for his recent promotion* (congratulate for – Nigerian English) – *We congratulated her on her new job* (congratulated on – Standard English) [5, p. 100];

5) *specific word order in a sentence*, for example:

– *The friend of mine* (Standard English) – *This my friend* (Nigerian English); *Blue Colour* (Standard English) – *Colour Blue* (Nigerian English);

– *My friend and I* (Standard English) – *I and my friend* (Nigerian English) [5, p. 154].

After analyzing some characteristics of the syntactic system of the territorial variant of the English language of Nigeria, we came to the conclusion that in the period of globalization it has the ability to variability and flexible adaptation of the properties of the standard English language to the linguistic structure of the indigenous languages of Nigeria.

The lexical composition of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria is more affected by the phenomenon of globalization due to the needs of modern Nigerians to meet the standards of modern society. It is characterized by the following linguistic features: semantic shift, semantic expansion of meaning, wide use of abbreviations.

Semantic shift involves changing the meaning of a word when redefining its characteristics within a single semantic field, while its Central idea becomes limited, for example: *machine (motor cycle) – motorcycle; mineral (soft drinks) – soft drink* [5, p. 210–214].

Semantic expansion of the meanings of the words of the territorial variant of the English language of Nigeria leads to an increase in the scope of concepts, resulting in new definitions and a new meaning of the word, for example: *account (money) – money* [5, p. 36], *cup (glass, tumbler) – glass, glass, Cup* [5, p. 105], *customer (both the buyer and the seller) – buyer, seller* [5, p. 106],

– *English (any European)- any European* [5, p. 125], – *Father (maybe addressed to any elder man)- appeal to any elderly person* [5, p. 134].

As the most productive ways of word-formation system of territorial variant of the English language of Nigeria, such methods as suffixation and prefixation are used, which fully correspond to the system of standard English, for example: *invite – invitee, arrange – rearrange, decamp – decampee* [5, p. 34–47].

For the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, a distinctive feature is the use of a large number of abbreviations, which are an abbreviated spelling of a group of words with morphological meaning. Abbreviations are very productive linguistic group, the emergence of which was promoted by the phenomenon of globalization.

Examples:

ASUU – Academic Staff Union of Universities (Union of University teachers),

SMC – Supreme Military Council (Supreme military Council),

SAP – Structural Adjustment Programme (structural adjustment Program),

SNC – Sovereign National Conference (Sovereign national Conference) [5, p. 23–305].

After analyzing the features of the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria, we came to the conclusion that its lexical composition is more influenced by the phenomenon of globalization, which is associated with a change in the lifestyle of Nigerians and their need for daily life to use English as a means of communication. Both conceptually and in practice, while globalization has positive, innovative, dynamic aspects, it also has negative, destructive and marginalized aspects that can lead to the extinction of indigenous languages [7, p. 82].

Attempts to promote the use of indigenous languages among the population have also been severely curtailed at the educational level of children. While some parents would like their children to be able to speak their indigenous languages, they are equally concerned about the future of their children because of their high level of English. Educated parents who know that a child is able to learn many languages before the age of 12 are more likely to prefer the child learning the first language, which will be the most functional in the society. So gradually, the level of language proficiency in L1 (first language acquired) is replaced by the language level L2 (the second language studied). For many parents, UNESCO's idea that their native language improves the learning of a second language is irrelevant because they want to see their children master, think and reason in a language they will need to use throughout their lives if they want to be successful professionals in the future [7]. In modern society, the Nigerian government needs to develop a language policy that actively and effectively promotes Nigerian indigenous languages in all schools and makes learning at least one indigenous language compulsory part of school curricula. In Nigeria, considerable efforts are being made by the

Government to promote the use of indigenous languages in the areas of music education, indigenous cinema [8].

In the music industry, many of today's Nigerian hip hop artists now use a mixture of Igbo, Yoruba, Hausa, Efik and English in their lyrics. The film industry also promotes broadcasting in indigenous languages in the three main languages, with audiences of all ages. Telecommunications service providers have come to understand the need to expand the target audience to include an understanding of information not only in English but also in indigenous languages, so advertisement in print and electronic media, General education programs, local news units have equivalents in at least three major languages.

The Internet in Nigeria is now becoming a true source of indigenous languages, and a large number of Nigerians prefer to communicate in indigenous languages on social networks such as WhatsApp, Facebook and others.

There is a reason to believe that the problem of the use of indigenous languages in Nigeria is also determined by its territorial affiliation [7, 8]. The problem of the use and promotion of indigenous languages is more evident in Southern and Western Nigeria. In that regard, perhaps other tribes should begin to follow the example of Northern ethnic groups in Nigeria, where the promotion of indigenous languages in the school system and in local media languages was actively promoted. In Northern Nigeria, a typical Hausa family speaks Hausa Fulani or Kanuri with their children from birth. The Northern tribe is so passionate about their language that a foreigner who can speak their language at any level of proficiency is immediately considered a friend [8].

The history of Nigeria recalls that during colonial rule, one of the preconditions for the establishment of schools by colonizers in the Northern region of Nigeria was that Nigerian children would be allowed to study not only in English but also in their mother tongue. For Northern Nigeria, the inherent advantage is that the child is not separated from his or her culture and language and is not highly isolated from foreign influence in his or her cultural values. Some researchers believe that a rational way to solve the problem can be the possibility of creating regional Lingua Franca languages based on a local trait [7, 8]. Given the territorial affiliation of a particular part of Nigeria, the Hausa language can be adopted as an official language in the North of the country, the spread of the Yoruba language can occupy the South-Western part. The Igbo language can be adopted to function in South-Eastern Nigeria. Ethnic rivalry caused by the privileged position of one language over another, in this case, may be significantly reduced according to the researchers. English should continue to function as a national language, it should remain as the language of instructions in schools and be used for high school, and should remain a language for communication with the outside world, but with less functionality in the day-to-day activities of citizens. Indigenous languages should also be taught at the level of Secondary schools and High education. However, teaching should be not only theoretical but also practical in all aspects, which means that the study of these indigenous languages should include both oral and written tests.

Thus, the presented research work stresses the reasons for the dominance of the English language in the modern life of Nigeria. Given the likely consequences of the continued dominance of the English language, there is a risk of the extinction of indigenous languages and the loss of the cultural identity of the people, given the current attitudes of young people, parents and government officials towards indigenous languages.

References

1. Bagana, J., Voloshina, T. Features of the functioning of the English language in Nigeria // Scientific notes of Orel state University, 2018, № 3, pp. 81–84.

2. Bagana J., Voloshina T. G. Semantic and etymological characteristics of the vocabulary of the thematic group "food" in the territorial version of the English language of Nigeria // Scientific thought of the Caucasus, 2018, № 2, pp. 97–101.
3. Bambgoose A. New Englishes: A West-African perspective, 2004. 109 p.
4. Fevzi A. Y. Indigenous languages and technological development in Africa, 2014. P. 118.
5. Igboanusi H. A Dictionary of Nigerian English Usage, 2010. P. 369.
6. Oke R. Sociolinguistic dimension of globalization: the gradual shift of Yoruba personal names among young people in southwestern Nigeria // African Symposium. 2014, pp. 78–91.
7. Olabode E. A Indigenous languages in Africa and their values // Centre for African development, 2010. P. 16-24.
8. Smith R. Main noun class system, the language of Western Kainji., 2007. P. 157.

ОСОБЕННОСТИ ГРАММАТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ ПОСТРОЕНИЯ СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫХ КОНСТРУКЦИЙ В ПОВЕСТИ Н.В. ГОГОЛЯ «ТАРАС БУЛЬБА»

Бардина Татьяна Константиновна, кандидат филологических наук, доцент, Астраханский государственный университет, 414056, Россия, г. Астрахань, ул. Татищева, 20а, e-mail: bardina-tatjana@mail.ru.

В статье представлены грамматические средства реализации сравнительных конструкций в тексте повести Н.В. Гоголя «Тарас Бульба». Проанализированные средства позволили обнаружить глубокую связь сравнительных конструкций с народной поэтикой и фольклором, проследить отношения слообразовательных грамматических категорий и контекста, влияние лексико-грамматических разрядов существительных, а также ряда форм грамматических категорий на стилистическую принадлежность сравнительных конструкций, выявить тенденцию писателя к развёрнутым сравнительным конструкциям, продиктованную эпическим размахом повести.

Ключевые слова: сравнительные конструкции, грамматические средства, лексико-грамматические разряды, грамматическая категория, синтаксическая оформленность, народная поэтика, образность, символика

FEATURES OF GRAMMATICAL MEANS OF CONSTRUCTING COMPARATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE STORY N.V. GOGOL "TARAS BULBA"

Bardina Tat'jana K., Candidate of Philological Sciences, Astrakhan State University, 414056, Russia, Astrakhan, 20a Tatishchev st., e-mail: bardina-tatjana@mail.ru.

The article presents the grammatical means of implementing comparative constructions in the text of the story N.V. Gogol "Taras Bulba". The analyzed tools made it possible to discover the deep connection of comparative constructions with folk poetics and folklore, to trace the relationship of layering grammatical categories and context, the influence of lexical and grammatical categories of nouns, as well as a number of forms of grammatical categories on the stylistic affiliation of comparative constructions, to reveal the writer's characteristic tendency towards detailed comparative constructions dictated by the epic scope of the story.

Keywords: comparative constructions, grammatical means, lexical and grammatical categories, grammatical category, syntactic design, folk poetics, imagery, symbolism