

---

## **LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION: CHALLENGES FOR NATIONAL INTERGRATION AND GLBALIZATION**

***Ayaka Rigima Obadiah***

***Department of General Studies***

***College of Agriculture, Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria***

---

### **ABSTRACT**

Language, literature and Communication share a common background. The paper examines what language, literature and communication entail. An attempt is made to look at the challenges for national integration and globalization. More importantly, recommendations are made based on the topic of discourse.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is easily the most important attribute that sets man over and above other lesser beings, hence the need to study language to understand its uses and characteristic. The New Encyclopaedia Britannica (Vol.10 1981:642) defines language as "an expression of ideas by means of speech sounds combines into words, words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of thoughts". It goes further to assert that, every physiologically and mentally normal person acquires in childhood the ability to make use, as both speaker and hearer of a system of vocal communication that comprises a circumscribed set of noises resulting from movement of certain organs within his throat and mouth" by means of which he is able to impart, to express feelings and emotions to influence the activities of others. Literature on the other hand, can simply be seen as an artistic creation or a work of arts. We can compare the literary artist to an artist – painter who combines different colours to create impressions which are admired by all. Unlike the painter however, the literary artist selects and combines words together to express ideas and feelings which according to Aristotle are of "paramount" and "Universal value. By paramount here, he means that writers often concern themselves with things or issues that are past and parcel of human life which are not short – lived, transient or ephemeral. Literature is a commit on man in his environment. Infact, the ingredients of literature are man and his environment. However, literature is not only what it is said (content), but, also how it is said (method). It deals with both the content and the method.

The word "communication" applies to almost any of the process as we have directly or indirectly experienced since we all live in a communication friendly environment. The basis of relationships and transactions has been traced to communication. Communication brings people together, keeps them together and ensures that individuals and groups understand one another. At a very conservative level, communication is used to meet man's transactions with other people. Infact, all humans and organizations are involved in diverse communication tasks most of the time. Having critically explained what language, literature and communication share in common, it is necessary to discuss some challenges facing the national integration and globalization.

### **THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION**

The geographical entity which constitutes the Federal Republic of Nigeria under one democratic government is headed by a central administration super intending over a

collective of thirty-six states and at Federal Capital Territory. At independence in 1960, hopes were fired by our nationalist who inflamed the embers of national consciousness where no man or woman is oppressed. Fifty turbulent years after (and twelve uninterrupted years of full-blown democracy), it would seem that there is indeed a big trouble with Nigeria. Chinua Achebe one of our reknown literary guru has in a slim volume with the curious title "The trouble with Nigeria", suggested that it has been squarely and succinctly that of failure of leadership. The prominent political scientist, Eghosa Osaghae (2011) has confirmed that the country (Nigeria) is arguably one of the most complex countries in the world and belongs to the genre of the most troubled called deeply divided societies. Three insightful questions he asked are: what exactly is the trouble with Nigeria? Why did a country once regarded as the giant and hope of Africa because of its immense human and material resources founder so badly? How did the tragedy that had befallen post colonial States in Africa afflicted Nigeria? (ix). The major argument of his book whose title reek with blunt and incisive analysis, is summarized, as being that Nigeria has become a crippled state. Crippled giants; therefore presents the country in its naked foibles and wobbles to the extent of its being recently referred to as a failed state with organized chaos.

Chinua Achebe's A man of the people, Wole Soyinka's The trials of Brother Jero and, A play of Giants, Festus Iyayi's Violence amongst countless others, document collective idiocy that has marked our journey so far. The stories are so alike with political crooks, corporate crooks, social crooks and other mutely crooks subverting the country and citizenry. To instantiate this landmark, let me consider one of Russian's modern literary artist, Zahar Prilepin who has written pungently about the Russian nation in an unapologetic mode. Here is one political writer who shows vulnerable, all-too-human characters fighting giant forces more powerful than themselves. And like Dostoevsky, his work is shot through with irrespressive beauty and the promise of redemption: a wanna be – terrorist punk called negative who talks tenderly to his plants, a soldier who day dreams about a simple love for his girlfriends, even as he terrorizes Chenchian civilians. In Pathologies, he says he wrote fiction, not autobiography. The author according to Owen Mathew (2011) is one who sees his country as fatally sick and who feels a duty to do something about it. Despite his portraits of the lost generation, he says that in real life he has met plenty of Russian kids who are smart, curious, intelligent, kids who want to travel and learn languages like our own country. Prilepin says Russian has two paths – "to change or to die" National integration is one of the subthemes of this paper. At this point, this paper calls for an opening of the political space. The Southern Sudan experience is an example and strong lesson in determination. The long oppressed people of South Sudan made their decision in the cryptic and reassuring slogan when asked whether they would vote for self-determination. In every interview, each and every Southern Sudanese made it clear long before the Referendum that "The train has already left the station" To fully appreciate communication, let me paint our canvass with the recent media upheaval of the century aptly titled "Tabloid bites Man" The hacking scandal centres on Rupert Murdoch, a media mongul who is currently having a bitter taste of what his tabloid had fed the society. His tabloids were fast and raw and raunchy, a torment to celebrities who put any premium on privacy and a snaring check on the arrogance of politicians who pad expense reports or fool around on the side. So much power, so much promise – it had to be painful to issue a death warrant for the 168 year –

Old News of the World, executed on July 10 by Murdoch's son and heir apparent James. But the killing of the lucrative tabloid was intended at to bury the scandal that threatened this extraordinary power base. Instead, it has brought Murdoch, the Australian-born founder, Chairman and CEO of News Corp; to the drama's centre stage. When Murdoch calls, PMs and Presidents from Beijing to Rome answer the phone. The press makes it clear that it is through it that the electorate perceives politicians.

In the end, what you sow is what you reap. Murdoch is today a victim of the culture that he created. It is a logical conclusion and it is his people at the top who encouraged law breaking and lacking phones and condoned it. All institutions have lapses, even great ones especially by individual rogue employees – famously in recent years at the Washington post, The New York Times and the three original TV networks. This scandal forced the press baron to close down News of the World in a very moving title of: Thank you and GOODBYE, in a farewell issue on July 10, 2011. Would this have happened in Nigeria? The solace is that the events of recent weeks are a water shed for Britain, for the United States and for Rupert Murdoch. Tabloid journalism and tabloid culture may never be the same again.

### **GLOBALIZATION AND THE NATION – NIGERIA**

The present era is said to be the age of globalization which is a term which encompasses varied perspectives. Ordinarily, it refers to the global outlook of different notions of the world coming closer and joining hands in terms of economy, education, society and politics. It empowers a view for the entire world as a whole irrespective of the national identity by bringing people of all nations closer. It has therefore, been patiently enthused that enabling people of one nation to communicate with those of other nations is the biggest achievement of globalization and development. Globalization is multiplying with such a rapid pace that its consequences are being experienced by the smallest and secluded communities and natural areas either in a developed, developing or an underdeveloped nation.

The Danish political philosophers Hans – Henrik Holm and Georg Sorensen defined globalization as the intensification of economic, political, social and cultural relations across borders (Aslam, 2011:30). Consequently, our generation which is intimately interconnected by new communication technologies like satellite television, social media and the internet – has formed a new kind of transactional identity, one that cannot be contained by any ethnic, national or sectarian borders. It is an identity founded on young people shared ambition to free themselves from the grip of their corrupt and inept political, religious, economic institutions and thus to return their culture and society to the days of glory it achieved in time past or hopes to achieve in the future. Historically, this phenomem has been a process with ebbs and flows. After World War II, all leading countries resolved not to repeat the mistakes they had committed previously by opting for isolation and by learning from their individual or collective mistakes. This is more evident today by the way the USA and its allies have handled Libya in the current NATO efforts at unseating "The mad Dog of the middle East" The policy is a correction of the direct intervention in Iraq (Rangarajan, 2006:3). Perhaps the most important and unique feature of the current globalization process is the "globalization" of national policies and policy – making mechanisms. National policies that until recently were under the

jurisdiction of states and people within a country have increasingly come under the influence of informational agencies and processes or of big private corporations. This has led to the erosion of national sovereignty and narrowed the ability of government people to make choices from options in economic social and cultural policies (Khar 2001:45).

It is necessary to examine the effect of globalization in various aspects of the world. A insightfully championed by proponents eleven interacted aspects can be unlimited. Firstly, it has provided the surface to the production market with an enhanced access to a wide variety of foreign products and therefore, has helped in the movement of goods and services between and within the national boundaries. Globalization has also opened way to procure external financing opportunities to the borrowers. The freedom of exchange of goods and capitals tells us that the markets are interrelated and any kind of economic collapse could be managed by others. The political gain can be glimpsed from the rise of the United States and China with their strong and wealthy economies. The flow of information from one globe to another and even to the remote locations, through satellites, wireless communication or internet has helped to consolidate the vision of the world as a global village. Globalization has given birth to tremendous competition thus making the market an open place to excel with skills and quality. The effect of globalization has also created ecological problems. It is forcing inhabitants of nations to inhale polluted and obnoxious air which not only contains carbondioxide but methane, halogen gases and various ether particulates responsible for altering the physiological of the inhabitants. Altered physiology becomes the leading cause of ill-health causing hypertension, diabetes and lead to cancer which can be as lethal to generate neonatal teratogenesis. (Cross-cultural contacts are the result of globalization. It has generated better understanding towards cultural diversity and has promoted travels and tourism to understand each other to a greater extent. Due to globalization, the social network of people is widening and people are able to understand each other in a better way however distant geographically they may be finally, technical, legal or ethical guidelines are laid down for any kinds of issues. For example, the international court and international justice movements have been recognized and relied on at critical movement (Mayer, 2011:23).

There are concerns and fears over globalization. One of the effects is over information creating what deconstructivists have called "the anxiety of influence" The argument that globalization leads to inequality is based on the promise that since it emphasizes efficiency, gains will accrue to countries which are favourably endowed with natural and human resources. Advanced countries have had a dead start over the other countries by at least three centuries. The technological base of these countries is not only wide but highly sophisticated. Consequently, while trade benefits all countries greater gain accrue to the industrially advanced ones. With the advent of information technology, the role of human resources has emerged as more important. A globalized economy with increased specialization can lead to improved productivity and faster growth. What ordinarily will be required is a balancing mechanism to ensure that the handicaps of the developing countries are overcome. I have some doubts about Nigeria. The reason is that, if one goes to all the organs of the NNPC in Nigeria, you will be proud of the qualifications of Nigerians "it is unfortunate that, the country still imports finished products from across the globe even from technologically less superior countries. The reason is simply a question

of commitment. Nigerians are known to be corrupt. Unless the government takes the lead and punish those who do not do their jobs, the country may not really join the train of globalization. This paper calls for a complete overhaul of the NNPC from bottom-up-to-top-bottom. One way of doing this is to give the management an ultimatum to perform or shoved aside. A country like ours has no reason to be poor.

The same dose is being administered at PHCN and we are beginning to see a change; the remaining part of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan Presidency should be devoted to righting the colossal wrong instead of looking for tenure elongation in whatever guise. We only need to consider Mobutu, Idi Amin, Hosni, Mubarak and Ghaddafi and realize that times have indeed changed for them. Another area of fear associated with globalization is insecurity and volatility. When countries are inter-related strongly a small speak can start a large conflagration panic and fear are known to spread fast. The downside of globalization essentially emphasizes the need to create counter-veiling force in the form of institutions and policies at the international level. Globalization governance cannot be pushed to the periphery, as integration gathers speed. This is why the UN Headquarters bombing at Abuja has occasioned international intervention. Although, the dust raised by the senseless attack is yet to settle, it is clear that the world will intervene in brining the culprits to book. It took a long time to get Osama Bin Laden, but he got caught eventually. Those trying to make our world unstable may soon realize there is no hiding place. In conclusion, with the current media upheavals about Ruper Murdoch and the impulsion of his empire, our own Berlin Wall moment, politicians from across the spectrum are lining up to excoriate newspapers that, until recently, few dared criticized. Politicians ashamed of their past subservience and aware that declining circulation has weakened the print media. And revenge, is the current climate is popular.

## **CONCLUSION**

There should be a cross-cultural contacts which results to globalization. The social network of people should be widened, in order to bring about social interaction amongst the citizens.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Leadership in Africa and in Nigeria particularly should be transparent in their dealings with their subjects for the development of their societies. Politics should not be a game of do or die. There must be a winner and loser. Winners are obliged to fulfill their political or campaign promises for the electorate. Globalization as the name implies, instead of all nations to come together rather there is disunity and crisis all over the world. I strongly recommend that, leaders of all nations should come together and find lasting solutions to economic, political, social and cultural problems biting hard on the people. Specialists on ecology should be consulted to look into the ecological problem of the world. On a final note Nigeria ought to be on her feet to fight corruption in all sectors of the economy so as to ensure sanity in the country. Security wise, agents of security should be trained and retrained for the protection of lives and properties in the country.

## **REFERENCES**

- Rangarajan C. (2006) *Responding to Globalization. India's Answer* 4<sup>th</sup> Ramanbhai Patal Memorial Lecture in Excellence in Education, New Delhi: Economic Advisory Council.
- Osaghae, Eghosa (2011) *Coppled Giant: Nigeria since Independence*, Ibadan: John Archers.
- Meyer, Catheine (2011) *Tabloid bites Man Time* (July, 25) 16-23.
- Mathew Owen (2011) *Russia's Young Hemingway Newsweek* (August, 22 & 29) 56-8.
- Lyons John (1981) *Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Khor Martins (2011) *Globalization and the South: Some critical issues*: Ibadan: Spectrum Books.
- Jowitt David (2009) *English Language and Literature in Historical Context*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books.
- Bloch, B & Trager, G. L (1942) *Outline of Linguistic Analysis*. Baltimore: Linguistic Society of America.
- Begley Sharon (2011) *No: The One Word that can save your life*. Newsweek (August 22 & 29) 32-37.
- Aslan, Reza (2011) *World Wanderer Time* (August 1-8) 30-31.
- 5.6 Eshiotse. *Aspects of Literature and Oral Presentation* Safmos Publishers, Ibadan, 2010.