

COVENANT UNIVERSITY
NIGERIA

TUTORIAL KIT
OMEGA SEMESTER

PROGRAMME: LANGUAGES

COURSE: ENG 322

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this document are intended for practice and leaning purposes at the undergraduate level. The materials are from different sources including the internet and the contributors do not in any way claim authorship or ownership of them. The materials are also not to be used for any commercial purpose.

ENG 322: The English Language in Nigeria

Contributor: Mrs L. Chimuanya

- 1. Using Braj Kachru's Concentric Circles, discuss the global spread and prevalent varieties of the English Language.**
- 2. Briefly discuss the issues that gave the English language its Global status.**
- 3. Identify and explain any four (4) causes of variation.**
- 4. Using Labov's (1992) model of investigation in Martha's Vineyard, carry out a similar observation in any community within Nigeria and outline your findings.**
- 5. Discuss two (2) major factors that led to the planting of the English Language in Nigeria.**
- 6. Identify and discuss four (4) syntactic features of Nigerian English.**
- 7. Highlight and explain five (5) factors that justify the existence of Nigerian English.**
- 8. Highlight and discuss four (4) Semantic features of Nigerian English.**
- 9. 'English plays a major role in fostering globalisation'. Discuss.**
- 10. Trace the birth of Pidgin in Nigeria.**
- 11. Differentiate between the terms Pidgin and Creole.**
- 12. What is Variation?**

- 13. Explain the term Standardization.**
- 14. Explore the Phonological features of Nigerian English.**
- 15. List the functions of Nigerian Pidgin.**
- 16. Assess the role of the English language in Nigeria as a National Language.**
- 17. Examine the possibility of the existence of a monolithic variety English.**
- 18. Explain the term ‘Global English’.**
- 19. What is Style-shifting?**
- 20. What is the role of social networks in establishing varieties?**

Keys to the Odd Numbered Questions

- 1. Using Braj Kachru’s Concentric Circles, discuss the global spread and prevalent varieties of the English Language.**

Write a brief historical overview of the English Language and how it has spread over time. Then identify who Kachru is; mentioning some of his works on the subject; and then, graphically use the concentric circles to highlight the world Englishes, classify them as well as say how English is used in each context. Note that Kachru’s circles include; Inner Circle, Outer Circle and Expanding Circle of English.

- 2. Identify and explain any four (4) causes of variation.**

The causes of variation include; age, gender, social networks, class, etc. Explain each of these with examples of how each affects variation.

- 3. Discuss two (2) major factors that led to the planting of the English Language in Nigeria.**

First describe Nigerian English in terms of its status and functions. Then identify any two of the factors that encouraged the use of English in Nigeria, such as the Trans-Atlantic Trade, British Imperialism, etc; and explain how these factors contribute

4. Highlight and explain five (5) factors that justify the existence of Nigerian English.

First provide evidences of the existence of a variety of English known as Nigerian English. Then identify and explain five factors that make for the existence of Nigerian English such; the dynamism of language, the existence of other varieties, language creativity, taught as a school subject, etc

5. Differentiate between the terms Pidgin and Creole.

Pidgin is a language of necessity. It is a language that is born out of the communicative need of people who do not share a common language. While Creole is the Pidgin that has become the first language of a new generation of speakers.

6. ‘English plays a major role in fostering globalisation’. Discuss.

Explain what globalisation means and entails, and explain the role language plays in globalisation. Describe how far English has played these roles.

7. Explain the term Standardization.

Define the term standardization. For instance, it has to do with all the activities involved in institutionalizing a language variety in such a way that it becomes the model variant of that language. It involves codification, provision of a dictionary, description of its features, etc

8. List the functions of Nigerian Pidgin.

Despite its low prestige and limitations in function, Nigerian Pidgin still provide a platform for those in the upper class and lower class, and those who do not have any language in common to communicate.

9. Examine the possibility of the existence of a monolithic variety of English.

Explain the term monolithic variety. Is it possible for a language to come in contact with new cultures and peoples and still remain the same? These are to be considered in your explanation.

10. What is Style-shifting?

Style-shifting refers to the act of speaking differently in relation to audience, topic, setting, etc. This is a source of variation and it is perceived among the different styles that usually correspond to the variation associated with different social groups.