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*TUTORIAL KIT*  
*OMEGA SEMESTER*

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COURSE: ENG 422

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# ENG 422: LANGUAGE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. Explain the concepts of nationalism and nationalism.
2. Critically examine Language Planning and Policy:
  - (a) its processes
  - (b) stages
  - (c) objectives
  - (d) types and goals.
3. What do you understand by 'diglossia'?
4. Identify and explain the relevance of language to societal development, economic wellbeing, nationalism and a patriotic culture.
5. What is a national language?
6. Language issues can make or break a nation. Discuss.
7. Briefly explain the terms, 'Pidgin' and 'creole languages'.
8. What place do Nigerian indigenous languages have in the holistic development of Nigeria?
9. Highlight the types of languages we have in Nigeria.
10. Highlight the relationship between language, national objectives and democracy in Nigeria.
11. Briefly discuss the challenges of language policy and planning in Nigeria.
12. The identity of a nation is determined to a large extent by the language of that nation. Discuss.
13. Explain what language management entails.
14. Highlight the ideology, if any, behind the *National Policy on Education* in Nigeria.
15. What are the likely criteria for the choice of a national language?
16. Examine the social, cultural, political and religious implications of English as a national language in such a multilingual country like Nigeria.
17. Briefly examine the linguistic landscape of Nigeria.
18. Formulate a suitable framework for the language-related problems in Nigeria. Examine the statement that language planning is central to language use in a nation.
19. What is a speech community?
20. How does language use on social media contribute to national development?

## ANSWERS TO TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. *Nationalism: "The concept of 'nationalism' refers to the feeling of belonging to a nationality" (Akindele & Adegbite, 1999:70). In a nationality, members have common socio-cultural and linguistic habits which*

brings about solidarity among them. In Nigeria, Akindele and Adegbite further argue that "nationality coincides with ethnic group boundaries" such as Yoruba, Igbo, Edo. Thus, the Nigerian nation consists of several nationalities. Fishman (1968) in Akindele and Adegbite observes that a nationality has a culture and national language and is not bothered by problems of language choice but by those of language development and maintenance.

*Nationism: The idea of "nationism" (1 nation, 1 language) emanated from Europe where language differences have been associated with certain territories and by extension, the nation-states occupying these territories. Thus, national entities have been associated with linguistic integrity. Trudghill (2003) describes it as a term used in language planning and multilingualism. Fishman (1968) defines a nation as a political and territorial unit which is largely under the control of a particular nationality. This means common sociocultural and linguistic habits. Thus, nationism is a concept associated with problems of administering such a political and territorial unit. For instance, in such a multilingual society like Nigeria, the choice of English, a non-indigenous language as the most appropriate national language, is in the realm of nationism.*

3. Coulmas (2004) explains that diglossia is a sociolinguistic situation whereby two languages or varieties of a language co-exist in a speech community. Each language or variety is used in complementary distribution in different domains. The domains of language use are usually in hierarchy, from highly valued (H) to less valued (L).

5. A national language is a language which functions as the main language of a nation state (Trudghill, 2003:91). It is also described (Wolff, 2003:320) as the "dominant language in a multilingual environment used for regional or even nationwide communication (de facto national language); may be decreed to serve some of the official functions (de jure national language).

7. A pidgin language is a reduced language that results from extended contact between groups of people who share no language in common. It evolves as a result of the need for some means of communication, particularly trade (Wolff, 2000). A creole on the other hand is often defined as a pidgin that has become the first language of a new generation of speakers (Wardhaugh 2006). Creolization occurs when a pidgin becomes the first language of a generation of speakers; the pidgin becomes elaborated in terms of function, vocabulary and grammar.

9. There are three major types of languages in Nigeria: (1) indigenous languages, (2) exogenous languages, and (3) a neutral language, namely, Pidgin English. Adegbija (2004:46) states the three main categories of languages being used in Nigeria. They are as follows:

(a) *Indigenous or native languages: About 450; Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo have been constitutionally recognized as "major". This recognition has given these languages a kind of celebrity status among Nigeria's numerous languages.*

(b) *Exogenous or non-indigenous languages: Chief among these is English. Others are French and Arabic. Other languages like German and Russian have a rather restricted functional scope.*

(c) *Pidgin: Principally represented by Nigerian Pidgin English, with a dual status of being at once indigenous and exogenous. There are, however, different views on its actual status.*

*An endogenous language is one that is used as a mother tongue in a community and may or may not be used for institutional purposes. An exogenous language is "one that is used as an official, institutionalized language but has no speech community in the political entity using it officially" (Josiane & Michel, 2000:29). There are examples of exogenous languages in Nigeria. They are Arabic, French and English. Arabic is the first among these languages to arrive in Nigeria and it was accompanied by Islam and trans-Saharan trade in the northern territory of present-day Nigeria in the ninth century A.D.*

11. *Marginalization of minority languages; Poor media input in language matters; Lack of funds to carry out a quantitative and qualitative language survey in Nigeria; Minority languages are not developed; Non-Implementation of Language Policy; Unstable Government; Ethnic loyalty of Nigeria's minority language speakers.*

13. *Language management refers to the actions and strategies devised to achieve language policy objectives (Webb, 2002). A language management approach to language planning can be described as a top-down process. Other scholars view language management approach to "a shift of focus from the concern of language planning concerned with finding optional strategies for government-initiated action, to an interest in explaining how individuals manage language in communication, and use this as the starting point for community-wide management".*

*Language management can be performed at two levels: simple and organized management.*

*Simple management is management of problems as they occur in individual communication acts; for example, the problem of spelling a particular word, or the problem of how to redress the use of an expression that a speaker has just uttered but now considers as not sufficiently polite. Language management within a family often relies on simple correction in discourse, which may be connected to ideologies of ethnicity. In principle, management theory states that language problem originates from simple management and is transferred to organized management.*

*Organized Management: According to Spolsky (2009) organized language management ranges from the micro (family) to the macro (nation-state) level. The most obvious form of organized language management is a law established by a nation-state (or other polity authorized to make laws) determining some aspect of official language use. This, for example, could be a requirement to use a specific language as language of instruction in schools and business and government agencies. Language management also applies to specific domains such as family domain and efforts by immigrant parents to maintain their language. All these are seen as part of language management.*

*Language reform is an example of a highly organized language management process (Neustupny and Nekvapil, 2003). However, organized management is not a summary of simple management acts. Language reform takes place, both formally and informally, in many languages given official status in the modern world. Language reform includes lexical and orthographic reform as well as occasional syntactic reform. It is known as essentially corpus planning.*

15. *Adegbija (2004:191) states the following as likely crucial criteria for the choice of a national language: being indigenous; a wide geographic spread and being spoken by a large percentage of the population; having the potential to represent or symbolize the national heritage, constituting a rallying point for unity and national identity; being acceptable to a large majority of the citizenry; being pride-worthy and representing the spirit of the nation.*

17. *According to Adegbija (2004: 37), "Nigeria is an intriguing, complexly and maximally multilingual scenario which presents a case of linguistic and cultural diversity par excellence". Multilingualism in Nigeria is certainly more complex and more intricate than in multilingual European countries such as Belgium, Switzerland, or Sweden. It presents varying issues in relation to language management, attitudes, planning, and more importantly identity especially as they affect national development.*

19. *A speech community could mean a group of people who use the same variety of a language. Members of this community share a set of norms and expectations regarding the use of language.*