

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AS PANACEA FOR GLOBAL
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT –THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE**

JIMI OGUNNAIKE (Ph.D)

Department of English Studies,

Tai Solarin University of Education,

Ijagun, Ijebu-Ode.

08103590781/jimmyogunnaike@yahoo.com

Abstract

English is now widely considered to be a global language and the Nigerian Constitution has identified the socio-political, economic and educational roles it has played, and is still playing in the development of Nigeria. Indeed, English is acclaimed to be Nigeria's *lingua franca*, serving as a unifying force to the Nigerian people, whose religious, cultural and social inclinations are diverse. Literature, which is 'symbiotically' related to English Language has also contributed and is still contributing very immensely and diversely to Nigeria's development. Literary writers have written not only to entertain and educate but also to protest against injustice, bad governance and other societal misdemeanours. Literature in the context of this paper refers to creative works which belong to drama, poetry and prose. Information Technology which is part of mass media is electronic in nature and is otherwise known as the '*internet*'. Other types of mass media include news-papers, magazines, books, recordings, radio, movies and television. They are meant basically to communicate, educate and pass information to people. Various literatures have established the fact that there exists an interface between English Language and Literature. Based on this relationship, the paper highlights the roles of the two phenomena as panacea for global technological development, especially in Nigeria.

Keywords: English Language, Literature, Information Technology, Global Technological development, Education, Panacea.

Introduction

The focus of this paper is to highlight how English Language and Literature have been tools or panacea for global technological development, with particular reference to Nigeria which is one of the major beneficiaries of technological development now pervading the world.

It is very clear that since the incident of colonialisation in the country, English has remained a powerful medium of communication. First, it is the only one language Nigerians across linguistic boundaries employ for effective communication. By this, it has gained the status of language of unity among Nigerians. Second, it is the language of government. All official transactions in the nation are carried out in English so much that today; it is an important pre-requisite for employment in government. Further still, it is a language of instruction from the upper-primary to tertiary level of education. Most private Schools almost always advertise themselves by the virtue of their capacity to employ Standard English as a medium of instruction. It has been realized that either consciously or unconsciously, parents and proprietors of schools have generally accepted the use of English Language as a mark of prestige. At the tertiary level, credit pass in WASSCE/NECO in English Language is a necessity for admission into the university undergraduate courses.

In addition to these functions, Nigerians have bestowed on English language nationally and internationally a recognition that supercedes any other language. The predominant language of the Nigeria mass media (print and electronic) is English. The bulk of the national news and information is relayed in English; hence users have access to the events going on in the world.

Apart from the above, English is also used for legislative functions by politicians in Nigeria to conduct official business at both the State and National Houses of Assembly, as part of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria says:

“The business of the National Assembly shall be conducted in English, and in Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba when adequate arrangements have been made thereof”

This therefore suggests that it is English that has been solely recognized as the language of politics in Nigeria, as it is used in the day to day activities of the legislature. Today in Nigeria, English has been effectively used to preserve knowledge for inventions and some aspects of people’s cultural heritage for onward transmission to generations yet unborn with the new wave of technological development, English is now being used as a major language of the technological devices of the ICT and the internet English has therefore become a panacea for technological development in Nigeria.

With the help of English Language, some aspects of our culture are documented in form of Literature, whose generic divisions are Poetry, Prose and Drama. Poetry is a genre of Literature that has played vital roles in many societies and cultures. Poetry has always served as a means for socio-cultural, biographical and historical documentation; expression of philosophical as well as religious experience (s) and the expression of the soul of man. Poetry

is factual and through it, we can glean, perceive and experience a variety of truths about the nature of life and man. Since technological inventions are scientific.

Poetry therefore can be regarded as scientific (truthful) in nature. This is perhaps why poetry and its abstractness (accommodating abstract things like symbols and signs, to convey its message) resemble the ‘truth’ found in science. It therefore can be a panacea for technological development. In a similar vein, Drama (theatre) has also contribute and will still continue to be a panacea for both economic and technological development. Replacing old gadgets with modern film equipments, employing people to participate in drama production in order to boost their finances all point to the fact that Drama’s role cannot be underestimated.

Prose also is a genre of Literature used most effectively to advocate for change both politically, economically and technologically in order to improve the lives of people. Prose messages have always been impetus to inspire, encourage and invigorate people to invent. Through inventions and technological break –throughs, more development is being recorded and achieved technologically.

English Language: Concept, Scope and Functions

Grenoble and Whaley (2006) describe English as the most prestigious language in Nigeria and Nigeria’s national language. Though not an indigenous Nigerian language, English has been accepted to be the official language recognized by government’s constitution Crystal (1997) asserts that there has never been a language so widely spread or spoken by so diverse people as English, pointing out that 85 percent of international organizations make official use of the language. Apart from the above, English has become Nigeria’s ‘lingua franca’, thus making it the language of commerce and industry, education, politics, the media, science and technology, etc. It is the language used, virtually in all spheres of life of Nigerians. The acceptance of English language and its spread in Nigeria has brought about its power to unite Nigerians, most of who are from various ethnolinguistic backgrounds. This is perhaps why Taiwo (2012) *opines that*

“the language (English) occupies an important position of unifying the linguistically diversified nation and also serving as the link to the external world”.

While acknowledging the significant role of English, the Nigerian National Policy on Education (2004) states among other things that *“Government appreciates the importance of language as a means of promoting social interaction and national cohesion”*. This is a major reason for not only entrenching it into the constitution but also using it as a means of performing legislative functions in Nigeria’s various Houses of Assembly. Olaoye (2009) corroborates this view as he says:

*English today is the lamp which the youths travel the educational tunnel.
Government reaches out to its teeming multi-ethnic and multi lingual population through the English medium. It is the language of crisis management, be it political, religious or ethnic crisis*

If at about a decade ago Olaoye made this observation, one wonders the position English would occupy before the end of this century in view of new inventions and technologies whose language is mainly English. By then, English would have ‘swallowed’ all other languages!

As at today, Nigeria has about 500 languages spoken in different parts of the country. Some people call them indigenous, while some tag them ethnic or local. However, a close look and a critical analysis of the linguistic situation in Nigeria has revealed that it is almost impossible for any, language other than English to be accorded the status of a national language in view of the developments achieved in using English as a national language. There is hardly any family in Nigeria today that does not use English in communicating or training its children to use English.

As a second Language (L2) in Nigeria, English is mostly learnt rather than acquired where learning includes classroom teaching of it. Learners are taught the rudiments of the language under formal situation after they might have acquired linguistic competence in the indigenous language or language of the environment where they are living or born.

As earlier noted, English language occupies a fundamental position in Nigeria. It is indeed the most important legacy bequeathed to Nigerians by the British colonialists by its ability to help reduce the linguistic differences of the heterogeneous people that constitute the geo-political entity, called Nigeria. The national unity so much advocated for has only been possible through the utilization of the English language. The utilitarian role of English can therefore not be over-emphasized as it is the language for the creation of political entity and also the language of its politics, economic unification and administration.

Graddol (1997) states that there were sixty three (63) countries in which there are substantial populations of second-language speakers of English (L2 speakers). Twelve (12) of this number represents countries with over 5million L2 speakers of English. According to him, Nigeria tops the list with an estimated 43million L2 speakers of English. The other countries are India (37 million) Philippines (36.4 million) USA (30 million) Palau (18.3 million) Pakistan (16 million) Canada (6 million) Malaysia (5.9 million and Nepal (5.9 million). This writer opines that since the past two decades after Graddol’s findings, and taking note of the proliferation of schools where English is being aggressively taught in order to fix Nigeria to the outside world, to put Nigeria’s English Language L2 speakers now at about 72million out of over 120 million populace, would not be an exaggeration. Considering her yearnings and aspirations in the context of national development objectives and global economic, cultural and technological advances, Nigeria’s policy makers have placed English above any other language to enable her achieve the objectives. In view of the advantages accruable from the use of English in Nigeria as foreseen by an advocacy of Crystal above, its continued propagation can therefore not be compromised.

On the functions of English language in Nigeria, the language is performing functions that can be classified into two: national and international. English language at the national level is the language of education, the media, science and technology, as well as Nigeria’s official language, a ‘lingua franca’ meant to bridge the gap of the linguistic differences in the country. English has played the role of unifying Nigerians through its ability to integrate all Nigerians and give them a sense of belonging.

English language has also brought about cohesion and mutual understanding among ethnic groups in Nigeria. For example fresh graduates sent on the mandatory National Youth Service Corps programme to states other than their own communicate through English language.

Apart from being used by Nigeria's National Houses of Assembly for conducting legislative functions (as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) section 55 puts it:

The business of the House of assembly shall be conducted in English but the House may, in addition to English conduct the business of the House in one or more other languages spoken in the states...

Governments' policies and decisions are passed to the populace through English language. It has therefore become the language of "nationism" used by governments for political integration and efficiency and that of "nationalism" in which patriotic Nigerians express their views on how to move the nation forward.

English, by its function as a language of wider communication, is being used for disseminating information, keeping records, ceremonial purposes, preaching, expressing opinions on topical issues, protesting and commending, etc. English is the language of the press (both print and electronic media) as well as the language used by literary artists and authors to write for learners, teachers and the public. Reading books for schools, magazines and newspaper are written in English. Only a few of these are written in indigenous language, which in most cases are confined to their linguistic environments.

English is also the language of diplomacy and international relations. Nigeria is able to be member of international regional organizations and bodies, such as United Nations, African Union and the Economic Community of West African Countries through its adoption and utilization of English as her means of communication. It is through these for that Nigeria is being recognized and accorded her respect in the comity of nations.

Despite the fact that various geo-political zones have different indigenous languages with which their politicians canvass for votes from the electorates, English still serves as a '*primus inter pares*' among the languages. Most politicians, if not all, adopt the English language to campaign for votes. English therefore has become a language of politics as it serves as a useful tool in the hands of politicians who deploy its rich resourcefulness in presenting parties manifestoes, canvassing for votes from electorate, etc.

The sum-total of the foregoing can succinctly be put in the way Swales (1993) describes the language, thus:

English has become a lingua franca to the point that any literate, educated person on the face of the globe is in a very real sense deprived if he does not know English, Poverty, famine and disease are instantly recognized as the cruelest and least excusable form of deprivation. Linguistic deprivation is a less easily noticed condition, but one nevertheless of great significance.

Literature: Concept, Scope and Functions

Literature, in its broadest sense, is any written work. Etymologically, the term derives from Latin **Literatura/ Litteratura** “writing formed with letters”, although some definitions include spoken or sung texts. More restrictively, it is writing that possesses literary merit, and language that foregrounds literariness, as opposed to ordinary language. Literature can be classified according to whether it is fiction or non-fiction and whether it is poetry or prose or drama. It can be further distinguished according to major forms such as the novel, short story or drama, whose works are often categorized according to historical periods or their adherence to certain aesthetic features or expectations (genre).

Taken to mean only written works, literature was first produced by some of the world’s earliest civilizations—those of Ancient Egypt and Sumeria—as early as the 4th millennium BC; Taken to include spoken or sung texts, it originated even earlier, and some of the first written works might have been based on an already-existing oral tradition. As urban cultures and societies developed, there was a proliferation in the forms of literature. Developments in print technology allowed for literature to be distributed and experienced on an unprecedented scale, which culminated in the twenty-first century electronic literature.

The quest to discover a definition for “literature” is a road that is much travelled, though the point of arrival, if ever reached, is seldom satisfactory. Most attempted definitions are broad and vague, and they inevitably change over time. In fact, the only thing that is certain about defining literature is that the definition will change. Concepts of what is literature change over time as well.

Definitions of literature have varied over time; it is a “culturally relative definition”. In Western Europe prior to the eighteenth century, literature as a term indicated all books and writing. A more restricted sense of the term emerged during the Romantic period, in which it began to demarcate “imaginative” literature. Contemporary debates over what constitutes literature can be seen as returning to the older, more inclusive notion of what constitutes literature. Cultural studies, for instance, takes as its subject of analysis both popular and minority genres, in addition to canonical works.

The value judgment definition of literature considers it to exclusively include writing that possesses high quality or distinction, forming part of the so-called *belles-lettres* (‘fine writing’) tradition. This is the definition used in the Encyclopedia Britannica (Eleventh Edition) when it classifies literature as “*the best expression of the best thought reduced to writing.*” However, this has the result that there is no objective definition of what constitutes “literature”; anything can be literature, and anything which is universally regarded as literature has the potential to be included, since value-judgments can change over time.

The formalist definition is that the history of “literature” foregrounds poetic effects; it is the “literariness” or “poeticity” of literature that distinguishes it from ordinary speech or other kinds of writing (e.g., journalism). Meyer (1998) considers this a useful characteristic

in explaining the use of the term to mean published material in a particular field (e.g., “scientific literature”); as such writing must use language according to particular standards. The problem with the formalist definition is that in order to say that literature deviates from ordinary uses of language, those uses must first be identified; this is difficult because “ordinary language” is an unstable category, differing according to social categories and across history.

GENRES OF LITERATURE

Poetry

Poetry is a form of literature that uses aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of language—such as phonaesthetics, sound symbolism, and metre—to evoke meanings in addition to, or in place of, the prosaic ostensible meaning.

Poetry uses forms and conventions to suggest differential interpretation to words, or to evoke emotive responses. Devices such as assonance, alliteration, onomatopoeia and rhythm are sometimes used to achieve musical or incantatory effects. The use of ambiguity, symbolism, irony and other stylistic elements of poetic diction often leave a poem open to multiple interpretations.

Types of Poetry

The efforts of ancient thinkers to determine what makes poetry distinctive as a form and what distinguishes good poetry from bad resulted in “poetics”—the study of the aesthetics of poetry. However, some poetry types are specific to particular cultures and genres and respond to characteristics of the language in which the poet writes. A poetic genre is generally a tradition or classification of poetry based on the subject matter, style or other broader literary characteristics. Types of poetry include:

- i. **Narrative poetry:** - a genre of poetry that tells a story. It is perhaps the oldest type of poetry.
- ii. **Epic poetry:** - is a genre of poetry that highlights events of a heroic or important nature to the culture of the time. It recounts, in a continuous narrative the life and works of a heroic or mythological person or group of persons.
- iii. **Dramatic poetry:** - is drama written in verse to be spoken or sung and appears in varying, sometimes related forms in many cultures.
- iv. **Satirical poetry:** - is the type of poem meant to satirise, often written for political purposes.

- v. **Lyric:** - is a short, melodic and contemplative poem which usually portrays the poet's own feelings, state of mind and perceptions. It is of personal nature.
- vi. **Elegy:** - is a mournful, melancholic or plaintive poem, especially a lament for the dead or a funeral song.
- vii. **Prose poetry:** - is a hybrid genre that shows attributes of both prose and poetry it often contains traces of metrical structure or versification and a conscious blend of the two literature formats i.e. prose and poetry.

PROSE

Prose is a form of language that exhibits a grammatical structure and a natural flow of speech rather than a rhythmic structure. Its simplicity and loosely defined structure have led to its adoption for use in the majority of spoken dialogue, factual discourse and both topical and fictional writing. It is commonly used in newspapers, magazines, encyclopaedias, broadcasting, film, history, philosophy, law and other forms of communication. Prose lacks the more formal metrical structure of verse that can be found in poetry. Prose comprises full grammatical sentences, which then constitute paragraphs and overlook aesthetic appeal.

Types of Prose

Many types of prose exist. They include non-fictional, heroic, poetic, polyphonic, alliterative, fiction and village prose. There are also novels, novella novelette or short-stories and children stories. In its broadest classification, prose can be divided into three: Novel, Novella and short story.

- i. **Novel:** - A long fictional prose narrative. It is the form's close relation to real life that differentiates it from other types. As at today, the novel has acquired a dominant position among literary forms, both in popularity and criticism.
- ii. **Novella:** - In quantitative terms, the novella exists between the novel and short story. It is often described as "too short to be a novel and too long to be a short story" as there is no precise definition in terms of word or page count.
- iii. **Novellete/Short story:** - A dilemma in defining the "short story" as a literary form is how to, or whether one should, distinguish it from any short narrative; hence, it has a contested origin suggested as the earliest short narrative. Writers have suggested that apart from its distinct size, the short story maintains its characteristic subject matter or structure which often positions the form in some relation to the novel.

DRAMA

Drama or play is a classical literary form that has continued to evolve over the years. It comprises chiefly dialogue between characters, and usually aims at dramatic/theatrical performance, rather than at reading.

Types of Drama

Drama can be categorized into three:

- i. **Tragedy:** As a dramatic genre, it is always developed as a performance associated with religious and civic festivals, typically enacting or developing upon well-known historical or mythological themes. It is a dramatic art that usually ends in sorrow where the protagonist, if eventually lives, may regret his role in the event.
- ii. **Comedy:** This is a dramatic art that ends in a release of tension, thus bringing in a joyful mood at the end of the act. It may end in a resolution of a conflict between a country and another, in love and romance, an escape from danger and a success/achievement after a long struggle or battle. In short, the actor's usually record resounding success without any serious casualty recorded.
- iii. **Tragi-comedy:** As this type of dramatic art implies, it is a combination of tragedy and comedy. It is neither a sorrowful nor a joyful episode, a case of no winner, no vanquished, recorded at the end of the act.

Literature and Technology- any relationship?

In exploring ideas about what literature is, it is useful to look at some of the things that literature does, Literature is something that reflects society, makes us think about ourselves and our society, allows us to enjoy language and beauty, it can be didactic, and reflects on “the human condition”. It both reflects ideology and changes ideology, just like it follows generic conventions as well as changing them. It has social, political, economic and technological effects. It is on the technological effects of language and literature that this work is based.

Technology is the science of the industrial arts. Literature refers to the realm of letters and the writings of a particular period, mostly those whose value lies in the beauty of form or emotional effect. Scientists have played an important role in promoting human welfare, but the benefits of science may not have reached the masses, at any rate in ample measure, without technology devices and practical applications.

We live in the world of both science and technology and many people, who take a rather superficial view of things, have begun to feel that in the technological world of tomorrow the role of literature seems poor. In fact, literature in its pure form is believed to have little relation with science and technology.

Science provides knowledge and power and both science and technology affects human life at several point, though the extent and utility of the applications are determined by our culture, our wisdom and our properties. Literature reflects the moods and emotions of the times in which it is produced; it is conditioned by the reflexes which, in turn, are created by the impact of science and technology.

Modern technology increasingly dominates the world, and the domination is likely to become more pronounced in future, because of the fast developments tending to subdue creative human thinking and expression. But the belief that literature would have no place in future and futuristic calculation is erroneous. There is no reason to believe that the mechanical way of life, in which our actions are governed more and more by computer culture and electronic calculators of all types, will destroy the talent of writers, authors, poets, biographers, artists. Technology does not discourage nature, multi-faceted talent; it generally promotes the climate for expressions of talent in countless channels.

All round prosperity helps a great deal in creating literature of lasting value, and it is technology which has made many countries wealthy and prosperous. In some cases technology development and automation may cause misery, through the resultant unemployment. For instance, where ten people may be employed can be reduced to only two because of machines. But it has to be noted that both literature and technology also provide additional avenues for employment. It is not only for the sake of the material benefits, the comforts and conveniences of life that we must opt for the latest literature and technological processes, even by discarding our traditional practices, but for our art and literature, too, we shall have to make the best of technology, which would enable talented people to put in their best in art and literature. Some people think and they have a reason for doing so, that since science demolishes faith and tradition, it tends to produce skepticism, anxiety and even tensions, and it doubts everything, even cherished values.

Science (technology) has eliminated superstitions through the dramatic impact of literature. In other words, technology helps to create a climate conducive for literature and artistic masterpieces as it enlivens the artists and those who prepare literary pieces. Sensitivity and the urge to create new masterpieces get motivated.

Literature expresses feelings and innermost thoughts and ambitions, while technology has other ends and other fields to explore. Literature may at first appear to be out of place in a technological milieu, but surely technologies do not encroach upon the field of literature rather they are interrelated. There seems to be no reason why both literature and technology cannot flourish side by side bringing into existence a strong economic base for a country.

Technology results in affluence and prosperity and economic prosperity, promotes good literature and masterpieces in the arts. So there is no contradiction involved. It is only during war and the all out preparations for war, that literature gets a setback. However, in an attempt to recount and make such inedible, literature becomes more relevant through publication of dramas, novels and poetry as they generate a source of economic and technological development for the country. Nigeria is not left out of this.

Science and technology, it has been truly said, have radically altered the face of civilization, but nothing, not even the most sophisticated mechanical device and the most fruitful applications of new inventions, can change human nature or replace human being, who must indeed remain in effective command of all scientific inventions and their day-to-day applications for literary results.

Technology has created robots, artificial intelligence in the shape of **thinking computers** which can read, translate, interpret and give decisions with amazing speed and accuracy. But not even the most sophisticated technological advances can by themselves produce literature-poetry, prose, play, novels and stories.

In a sense, science (technology) may be said to be of direct assistance in promoting literature, because it helps to create leisure by introducing labour and time-saving device by eliminating drudgery as well as duplication of effort.

How Literature has been a panacea for technological development in Nigeria.

The world: societies, communities and Nigerians have fully got the desired impact of drama which evolves from literature in a number of ways. One of the basic impacts is job creation and empowerment.

Nollywood which is drama had impacted greatly on the Nigerian economy. Nollywood stands out for its amazing excellence in creativity. Its movies are one of the greatly sought-after products, home and abroad. One is amazed at the ingenious and creative capacity that producers and actors go through in sustaining the tempo of production, not only in number but in quality and content with emphasis on the Nigeria cultural input by using the best of our cultural heritage that is unparalleled anywhere in the world.

Though the great cultural diversity that Nigerians have enjoyed over the years is being used to foster unity and progress as a united and indivisible country, it has great impact on the society, economy and psyche. The African, and in particular Nigerian, film industry is not only an entertainment industry; it is also a moneymaker of which Nigerian film industry are the most popular in the continent. The British broadcasting corporation (BBC), through its survey, said that it cost about \$25 to \$70,000 to produce a film in Nigeria within a period of one month on the average which can be recovered within two or three weeks of its release to the public. In just few years, Nollywood has grown to become the second largest film industry in the world, generating \$286 million dollar per year for the Nigerian economy. (Annual Report, 2015)

The crime situation paved way for home videos and many entrepreneurial minded Nigerians saw it as an opportunity to make remarkable difference. However experts credit the birth of Nollywood to the 1992 video release of **Living in Bondage** a movie with a tale of the occult that was as instant and huge-selling success. It was not long before other producers discovered the hidden treasure. Today, there are over 300 movies producers in Nigeria and thank to new technologies; bulky videotape cameras gave way to their digital descendants, which are now being replaced by more powerful cameras. Editing, music, and other post-production work are now done with common computer-based systems. This is a remarkable contribution of the literary art to the nation technological development. Amidst criticism, Nollywood movie is a staple in almost every Nigerian home. The appeal has even stretched far beyond Nigeria as the last few years have seen the growing popularity of Nollywood films among Africans in Diaspora. Today, in Nigeria, Nollywood is considered the second largest employer of labour, with an average movie employing a minimum of 130 people. (Labour Force Statistics, 2014)

The inclusion of allied people who work in the industry also brings into fore the marriage of technology and literature for Nigeria's economic survival. For example, people who print, drivers and food vendors around the communities where film shootings are done

contribute to economic survival of the nation. Nigeria is now officially Africa's biggest economy.

The entertainment industry has brought remarkable contributions to the Nigeria's economy as it now forms part of the newly recognized elements of Nigeria's economy. The exponential growth of Nollywood has been attributed to enhanced production and content quality of Nigerian films, stemming from growing professionalism. The industry made an average of N1.72 trillion in 2013. (Annual Report 2015)

In the last five years, the industry has been growing in terms of quality, and has been rated the third most valuable movie industry in the world, behind Hollywood and Bollywood. The development has also impacted on returns. Just as it has ranked third globally in terms of quality of production, it has grossed revenues that placed Nigeria third in the world.

The ubiquitous nature of technology employed in the industry and increased internet penetration has contributed significantly to this progress, providing relative ease to industry entrants. Mobile channels like the 'MTN Callertunez' platform provide musicians with an added revenue stream. Harrysong recently made millions on commission that accrued from sales of caller-tunez of his hot song "Mandela", a dirge celebrating the life of the late African leader. P-square, D'banj, Flavor, 2face-Idibia and Davido have become household names, raking in millions for entertaining not just Nigerians, but global citizens on and beyond the domestic shore.

On the other hand, music producers command thousands in any currency for their services on songs and earn royalties as these tunes attain higher levels of success. The lucrative nature of the creative arts industry is not limited to musicians and actors alone. Comedians earn millions putting smiles on the faces of disgruntled Nigerians, giving them a short reprieve from the challenges faced on a daily basis. In addition to engaging their talents, entertainers also exploit their increasing celebrity status, resulting in income from endorsements of companies from a range of industries. The creative arts industry holds the potential to enrich Nigerians of all ages but also provides much needed therapy to help soothe the social woes that plague this developing nation. However, with increased investments, more Nigerians are employed, providing more income and as a result increasing the demand for more Cinemas.

Nollywood is patronized far beyond Nigeria partly due to improvement in digital technology. South Africa and U.K cable companies have channels dedicated to the products of the industry while an increasing number of Caribbean and Africans in Diaspora patronize the industry not just for entertainment, but also as a medium through which they reconnect with their roots.

Having said much about drama as panacea for technological and economic development in Nigeria, a cursory look at poetry too is equally important.

Poetry, which Webster New Century Dictionary of the English Language, aptly defines as **"arrangement of words in verse...expressing facts, ideas, emotions in a style**

more concentrated, imaginative and powerful than ordinary speech... having beauty of thought”, also serves as panacea for technological development in Nigeria in some ways.

Poets, it is often said, think through imaginary and express and themselves at their best through imagery. Concreteness, emotiveness, suggestion and illumination of ideas are achieved through the power of imagery, and. This makes imagery an essential quality of poetry. Imagery is the use of non-abstract symbolic language, and it is of a very wide variety of forms, ranging from simile to the zeugma.

Efforts at making the world a global village have yielded dividends as a lot of improvement and achievement have been made through technology. The use of symbolic and abstract language, which is a major feature/attribute of poetry for communication, not only in Nigeria but also throughout the world, has laid credence to the fact that poetry, is being used effectively for technological development. Examples of the symbols and abstract ideas to send message and communicate on social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Whatsapp, BBM(black-berry messenger), hangouts, Skype, YouTube, to mention a few, are in tandem with the major attribute and function of poetry.

The poem undoubtedly comes from the heart of the poet which he uses to express the socio-political realities of the world around him. The poets’ experience is often regarded as the mirror of the life and social condition of the society in which the poem is written. It also reflects that of economic and technological advancement of the people, Nigeria not being an exception. In trying to sum up the view that poetry as a literary genre is a panacea to Nigeria’s social, political, economic and technology development. ‘Akporobaro (2015) says

Poetry is an artistic documentation of the life of the society and the individual poet...’it preserves the realities of the day, the social experience, joys, and sadness and triumph of the day for posterity,... a time-capsule for generations to come to see what the present is or past was like. It encapsulates the thoughts and experience of our age for posterity.

Prose, which some analysts call scientific writing, is lucid, clear, denotative and often embellished so as to be emotive, picturesque, connotative, suggestive, and evocative. Prose in some ways is a panacea to Nigeria’s technological development.

The writer of prose may be concerted with a number of specific tasks: the communication of ideas, the reporting of facts, the inculcation of beliefs, the evoking of attitudes, the correction of abuses, the enlightenment or entertainment of his readers, etc. His medium of accomplishing any of the tasks is the English Language from where he can select appropriate vocabulary to obtain the utmost precision or subtlety of meaning.

Prose writing makes use of what can be called technical or scientific or specialized language in accomplishing the task of making itself a panacea for technological development. By so doing, the informative way of using language – for communicating information – would suffice.

The ‘scientific or specialized’ language which emanates from prose writing gave birth to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) that is now largely responsible for the

integration of the world. As a specialized language, prose also gave rise to the concept of web-browsing termed World Wide Web (WWW) a system for creating, organizing and linking documents so they could be easily browsed. The ‘www’ system was created in 1991 by the Computer Scientist called **Tim Berners – Lee**, a Briton. This discovery was instrumental to the creation of Netscape in California on the 9th of August 1995 which was the first mainstream browser which marked the commencement of internet globally. And in the words of Emeagwali (2003) *“The internet phone now enables you to communicate instantaneously with any person on the globe”*.

Created from the prose language also, the new internet language and web gave rise to platforms such as Yahooing, Flickering, You tubing, Skyping, BBM-pinging, Twittering and others now being used for communication and other purposes. From the foregoing, there is no doubt that literature (with all its genres) will continue to be a panacea for technological development in Nigeria. If well taught, learned and utilized.

English Language and Technology- any relationship?

The multilingual nature of Nigeria, which has brought about linguistic and ethnic rivalries, has equally resulted into the adoption of English language as Nigeria’s official language English has also become a unifying factor in Nigeria and the language of unity in the world (Adedimeji 2015)

In Nigeria today English has moved from its “ordinary use” to its use for technological activities, thereby making its relationship with technology more pronounced and more effective than before. The growth of computer network is opening up new ways of combining speech and text and this has facilitated the use of English for technology and technology-related activities. As noted by Crystal, the use of books and broadcast substances- particularly in respect of English- cannot be possible without technology (Crystal, 2004) This view corroborates Spitchtinger’s opinion that *“English is now spreading itself through films, TV, advertising and –perhaps most importantly in our technological age – software and the internet”* (Spitchtinger, 2000).

The position of this paper therefore is that the relationship between English language and technology in Nigeria is that of one complementing the other. As English is fast becoming a lingua mundi”, a world language- a common language of global commerce, media, and politics- as well as the dominant language of science and technology.

How English Language has been a panacea for technological development in Nigeria.

There is no doubt that the primary instrument of Nigerian development is the English language. English language has also been responsible for the spread of technology through the use of various instruments such as the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The world is steadfastly changing thus making it become a ‘village’, and one of the instruments of change is the ICT. The ICT has digitalized various types of information such as texts, numbers, sound integer and can also integrate into a community, various products and technologies, which use multiple media (also known as multimedia).

Using English language as its base, ICT is spreading swiftly and moving the world from the industrial to the information society. Information today has become the cultural and newest indicator of civilization, new knowledge and new approaches to virtually all aspects of human endeavour.

Emenanjo (2005) sees ICTs as being many but work hand-in-hand with other technologies. He sees them all as being digital and they include fibre-optics, laser disc, packet switching, Direct Broadcast Satelite (DBS), Digital Satelite System (DSS) and Multimedia Technology, all of which assist the workings of the internet.

Through the ICT, whose primary mode of information is English language, many rural dwellers have benefitted from the easy means of communication which it provides thus reducing accident rates on the roads. The elite also make use of the product to connect the outside world for business, retrieving of information and documents from friends and relations not resident in Nigeria. Businessmen use it to connect their foreign partners by using English language as its medium. The contributions of ICTs as the most sophisticated means of human communication can be summed up as put by Uduk (2007) include:

The enthronement of the English Language with its many national and regional varieties as the world’s language of widest communication, research and development of all areas of language studies; and the near dislocation and over-simplification of written language as a medium of communication.

With the discovery of the ICT, English has not only become a world language, it has become a panacea for technological development in the world as a whole and Nigeria in particular.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, attempts have been made to highlight how English Language and Literature can be panacea for technological development in Nigeria. The world (which is now a global village) is moving and making progress through technology. Using English Language and Literature as baseline, Nigeria's educational system should be made to encourage more students to study basic sciences from the inception to the tertiary level, making English Language a compulsory subject as it is now and trained to 'invent'.

Technological transfer or copying should be encouraged through scholarship award to science-oriented students to go to more advanced countries to learn technology.

The dramatic (theatric) genre of Literature has always been a boom to both economic and technological development in Nigeria. For example, Nollywood industry is now being adjudged as the most prolific with consistent production of more than 2000 titles in the country's three major languages since the year 2008. This has placed Nollywood as the third (3rd) in the global revenue earnings. The implication of this is that Nollywood has very high prospects for growth and sustainable development based on a combination of advantages which include prevalence of high pool of creative talents, strong and growing domestic entertainment industry, among others. Students who have flare for acting should be encouraged right from secondary schools to tertiary institutions. Diploma or full-time degree programmes in Theatre Arts for these talented youths would go a long way to develop Nigeria.

English Language and Literature therefore would not only be tools but panacea for rapid development both in economy and technology for Nigeria if human and material resources are harnessed and justifiably utilized.

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