**THE LINGUISTIC - STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF NIGERIAN SECURITY AGENCIES USE OF LANGUAGE:**

***A Case Study Of The Nigeria Police Force's Registers***

**ABSTRACT**

Most of the theories on the origins of language have all shown that language arose of man's desire to adapt to his environment. For instance, the cooperation and contact theories show that language (speech) came into being out of the human instinct for survival and contact.

One of the basic conditions that must be fulfilled before an individual can claim membership of any society is the ability to communicate effectively in the language of that society (community-social group). The norms and traditions of a society are transmitted through specific linguistic codes (language). This view is in consonance with Hallowell's (1953) claim that:

 “A necessary condition for socialization in man is the learning

 And use of language and by the way, a socially conditioned

 Aspect of it, to be relevant in that social group of which he is a

 Member.

No matter how primitive a society is, its cultural values and beliefs are presented in well defined linguistic forms and nuances. Among the various functions of language in our society, specialization is perhaps one of the greatest. It gives a distinct exclusivity and pride to a group. This is perhaps why the military and police personale will call those who do not understand their peculiar meta-language as "bloody, civilians". This is echoed in Sapir's view when he noted that: "Language is a great force of socialization probably the greatest" - Edward Sapir: Culture Language and Personality: University of California press (1956) page 1.

Perhaps, Bell's opinion is even more apt when he says:

 “Language is a set of culturally transmitted behaviour

 patterns shared by a group of individuals.

Roger Bell, sociolinguistics: Goods, Approaches and. problems: London, B. T. Batsford Ltd (1976) P.l4. In Bell's view, language cannot be divorced from culture and society. A member of any society who does not know well, when and how to use the language peculiar to his society is a social outcast". The ability to use the specialized and predominant languages of a society enhances social mobility, way, competence, reviewing and professionalism.

Having established that the French or language use of a group society sensitizes members to the orderly society. It has equally been established that language mobilized in entirety, the personalities of members to more effectively interact with the philosophy and codes of conduct of their societies.

In conclusion, language can be used to social solidarity and group infirmity. That is the reason a member of a security agency would probably not need any formal identification, when out of uniform, when he discusses with another officer of the law in the specialized security and police language. We will immediately experience a reality of, "he talks as us; he is one of us"

On the strength of the above lies the basis of this essay - an analyses of a special variety of language used by a special group in furtherance and advancement of their set objectives; hence, the Linguistic stylistic Analysis of Nigerian security Agencies use of language, with emphasis on the Nigeria Police Register.

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**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

The truth, of course, is that it is precisely the multiplication of meanings which makes language the powerful and flexible tool that it is. The possibility of selecting adopting, standardizing of a selected set of vocabulary and specialized intended meanings for use by a society, the effectiveness and intelligibility of same have elicited a study in varieties and functions of language (English).

It is pertinent at this point to stress that in as much as uniformity in the use of language is desirable, it is not possible. Even if it were possible, it would not be in the best interest for the growth and effectiveness of the language; certain groups have peculiar sensibilities and needs. These peculiar realities must by necessity be addressed and furthered by a peculiar variety of language (English) which might be exclusive to this selected group but at best, vaguely intelligible to people outside the select group.

So far, we have seen that certain social factors have by no means acted as influence on language. While some have worked for greater clarity and efficiency, others have tampered with the adequate functioning of language.

Basically therefore, varieties of language in our study of English language, have emerged, distinguishing races, classes, occupations, etc.

This multiplicity of a compendium of varieties of one general language has considerably and unconsciously provided very powerful tool of identification uniqueness and exclusivity to certain groups in one larger general linguistic community. In the subsequent sections, it will examined how these specialized varieties have been able to satisfy the peculiar needs and sensibilities of the various linguistic groups such as the security agencies, the Nigeria Police, etc.

**1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Language - "any language is a code"; a set of rules for generating what generative transformational grammarian call "well-formed sentences." A breach of the standard code could therefore result in an "ill-formed" utterance (sentences).

Basically, many if not all social varieties of English are derivations from the standard normative features of the language. Our case study is the Nigeria police force's Register.

The security agencies register especially the police thrive on a long established alterations of the syntactic" semantic and to some extent, the phonological components of the English language. Some of such alterations which have combined to give a unique identity to the Nigerian Police register are:

category rule violation, linguistic foregrounding,

avoidance of technical verbiage, paradigmatic

association, semantic compounding, neutralization of

semantic opposition double extender, taboo expressions,

tedious legal verbiage, etc.

The question which immediately arises is: Does this peculiar variety with all its peculiarities hamper the effective use of language for communication? OR better put, what are the socio-linguistic advantages, benefits, challenges and short­comings of this variety?

In summary, it has been established that the tenets of socio linguistics accepts that the peculiarities of every linguistic group present a varitable ground for the growth of distinct register. Now, the Nigerian Police has a recognizable and identifiable official variety of English. How effective it is in the advancement of the organization, its intelligibility and grammaticality are basically the problem this essay will address.

**1.3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The aim of this study is to examine the Linguistic - Stylistic Analysis of Nigerian Security Agencies Use of Language. The objective of the study is to:

1. Carry out a stylistic analysis (basically semantic and syntactic), towards identifying the components of the Nigerian Police register.
2. Make a comparative analysis of the intelligibility of the police register to members of the force vis-a-vis the civilians and the basic/standard deviations of the police register from standard formal English language expressions.

**1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Our exhaustive analysis will reveal the mutual interaction that takes place between some of the structural components or standard everyday English language and the specialized if you like, close aspect (police register) of the language.

The study will furthermore open vistas on the extent and influence of socio­linguistic factors that come to play when a group of people develop and standardize a suitable English language diction that will reflect the syntax and semantics appropriate to their peculiar realities, while yet retaining the basic elements of the language (English language)

**1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The scope of the research will not extend beyond the analyses of isolated expressions which contain linguistic elements that could be designated the Police register. Some of such peculiarities have combined to acquire the description - Police register are repetitions lexical items in a structure, Linguistic foregrounding, semantic compounding, taboo expressions, tedious legal verbiage, etc.

The project will also examine the semantic components that consist of the use of martial and specialized scientific expressions.

However the phonological components of the police register which is the least affected will however not be examined in details.

**1.6 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Language:** This is the act of speaking, writing or signing, in a given situation; often referred to by the French term, parole (2) The Diagnostic system underlying a person's use of speech writing or sign (often refereed to as competence); more generally, the system underlying the shared spoken, written or sign behavior of a whole community often referred to by the French term language (3) The biological faculty enabling individuals to learn and use speech, writing or sign - a defining feature of human behavior. (4) A particular variety or level of speech writing or sign - as encountered in such phrases as religious language and gutter language" (5) An artificially constricted system used to expound a conceptual are a (e.g. computer language) or to facilitate communication (as artificial language/), in this sense, the term contrasts with a natural language.

**Syntax**: The study of the rules governing the way words are combined to form sentences and other constructions in a language. In this use, syntax is opposed to morphology, the study of, structure. More generally it is the study of the interrelationships between all elements of sentences structure (including morphemes), and of the rules governing the arrangement of sentences in sequences. In "generative grammar" the syntactic component contains rules for the generation of syntactic structures.

**Semantics**: A branch of linguistics related to the study of meaning in languages. In particular, the approach called structural semantics applies all the principles of structural linguistics to the study of meaning through the notion of semantic relations between lexical items (such as synonymy and antonym). In "generative grammar", the semantic component is a major area of the semantic representation to a sentence and analyses lexical times in terms of semantic features.

**Sociolinguistics**: To start with, linguistics is the scientific study of language. Several approaches can be distinguished, according to the linguistics focus, range and interest. Socio-linguistics is a study of the influence of one's society on his use of language whether his first language (mother tongue) second language or foreign language

**Register(s):** Variety according to the subject matter or social group involved in a speech act (in this case English language speech act) is known as the register of that Linguistic group. The presumption is that it is possible that an individual or a group can adopt one distinct variety peculiar to them as their permanent form of English. But the same speaker(s) has/have a repertoire of varieties and habitually switches to the appropriate one as occasion arises. Most typically, perhaps, the switch involves nothing more than turning to the particular set of lexical items habitually used for handling the subject and situation in question.

**Metalanguage: A** higher level language devised in order to talk about an object of study or discussion (the object language). Linguistic metalanguage includes all terminology, nomenclature and special expressions which have been introduced to talk about the human language in its use in various aspects of life.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

**2.1 2ND LANGUAGE AS MEANS OF COMMUNICATION**

Linguists have defined language as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which human beings communicate. These symbols can also be codified in written forms with the instrumentality of word representations or expressed through gestures, without necessarily employing the verbal speech organs.

There are two parts of this definition. The first has to do with what language is .made of and the second, with the use to which language is put. But in this essay, we shall be restricted to the use:

A great percentage of our speech is dependent upon the situation and accompanying actions for its interpretation. Also, the speech is part of mingled actions and utterances

James Britton language and learning, England Pelican Books (1970) page 97

Language cannot exist in isolation; it has to operate in relation to the society. On the other hand, the society cannot exist peacefully without the use of language. In order to survive in the increasingly complex society, we have to communicate and the easiest means of communication is though the use of language, which is a common means of understanding.

There is however, one basic factor hampering the effective use of language for communication, This problem is that people from different parts of the world do not always understand themselves while they speak. It is however possible for them to have neigbours with whom they can communicate by means of a common language. A language community is a group of persons who understand each other.

Before two different groups of people can lay claim to one particular language, there must be some measure of intelligibility between them; that is to say, it is sine-qua-non for establishing a language community.

Intelligibility of any language is based on certain social factors. Hear James Britton again:

A language can be intelligible partly because of items in the immediate situation in which it was spoken; secondly, partly because items in the situation were indicated by gestures and partly, because the speaker and the addresses share certain previous experiences. Ibid, Britton.

When both the speaker and addressee can understand themselves, that is, they both can communicate with a particular language, they can said to be mutually intelligible. Mutual intelligibility is very important if language is to perform its function successfully. It is however possible for one group to understand a particular language spoken by another group, which does not understand the language of the first. This situation is that of one way intelligibility.

The emphasis on intelligibility arises from the fact that without it, the society would not be able to benefit adequately from the important role of language. According to Randol F. Quirk (1968)

A linguistic reaction - however violent is arguably more

civilized than some physical alternative.

Randolf Quik, The Use of English (2nd Edition) England: Longman Group ltd (l968) page. 51

It has been established that it is almost impossible to settle a dispute between two people who speak two completely different languages in a civilized manner, without resorting to violence:

If hard words are regarded by both participants as a

satisfactory substitute for hard blows, language is

performing a useful service - Ibid, Quik

It is pertinent to stress at this point that in-as-much as uniformity in the use of language is desirable, it is not possible. Even if it were possible, it would not be in the interest of the growth and variety development of the language.

In the words of William Irmscher:

Absolute uniformity of the use of language would

scarcely be a virtue because non conformists in

language have always acted as a stimulus to the

growth of the language.

William Irmscher: The Holt Guide to English (3rd Edition): USA: Holt Rinehart and Wiston (1981) P.498. Among human beings, wherever there are people, there is a language. Even the most primitive jungle tribe speaks a language and the language remains alive and continues to grow in varieties. According to Randolt Quik (1968), "Language also conditions our thinking in a positive and constructive way" - Ibid Qurk, page 185.

So far, it has been seen that certain social factors have to some extent acted as influence on language. While some have worked for greater clarity and efficiency, others have tempered with the adequate functioning of language.

**2.2 THE CONCEPT OF LINGUISTICS**

Linguistic may be defined as the scientific study of language. Anyhow, this definition may be made a little more revealing by drawing in greater details, the implications contained in the qualification, "scientific". John Lyons is forthcoming

here:

..... by the scientific study of language is meant its investigation by means of controlled and empirically verifiable observations and with reference to some general theory of language structure.

John Lyons: Cambridge University Press (1968) P.l.

Every science has its own technical vocabulary: it is only because laymen take on trust the established sciences, and especially the 'natural' sciences, that he does not question them right to furnish themselves with special vocabulary.

The modem linguistic has in certain respects advanced beyond traditional grammar in its attempt to construct a general theory of language structure. The use of a special vocabulary eliminates a good deal of ambiguity and possible misunderstanding in the discussion of language.

The Chief difficulty facing the person who comes now to the study of linguistics is that of being prepared to look at language objectively. That are all sorts of social and nationalistic prejudices associated with language, and many popular misconceptions fostered by the distorted version of traditional grammar that is frequently used in our society.

Many of the ideas above language which the linguist will question, if he does not abandon them entirely, will seem obviously less self evident if one knows something of their historical origin. This is true not only of a good deal that is taught formally at school, but also of much that at first sight might appear to be a matter of downright common sense, for, as Bloomfield has remarked of the common sense way of dealing with linguistic matters;

Like much else that masquerades as common sense, it is in fact highly sophisticated, and derives, at no, great distance, from the speculations of ancient and mechhieval philosophers.

But the history of linguistic is of interest today not only in so far as it enables us to free ourselves of certain commonly held misconceptions about language.

Linguistics, like any other science, builds on the past; and it does so, not only by challenging and refuting traditional doctrines, but also by developing and reformulating them.

Much of the earlier history of Western linguistic though, is obscure and controversial owing to the fact that most of the original sources have disappeared. Our brief outline of the concept of linguistics is here interceded primarily as an introduction to the present state of the subject.

**2.3 THE CONCEPT OFSTYLISTICS**

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics which studies the feature of situationally distinctive uses (varieties .or "styles') of language and tries to establish principles which account for the particular choices made by individuals and social groups in their use of language. In a narrower series, it refers to the aesthetic use of language.

When literature is the focus of attention, the subject is often called literary stylistics (or literary linguistics). It should however be noted that the linguistic examination of non regular (non literally) use of language is technically referred to as discourse analyses. But it is interesting that discourse analyses does not discriminate in its sphere of areas of analyses, while literary stylistics concentrates only on the language use in literature.

The concept of stylistics can however be presented in two main senses:

- Capacity to see through language to the ways in which we can be manipulated and in varying degrees controlled by languages and

- A capacity to see through languages in the more active and dynamic sense of creating vision in and with language, a capacity for constant vision and revision which empowers the user to engage with and, where necessary, to redirect society's discourses and to articulate one's personal position as a subject within the discourses.

- In conclusion, the concept *of* stylistics -is an analysis of text (and speech) which occupies a territory that, extends beyond the level of the sentence or the single conversational exchange. Stylistics examine those broader contextual properties of texts which affect their description and interpretation. Therefore, "stylistics like discourse analysis concerns itself with the ways in which texts create contexts, with their organization at this supra-sentential level and with their operation as part of a dynamic process of linguistic exchange between participants" Ronald Carter: Investigation English Discourse: Routledge: London (1972) page 11

**2.4 REGISTERS AND COLLOCATIONS**

- In our statement of the problem in section 1.2, we established that many if not all social varieties of English are a derivation from the standard normative features of the language (English) under study. And we isolated the Nigeria Police force register as our case study, pointing out that the security agencies register especially the police thrive on a long established alteration of basically the semantic, to some extent, the syntactic and the phonological components of the English language. Now what is collocation?

A collocation is a word or phrase which is frequently used with another word or phrase in a way that sounds correct to people who have spoken the language all their lives, but might not be expected from the meaning. A collocation can also be the combination of words formed when two or more words are frequently used together in ways that sound correct.

Cambridge International Dictionary of English Language: London: Cambridge University pres (1995.

Basically the essential ingredients that combine to present the register under study (Police Register) are the special collocations inherent, some of which are the following:

- Investigating Police office - IPO

- Officers and Men

- Officer-in-Charge - OC

- Recording Officer

- Crime Diary

- Ordinary Room Trial

- Charge/Room Office

- Muster and Taboo parades

- Divisional Discharge, etc.

All of these collocations in the register of the Nigeria police will given detailed analyses in chapter three. The analysis will examine their origin, deviation from the semantic values of same under different expressions and speech committees and their overall linguistic and stylistic effectiveness.

**2.5 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE**

The Nigeria Police force had its origin in Lagos the then Federal Capital, more than a 149 years ago. The British Consul charged with the administration of Lagos complained that he had numerous duties assigned to him amongst which was the maintenance of law and order, and in April 1861, permission was obtained from his principal in London to establish a consular guard Comprising 30 men.

Two years later in 1863, this small body of men became known as the "Hausa Guards". An ordinance in 1879 created a constabulary for the colony of Lagos. This force recruited mainly from the Hausa and known as the "Hausa Constabulary" was commanded by an inspector - General of police. The force was mainly military in character, although the men performed some civil police duties. On January 1896, the Lagos force was created and armed like the "Hausa constabulary". It was headed by a commissioner of Police who was also Sheriff, Inspector of weights and measures and the officer in charge of the prisons. In 1898 a criminal Investigation Department was established and in 1901, a fire Brigade was added.

In 1891, another armed constabulary with headquarters in Calabar was formed to take care of the present South - South geo-political zone in Nigeria, then referred to as the Oil Rivers Protectorate. In 1893, the then Oil Rivers protectorate was renamed the "Niger Coast protectorate" and in 1894, a Niger Coaster constabulary modeled after the Hausa constabulary was established. This existed for six years and featured prominently in the British expedition to Benin in 1896.

In the Northern parts of the country, the Royal Niger company which was granted a charter in 1886 by the British Government, set up the Royal Nigeria Constabulary in 1888 with headquarters at Lokoja, to protect its installations along the banks of the River Niger. It had a mounted company known as "Corrol's Horses.

When in 1900, the protectorates of Northern and Southern Nigeria were proclaimed by the British Government, the Royal Nigeria constabulary was split into the Northern Nigeria Police force and the Northern Nigeria Regiment. In the South, the Lagos Police force and part of the Niger Coaster constabulary became the Southern Nigeria Police force in 1906, while the bulk of the Nigeria Coast constabulary became the Southern Nigeria Regiment. In additional to regular police duties, the new police forces were responsible for dealing with internal disturbances and external aggressions.

After the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates in 1914, both police forces continued to operate separately until on 1st April 1930, they were merged to form the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters in Lagos and Commanded by an Inspector General. The title Inspector General was replaced with Commissioner in 1937 but was reversed in 1951 after the introduction of a new constitution. The designation "Commissioner" was assigned to the officers then in charge of the Regions, now States.

Nigerians assumed overall leadership of the force in 1964 when the late Mr. Loius Orok Edet with appointed with first indigenous Inspector-General of Police Since then, many other Nigerians including the incumbent, Mr. Mohammed Dikk. Abubakar have held the office.

Having presented a comprehensive literature review of the subject matter, the next step is to proceed to analyses of selected relevant data.

 **CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**3.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter deals with the methodology and techniques in gathering information for the research study. It also examines the detail of the research procedure, data collection sources and the method employed in analyzing the research.

**3.1 SOURCES OF DATA**

Data will be sourced through secondary means from various registers of the Nigeria Police Force.

**3.2 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

Data will be gathered from reference texts such as standard books on Linguistics, Socio-linguistics, Syntax and Semantics. Materials for analyses will be sourced from the Nigerian Police manuals, operational correspondencies and the documented everyday expressions of Police officers in their offices and on the field.

The information gathered from the police manuals and interactions will be analysed and standardized, using appropriate reference texts. An establishment of the peculiarities of the police register coupled with a rigorous analysis will reveal the linguistic and stylistic effectiveness of same and help to appreciate the existence of peculiar registers.

**3.3 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

The method of analysis was to locate words, sentences or paragraphs where it appeared as if linguistic choices had been made to depict ideas and concepts in certain ways.

**3.4 SUMMARY**

The data collected will be presented and analyzed the subsequent chapter

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

**4.0 GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

The distinction human beings make within the world of experience are those primarily allowed by language. In Sociolinguistics, the concerned is with language as a social and cultural phenomenon. Here, there is a significant degree of overlapping into sociology, anthropology, psychology, etc, with the main guiding theory being linguistics, rather than the others.

Quoting Schmidt-Rohr (1972: 18), Joshua fishman "the domains a particular language may dominate among others as: the family, the playground, the school, the law, the clergy, the security (military and police) , etc. Language style in any of the above domains is determined by social factors where the individual or group actors maybe seen as locked in a case of imposed linguistic and social structures - ferguson, C.A. (1972): Sociolinguistically oriented surveys: Penguim Books Harmonds worth (P .18)

**4.1 GENERAL USE OF LANGUAGE BY THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE**

In section 2.5, we a brief history of the Nigeria police force was given. It was pointed out that they combined military duties with law enforcement challenges. In fact, the police constituted a large chunk of the troops and featured prominently in the British expeditions to Benin in 1896. The Royal Niger Constabulary (Police) also played an important role in the British campaigns against Bida and Ilorin. The Nigeria police ab into was therefore military in orientation. Herein lies the basis of their mental and legal language register.

As have been pointed out earlier, the main responsibilities of the Nigeria police force are: the protection of life and property;

* the prevention and detection of crimes;
* the apprehension and prosecution of offenders
* the maintenance of law and public order.

In furtherance of the responsibilities listed above the police force has developed a language of operation which is at the same time martial, legalistic and generally exclusive. Exclusive in the sense that an analysis reveals the following peculiarities or functional deviations from everyday general use of the English Language:

* Selectional Restriction Rules (the violation of collocational rules)
* Linguistic foregrounding
* Category rule violation
* Contextual reconditioning
* Semantic shifts
* Tedious legal verbiage
* Taboo expressions
* Scientific expressions,
* Codification (codes), etc

**Linguistic foregrounding:** Now the normal language code is the background. Any deviation from the norm - the code is the foreground, because it brings the message to the fore court of the listener's attention. For example "All the ingredients of the larceny have been established"

In the expression above, the message the Police Officer is passing to a superior of for the records is simply that: "all intentions, actions and realities that have to do with the crime of taking something that does not belong to one have been identified and tied to a suspect. Now,’ ingredients’ has been used to represent all associated and verifiable characteristics.

The word has been elevated from its original use and meaning which is:

"Ingredient: (a food that is used with other foods in the preparation of a particular dish) to now mean "all established features" of larceny. "Larceny" even by itself, is another demonstration of the legalese aspect of the police register. 'This is so used to reduce the weight of proof on the prosecuting officer for while "Larceny" means taking what does not belong to you without necessarily getting illegal entry into a building, ''burglary'' means breaking illegally, entering and taking what does not belong to you in another person's house.

The analysis above has clearly shown that it is imperative for the police force to foreground words and expressions for explicitness and avoidance of ambiguity. **Tedious legal Verbiage**: The Police is essentially a law enforcement unit and in the executive aim of government. It is the responsibility of the judiciary to interpret the law and dole out appropriate punishment to law breakers and other anti-social elements. As the Police force are assigned the responsibility of law enforcement, they work hand-in-hand with the judiciary. This has necessitated that they use a considerable amount of legalese (legal verbiage), to be in tandem with the processes and procedures of prosecution. Therein lies the use of the following expressions by the police:

1. ''That you, Mr. John Paul domiciled' at No 4 Moses Street Ikeja on the 25th day of May 2012 at exactly 20.00 hours connived with other people now at large, to break into the house of Mr. Peter Pan, and removed his telephone hand set and other valuables amounting to the sum of N350,000. You are therefore under arrest. You are to remain silent, as anything you say will be used against you in a court of Law."

The scenario above is the legal process of reading an accused's offence to him, before arrest. A semantic analysis of the various words used will reveal the following special effect and meanings.

**"domicile':** This is a legal word for the description of a place where a person lives. The police use "domicile" to differentiate between other synonyms such as a 'stay' which could mean 'temporal", while "domicile" means permanent (and no controversy or doubt). In this way, it's difficult for an accused to deny his identity. **"Twenty-zero (20.00) Hours":** Now, this is a twenty-four time concept. If the twelve - hour time concept were used, 20.00 hours above would simply have been 8.00pm. Now eight O'clock without the addition of A.M. or P.M. would be confusing as Eight O'clock could be morning or night. To attend to this possible confusion, the police use the straightforward twenty four hour time concept, rather than the confusing twelve-hour concept.

**"At large":** This expression has synonyms like, "missing", "hiding' "absconded", etc. Now, all of the synonyms above would present certain ambiguities. The legal expression "at large" captures the reality intended, in the sense that the other accused can simply not be found. They maybe hiding, dead or whatever. But the law does not want to shoot itself in the leg. So, very comprehensively and simply put, they can't be found now' (at large) is used.

**Category Rule violation and Semantic Shifts:** The following expression by a superior to a squad of anti-riot policemen will surface here:

It is on wire that some monkeys are causing a breach of the law at the Maryland axis of Ikeja. I want you boys to jump into your patrol vans now, get to the scene of mayhem and smoke-all the monkeys. Make as many arrests as possible, but ensure that minimum force is deployed in the apprehension of any stubborn monkey. Move it and give me situation reports on wire Good morning gentlemen.

Now, a lexical and semantic analyses of the selected words and expressions from the text above will reveal the following:

**"Wire":** Wire here is used metaphorically for any electronic means of telecommunication. The Police force use the Two-way Radio Message System "Wire" is a specialized police lexical equivalence of a communication system. While this might be meaningless to an outsider a policeman of any cadre will immediately know what 'wire' refers to.

* "Monkey": A componential analysis will reveal:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monkey | Miscreant |
| + animal | * human
 |
| + irrational | + irrational |
| - human |  |
| + anti-social | + anti-social |

The analysis above reveals that in the opinion of the superior police officer, a miscreant who takes the law into his own hands is worse than an animal and only at best, equal to an animal. Metaphorically therefore, violent miscreants are monkeys (irrational and anti-social)

"**Smoke all the monkeys:"** This expression when taken out of context would suggest that they are dead monkeys intended for food and an order is being given that they be roasted (smoked), for consumption; as in "roast fish"! But what the senior police office simply orders is that fear gas should be' used to disperse the rampaging rioters. Tear gas is a crime fighting gaseous substance, used in the dispersal of a violent crowd, by the Nigeria police.

**"Good Morning gentlemen":** 'Among security operatives especially the military and police, every hour of the day is regarded as morning. This is psychologically morale boosting because the police force has been socialized to understand no hour of the day no matter how late, should be a hindrance in the way of performing security duties. Hence, it is "good morning", twenty four hours of the day.

Particularly interesting is also the use of "gentlemen" for a group of people armed to the teeth and are going to confront a rampaging and riootous crowd. By the way, the issue of gender (male and female) does not even arise among the police register. A group of men and women in the police is addressed as 'gentlemen' and not 'ladies and gentlemen".

On Category rule violation, "monkeys' cannot select a ''breach of the law", because they don't operate within the dictates of any law, not to talk of causing a breach. "Smoke" also should ordinarily select "fire", "cooking," etc and not a rioting humans,

**Codification:** The police was first and foremost, set up to combat crime. Now, criminal elements try as best they can to be a step ahead of the police in their activities, to forestall arrest and apprehension. The police have therefore adopted a code (the morse code), in the transmission of their messages (signals), to prevent nonmembers of the force especially criminal decoding their activities. They therefore use a codified technique of passing information. The primary code of the Nigeria police is the "morse code." In the code, every English alphabet is given a distinct name and rather than form conventional words, the code representation of the alphabet are used. Below is the alphabet of the English language and the code name assigned to each

A – Alpha B – Bravo

C – Colour D – Delta

E – Echo F – Foxtrox

G – Culf H – Hotel

I – India J – Juliet

K – Kilo L – Lima

M – Mike N – November

O – Oscar P – Papa

Q – Quebee R – Romeo

S – Serial T – Tango

U – Uniform V – Victor

W – Whiskey X – X-ray

Y – Yankee Z - Zulu

The morse code is employed more in the verbal domain, that is other domains of Police communication. Examples of use are:

I - November - Oscar, Alpha - Romeo - Remeo - Echo - Senal - Tango.

\* The above is simply a verbal instruction from a superior Police office to a subordinate, not to effect an arrest. Simply put, I above means "No arrest"!

II - All Patrol vehicles are to look out for mobility (Romeo - Echo - Delta); Colour; Romeo Echo - Gulf November - Oscar; 2 Bravo, 269 2 Gulf-Echo.

\* The expression above is given out as a radio message to all men on patrol to look out for a particular vehicle: 'Vehicle’ is represented by the lexeme, "mobility" and its colour red is codedly presented as (Romeo - Echo - Delta), while the vehicle registration number (BB 269 GGE), is by 2 Bravo (BB) 269, 2 Gulf-Egho (GGE). The analysis above reveals that the content of the message in morse code is usually recoverable from the context. The Police officers have memorized and internalized the codes. They decode using the prevailing contexts of the encoded messages.

In this section, we have presented a general overview of the register of the Nigerian police and have among others isolated areas of deviation from the grand norm, Such deviations are basically linguistic foregrounding, contextual reconditioning, tedious legal verbiage codification (use of codes), semantic shifts among others.

There is however, a considerable degree of overlap among the various elements of the Nigeria police register.

Our overview of the general use of language by the Nigeria Police force is in tanderm with Sapir's view that: "Language is a great force of socialization and specialization; probably the greatest that exists" - Sapir (1956) pages. This is further accentuated by Bell amongst others who sees it as:

A set of culturally transmitted behaviour patterns shared by a group of individuals Roger Ben, Sociolinguistics: Goals approaches and problems: London B. T. Batsford Ltd (1976) page 14. The next section will analyse the registers of the Nigerian police force Junior Cadre.

**4.2 REGISTERS OF THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE - JUNIOR CADRE.**

Here there is no substantial deviation from the general Nigeria police register. But because there is an entrenched command structure in the force, the following expression are recognizable from the speeches and writings (official communication) of the junior Cadre.

"Muster parade"

All the junior office Cadre when they report for duty especially in the mornings and at other times for general special operations for instance election monitoring duties undergo a general roll call. This gathering for general roll call especially among the junior cadre is referred to as a muster parade".

Semantically, "muster" according to Cambridge Dictionary of English, Cambridge press England (1995) page 933, means "gather" (especially of the military and police), to gather together; especially in preparation for fighting. Now, whether the purpose of the gathering is to work out an order of battle/crime combating or not, any such gathering is described by the junior cadre as a "muster parade". We here vividly notice glaring instances of semantic shifts and linguistics foregrounding.

From the above reality have emerged such collocations as:

 Point

Muster Situation

 Officer

“Tattoo”

Apart from the general meaning of tattoo being the drawing of images on ones body for beauty or cultural beliefs, its other dictionary meaning means "an outside show, with several military and police performances especially marching and music. But among the Nigeria police junior cadre, "tattoo" has been used to mean a roll call and budgeting at the end of the days work. This is a deviation from the standard use of the word. This semantic extension is more pronounced among the Junior Cadre in training who when are gathered at night after the days activity for a head count would say they are in a tattoo parade.

Other expressions easily identifiable with the junior cadre of the Nigerian police are:

- Road Block/Check point

- Fall-in

- Baton

- Counter

- Clear your doubt

- Bloody civilian

- Bugger, etc

Now, a semantic analyses of the lexemes above: While to "fall-in" means to join a line or form up for inspection and instruction, in police parlance, it means a different thing in ordinary everyday English language expression.

**Roger:** Also among the junior cadre could be heard an expression such as "Oga give me roger" 'Roger" is commonly used by the junior cadre to codify either a bribe, a tip, an inducement, etc.

**Bugger, bloody civilian**: Among the very many taboo expression of the junior cadre of the Nigeria police, the most widely used "bloody civilian" and "bugger." They are expressions used by the junior cadre to express their disgust and sometimes express their superiority over civilian

- Bloody civilians" "Bloody" as used have means "ordinary", "Spineless",

"Cowardly," etc.

- "Bugger": interestingly, the use of this word by the junior cadre of the Nigeria police is very close. to its standard English language usage. The Cambridge International Dictionary of English (1995) defines ''bugger'' as: "slightly (taboo slang: a person who is annoying or silly .... ",

"Bugger" is a swear word (taboo) used to express annoyance (page 172).

The foregoing has revealed that the junior cadre do not manifest any distinct or marked difference in their use of the Nigeria Police register. They are rather only a bit more prone to using many taboo expressions of the register. Unlike the Senior, Commissioned Officer Cadre.

**4.3 REGISTERS OF THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE SENIOR**

**CADRE**

As pointed out in section 3.2, the Nigerian Police register is generally used, across the rank and file. The officers because of their training, education and experience are however a lot more refined in their expressions. They use an aspect of the register that establishes their seniority and authority over the junior cadre. Below is a. speech of a senior police officer, as a directive (order) to his subordinates:

The young woman at the counter has reported a case of assault.

The duty sergeant should take her statement and accompany her to the scene of assault, her shop and bring the assailant for questioning and if necessary for detention and changes for a court trial.

Apart from the underlined lexical items which are strictly in the register of law enforcement or the police; the expression above presents the speaker (a superior police officer) as a gentleman in authority, who gives clear - cut instructions to subordinates.

A lexical analyses of the underlined lexemes reveal the following:

**-"Counter":** The police station front desk, where complaints are laid and statement taken, before action is taken.

**"Duty Sergeant**: Usually the most senior among the junior cadre. He gives a first instance attention to complainants.

**-:Statement":** A written account of a complainant and or accused account of the issue in dispute.

**-"Questioning":** Same as interrogation. It is aimed at getting the facts for a case for further action and proceedings.

**-"Charges"** Issues one is accused of and is given the opportunity to defend, accept or deny

The foregoing analyses have revealed that apart from the authority inherent in the speech of senior cadre officers and the finesse of the expressions which is a product of their education and experience, there is no marked difference in the register of the senior and junior cadre unless one wants to refer to the taboo expressions of the junior cadre, which one would not find the senior officers use.

**4.4 REGISTERS AND COLLOCATIONS OF ALLIED SECURITY**

**OPERATIVES**

The registers of all known security services especially in Africa nay Nigeria, are characterized with common indexical markers. These markers are basically the issues that have been raised in Chapter two, section 2.2

However, because the military arm of the security system is basically combat oriented, a cursory account of their registers and collocations would be presented. Like the police and other arms of the security agencies, the military thrives basically on a command structure. There is a considerable degree of overlap in the register and collocations of the military, vis-a-vis that of other allied security forces. As a way of defining "other allied security operatives; we will like to establish that "other allied security operatives" for the purpose of this essay and the Army, the Navy and the Air force.

Registers of other allied security operatives and the analyses of same are below:

- Battallion

- Brigage

- Division

- Command

- GOC, AOC, Flag

- Commanding officer

- Shooting range,

- Regiment

- Court martial

- Recruit/other ranks

- Mess

- Mammy market

- Armourer

- Operation

- Order of battle

- Deployment

- Awol

- Deserter, etc

Listed above, are the register and collocations of allied security forces. Now, a syntactic . Semantic analyses of the expressions.

**Battalion:** This is a military unit consisting of three or more battalions. The head of this unit is designated "the battalion commander." By the way, "a company is a large group of soldiers from 1000, and above.

**Brigade: A** brigade is one of the groups into which an army is divided, consisting of two or more battalions. A brigade is usually headed by a General Officer Commanding (GOC)-Army, Air Officer Commanding (AOC) - Air force and Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) - Navy

* **Division:** There is a considerable level of overlap between a brigade and a division. A very large brigade is designated a division and is headed by a General Officer Commanding.

**- Command: A** command is a unit under a command, division, brigade or a battalion and its head is designated a commander.

- GOC, AOC, FOC: The foregoing variously mean: General Officer Commanding (GOC) Air Officer Commanding (AOC) and, flag Officer Commanding, (FOC). They are like state governors and subordinate to the president, in a democracy; their "presidents" being the various Chiefs of their services.

- **Shooting Range**: An area designated for shooting practice and is cleared of all human obstacles, to avoid casualties.

**Regiment:** This is the combat arm of the military. The arm that is upwardly mobile, adequately armed to meet all combat challenges. It is different from other ancillary units like the administration, accounting and medical crew.

**Court Martial**: The military in its exclusivity has it own laws (martial laws) different from civil law. Special military courts set up to deal with erring military officers are referred to as court marshal.

**Recruits/other ranks**: These are the non commissioned officers. They range from the rank of private, to warrant officers. They are the junior cadre in the military hierarchy.

**Mess**: Mess in the military is the recreational arena for officers and men. It is usually like a guest house equipped with restaurants and accommodation for use by military men, within the confines of their barracks.

**Mammy Market**: Simply a mini market, where almost everything can be purchased. Mammy markets are established as a measure to domesticate military men in their barracks.

**Awol:** This is an acronym meaning "Absent without official leave"! It is a chargeable offence for soldiers who absent themselves from duty without permission.

**Deserter**: When a soldier has been away for six months from duty or a war theatre, he gets declared as a deserter. Deserter means he has without due process, abandoned his job. He is regarded as a criminal and can be court­ marshalled upon arrest and could be jailed after dismissal, without benefits.

This chapter has presented and analysed the register of security agencies, with a special emphasis on the register of the Nigeria Police. In the course of our analyses, it has been revealed that in tanderm with the tenets of sociolinguistics, the security agencies have a specialized register as in other domains like, religious register, officialese, legalese, scientific metalanguage and all other specialized registers. We have also realized that the register of the security forces nay the police is a variety of English, which even as it is a slight deviation from the standard normative values of the standard, is at the same time a social and socializing phenomena, and at the same time, a functional meta language for the effective executive of the police function of crime fighting.

A cursory look at the register and collocations of other allied security services revealed that the bedrock of the register is basically secrecy and authoritarianism, without circumventing the scientific and functional ingredients of this very beautiful but "closed" register.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

**5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Most of the theories on the origins and specialized use of language such as sound mimicry pooh-pooh, Ding - Dong (Nativistic), Ye-he-ho, ta-ta babbling, naming and the musical theories have all shown that language arose out of man's desire to adapt to his environment. For instance, the cooperation and contact theories show that language came into being out of the human instinct for conformity with a distinct group, for survival, contact and relevance.

One of the basic conditions that must fulfilled before an individual (a policeman) can claim membership of any society or organization is the ability to communicate effectively in the language of that community or organization. The norms and traditions of an organization are transmitted through language. This is in consonance with Hallowell's (1953) claim that:

A necessary condition for 'Socialization and relevance in

a *man* is the learning and use of the language of his social

group or organization.

-Irvin Hallowell, "Culture, Personality and Society: Chicago: University of Chicago Press, (1953).

Also, Schmidt - Rohr and Joshua Fishman (1972) gives the domains a particular language may dominate among other as: the family, the play ground and street, the school, the church, the press, for military and police, the courts, etc. language in any of the above domains is determined mainly by Socio­-Psychological factors, where the individual actor may be seen as locked in a cage of imposed linguistic and social structures; his experience and thought are nearly perfectly conditioned by these structures.

**5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The foregoing reveals that in the tenets of sociolinguistics, there are different forms of various deviations which manifest in the English language spoken across the various strata of the society. These various forms are regarded as registers. Registers are specialized forms of the use of English which grow out of a necessity of create a uniqueness among a group and in some cases, to build and entrench an exclusivity mutual to and beneficial to the linguistic group. Rather than condemn the various deviations which constitute the Nigeria police register, vie should study, appreciate and standardize it. Why? Because according to Fergusen C.A. (1966); Sociolinguistic studies have shown that a speaker of any language adjusts his language (whether bilingual or not), to the various social and organizational contexts, in which he employs it. The register of language spoken maybe defined by the status, occupation and social affiliation of the speaker in relation to his hearers.

Fergusen C.A. 91966); 'On Social linguistically oriented surveys" Linguistic report vol. 8 No 4.

**5.3 CONCLUSION**

This essay has examined the sociolinguistic dynamics of the register of the security agencies with an emphasis on the Nigeria Police force. We have established that the dynamics of Socio linguistics has produced a peculiar variety (register), exclusive to the police force. We have examined the peculiarities of this register and have established that according to Joshua Fishman (1972 P.18):

Language in any domain is determined mainly by Socio-economic factors and job situations, where the individual or group actor(s) may be seen as locked in a cage of imposed linguistic and social structures. Ibid.

As a way of rounding off, we wish to state that this essay lays, no claims to being exhaustive especially as the vistas we have raised are not general register issues, but the dynamics of the register of the Nigeria Police force. We might come across as probably subjective, rather than objective, as far as linguistics analyses are concerned. Other researchers on this topic might probably be struck by other features' and regard them as more significant. This is inevitable.

Also, it is particularly risky to make generalizations of the sort we have made but provided one is not to categorical about them, generalizations can bring to the forefront, striking trends that wilt indicate possible directions to be taken by other researchers.

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